




Speech By  
**Ray Stevens**

**MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH**

Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2014

**MOTION**

**Estimates Hearings**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.30 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That as a trial for 2014—

- (1) That in accordance with Standing Order 177(4), the dates for each portfolio committee's estimates hearings, the date for the Committee of the Legislative Assembly's public meeting and the dates by which each committee is to report to the House as set out in the Order circulated in my name be agreed to.
- (2) That notwithstanding Standing Order 178, a portfolio committee may only hold hearings and take evidence on the dates set out in the Order circulated in my name between 9.00am and 5.00pm.
- (3) Standing Order 189(4) is suspended for the consideration in detail of the 2014 Appropriation Bills.

2014 ESTIMATES COMMITTEES—ORDER SETTING DATES FOR HEARING AND REPORTING

(1) The dates for each portfolio committee's hearings and report dates are as follows—

<b>Portfolio Committee</b>	<b>Ministers</b>	<b>Date of hearings</b>	<b>Date of Report</b>
Finance and Administration Committee	Premier	Tuesday 15 July 2014	Friday 1 August 2014
	Treasurer and Minister for Trade	Thursday 17 July 2014	
State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee	Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning	Tuesday 15 July 2014	Friday 1 August 2014
	Minister for Energy and Water Supply	Thursday 17 July 2014	
	Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games		
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice	Tuesday 15 July 2014	Friday 1 August 2014
	Minister for Police, Fire and	Thursday 17 July 2014	

Portfolio Committee	Ministers	Date of hearings	Date of Report
	Emergency Services		
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee	Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry	Tuesday 15 July 2014	Friday 1 August 2014
	Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection	Thursday 17 July 2014	
	Minister for Natural Resources and Mines		
Education and Innovation Committee	Minister for Education, Training and Employment	Tuesday 15 July 2014	Friday 1 August 2014
	Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts	Thursday 17 July 2014	
Health and Community Services Committee	Minister for Health	Tuesday 15 July 2014	Friday 1 August 2014
	Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services	Thursday 17 July 2014	
	Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing		
	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier		
Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee	Minister for Transport and Main Roads	Tuesday 15 July 2014	Friday 1 August 2014
	Minister for Housing and Public Works	Thursday 17 July 2014	
	Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience		

(2) The date for the Committee of the Legislative Assembly's public meeting and report date is as follows—

Portfolio Committee	Date of hearing	Date of Report
Committee of the Legislative Assembly	Wednesday 16 July 2014 (to be between 9.00 am and 10.00 am)	Friday 1 August 2014

I have made a small but important change to the motion that has been circulated in my name. In bringing this motion to the House it is very important to understand the importance of the estimates process to the successful operation of an open and democratic parliament. It is the opportunity for opposition members and Independent members to hold the government to account. It is the opportunity, as former minister and former member for Rockhampton, Robert Schwarten, used to say 'to find out all about what his officers have been up to'. It is a golden opportunity for the members opposite in this House to find out if there is anything untoward about the budget brought down by the government for the year ahead.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr STEVENS:** It gives me great pleasure to move this motion as the Assistant Minister to the Premier on e-government, which is all about openness, accountability and transparency—something those members opposite do not understand given the wails that I am hearing across the House. This is about openness, accountability and transparency. By the passing of this motion we are not just giving the opposition one day of questioning of the relevant ministers and their officers to make sure they understand completely what is going on in the state of Queensland, but this government is giving

this overresourced opposition, when it comes to staff members, two days to ask questions of the ministers.

For the benefit of members opposite, that is double what they were getting before in terms of the time and opportunity to bring this government to account. Not only is there the opportunity for two days of questioning of ministers but it frees up the time of the House. Instead of having two weeks set aside for estimates we will have two days, as set out in this motion, which means there is the opportunity for a further sitting of the House for further legislation and further work to be done by this lazy, overresourced opposition.

In moving this motion the government has paved the way for a far more open, accountable and transparent consideration of the budget. I cannot understand why any decent opposition member would not look forward to the opportunity to have a second day of questioning ministers.