




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 17 February 2016

MOTION: AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.19 pm): Is that not just typical of the Australian Labor Party! I stand here to support the member for Mudgeeraba and the motion that she has put forward, which is plain, simple and very reasonable. I doubt whether any member in their right mind over there would not think that this is a reasonable motion. Most of the members are on committees, they will have seen this process over the year that they have been here, and they would know that you just cannot react to a 100- or 200-page report in a matter of hours. This motion sets a time frame in place and we can work backwards from there. If we have two days to react to what is, after all, the chair's draft report of the committee reference, that would give us time to digest it, to look through it and to make sure that it is reflective of what happened during the committee process. It would allow us to provide input as to where changes may be made, maybe talk to the other committee members to see whether we all agree, and maybe just put out a really good committee report.

I must say that over the four years I have been here I think that the committee system is working exceptionally well. During the term of the last government I was on the same committee that I am on now, the infrastructure committee. We made a number of recommendations to our ministers. I think that in one of our reports we made something like 20-odd recommendations to the member for Callide, who was the deputy premier at the time. He accepted every one of them because we thought it through in a bipartisan fashion. We put out a really good report and we made some great recommendations. The minister accepted all of them and we came out of it with better legislation.

I would ask the members here whether that is what the committee system is meant to do. It is meant to put out better legislation. The minister has prepared this legislation and put it out there. In many instances this is the first time there has been consultation. We go out there as a committee and we talk to the public. We travel around the state and we talk to people and we make the legislation better. You have to remember that a lot of these people put in submissions. They are taking the time; they think that they can make a difference. We invite them in and they come before the committee, we ask them pertinent questions and we get a response back. Every now and then one of them comes up with a really good idea that would be great to include in the committee's report. I must say that our particular committee is working very well in that area. As the member for Mount Ommaney said, all of the secretariats are doing a great job but they are under a certain amount of pressure.

I would say to you that if we could have two days so that we can sit down and read the report, then we would know that we have to finish everything in two days. What we have heard here tonight from the member for Nudgee and the member for Logan is really just a lot of drivel. We were talking about the M1. The committees talk about all sorts of legislation, and all of it is important. We are debating a very important one tonight.

Mr Power: The M1 is drivel; that is what you said.

Mr HART: Mr Speaker, I take the member's interjection and I will be raising that at a later date. We have a government who says that they are open and transparent. If you are open and transparent, what is your issue with giving the members of parliament two days to read a chair's draft report? That

is the problem here. If you want to be open and transparent, then is it not fair to give the members of parliament a couple of days to read something, a couple of days to make improvements on the committee's report and to get it right so that this parliament does its job in the right fashion? I urge all members to support this motion.