



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

Hon. JC SPENCE (Sunnybank—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.27 am): Given that the opposition believes that democracy is being stifled by this kind of behaviour, I point out that I went to Victoria because I heard that every Monday the opposition leader of the House and the Leader of the House sit down and talk about how much time they will spend on each piece of legislation. I thought that that level of cooperation could be very useful in Queensland. I found out why they do it. They do it because Jeff Kennett changed the standing orders in 1993 so that every Tuesday the Leader of the House moves a motion that the government will get through six bills in the week by Thursday 4 pm. They will get through six bills whether there is debate on them or not. That is the kind of democracy they have in Victoria. We obviously do not operate that way.

We give those opposite the opportunity of having lengthy debate on every single piece of legislation. I make the point that at the end of the day the government will get its legislation through this House. We will give the opposition ample time to debate it. We have done the right thing today by sitting down with the opposition and asking it how it would like to divide the time of the House and I ask all members to support this motion.