



Speech by

Hon. Judy Spence

MEMBER FOR SUNNYBANK

Hansard Thursday, 12 November 2009

BUILDING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Declared Urgent; Allocation of Time Limit Order

Hon. JC SPENCE (Sunnybank—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.46 pm): The motion that I have put forward today means that we will have had almost eight hours of debate on this bill. It means that the 28 people who are listed to speak on this bill will have the opportunity to speak on the bill. I have actually moved this motion earlier in the day to give the opposition the opportunity of managing the rest of its time. Whether it wants to allow all of its speakers to speak or it wants to spend longer in committee, it is really up to the opposition. It is up to the opposition how it wants to manage its discussion on this bill. Any Queenslanders would think that eight hours of debate—and let us face it, I have sat here for most of the debate and all we are debating is one piece of paper. No-one else has had much else to say about this bill. We have heard that repeated by every single member of the opposition. Nothing new has been added to this debate. Nevertheless, we can continue to debate that until nine o'clock tonight. Most Queenslanders would think that is very reasonable. I think 28 people speaking on a bill such as this is a very reasonable debate.

During the last sitting week we went till after midnight on the Thursday night. It is interesting to hear the number of people who rail against these motions who were not here when a division was called after 11 o'clock at night. I have studied that list. For example, none of the Independents showed up at 11 o'clock at night for a division and a lot of people opposite also were not here for a division at 11 o'clock at night.

If the opposition wants to oppose these kinds of motions, the alternative is to continually sit past midnight. I am not prepared to let the parliament of Queensland sit unreasonable hours while we hear the opposition, speaker after speaker, repeating itself. In this case, the debate has focused on one piece of paper. Twenty-eight people are listed to speak on this debate and they will all have the opportunity to speak during the eight hours we have allocated to this bill. I move—

That the question be put.