



Speech by

## Hon. Judy Spence

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

Hansard Thursday, 8 October 2009

### GAMBLING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL

#### Declared Urgent; Allocation of Time Limit Order

**Hon. JC SPENCE** (Sunnybank—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.17 am): I move—

- (1) That under the provisions of Standing Order 159, the Gambling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill and the following time limits apply to enable the bill to be passed through its remaining stages at this day's sitting—
  - (a) second reading by 12.45 pm;
  - (b) consideration in detail to be completed by 12.58 pm;
  - (c) third reading by 12.59 pm; and
  - (d) long title agreed by 1 pm.
- (2) That under the provisions of Standing Order 159, the Great Barrier Reef Protection Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill and the following time limits apply to enable the bill to be passed through its remaining stages at this day's sitting—
  - (a) second reading by 6.30 pm;
  - (b) consideration in detail to be completed by 9.58 pm;
  - (c) third reading by 9.59 pm; and
  - (d) long title agreed by 10 pm.
- (3) If the stages have not been completed by the times specified, Mr Speaker shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the relevant bill, including clauses and schedules en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill, without further amendment or debate.

I want to make a few points about this motion. Firstly, I would like to thank the opposition for its cooperation in determining these times. As members would see, the opposition has decided that it wants four hours of debate on the second reading of the Great Barrier Reef Protection Amendment Bill and over two hours of debate on the consideration in detail stage of that bill. I appreciate that that suits the opposition's agenda and the government is happy to go along with that. I also know that the opposition is going to oppose this motion and I am disappointed with that. But I would make the point that with each of these bills—the first one particularly—the opposition is supporting it and for the second one we will have a lengthy debate.

At the end of the day the government is responsible for getting its legislation through this parliament. It is not helpful, as we have seen this week and we continue to see in this parliament, for many members to get up and make lengthy 20-minute contributions in many of the debates. Getting up and rambling and repeating oneself or repeating what every other member on your side of the House has said is not helpful to the debate in the parliament of Queensland.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms SPENCE:** I think that many members have the intelligence and the skill to make their point in a shorter time. We do see that from many members of this House. Everyone knows that the shorter, sharper

and smarter contribution is one that is going to be listened to. That does not necessarily involve a 20-minute contribution. Some parliaments only have 10-minute contributions in second reading speeches. Last week I discussed this with members of the Victorian parliament. We are one of the few parliaments around that still has 20-minute speeches.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms SPENCE:** I do not necessarily agree with that. I think we should still have 20-minute speeches in the standing orders. I think there are some members who have done the research and have the intelligence and give very good 20-minute contributions in debates. But too many members, on both sides I have to say—more on the other side, of course—stand up and repeat themselves and what has already been said ad nauseam. That is not helpful and I do not think that their constituents expect them to do that.

The opposition has to realise that this government was elected with an agenda. We will have our bills debated in this House. Those opposite need to start being a bit more responsible about which bills they really want to speak on and how long their contributions will be in those debates. We are not going to have a parliament that we have seen in the past that sits regularly until two o'clock and three o'clock in the morning because members want to be self-indulgent and speak on every bill for the maximum length of time. We will organise the debate of this House. We will be fair to the opposition. We want every member to be able to get up and make a contribution. But at the end of the day if members want reasonable sitting hours then they are going to have to start thinking about how much they want to speak and for how long.