



Speech By
Robbie Katter

MEMBER FOR MOUNT ISA

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2016

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Bank Branch Closures; Motion, Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (2.51 pm): I have two issues to talk about today—firstly, the closure of banks around the state. An ANZ branch closed at Toogoolawah this week. A petition was tabled this morning under my name to that end. A Westpac branch was closed in Normanton last year. I want to make the House aware of the impact that this has on rural and regional areas. When a bank branch closes down, it affects access to cash and it impacts the functioning of small businesses in those areas. I think it is one of those things that is silently happening out there that impacts on the viability of businesses, convenience and employment in those areas. This is happening and it has been happening in a big way. I think close to 30 bank branches have been closed over recent years. It is of great concern.

Also, there is a sticker going around from that group that is standing up against this growing issue. It is an important issue for the House to be aware of. I think the banks have a responsibility to these communities that they continue to make money from and have for very many years. They play a vital role in the economy. For them to ruthlessly deny those communities that opportunity is, in my opinion, very wrong.

The other issue I wanted to talk about briefly is the timing for consideration of private members' bills. It can be three months from the time the committee report comes back for a private member's bill to be considered. It is something for the House to consider in the long term, when government bills can be considered on the same day that the report from the committee is tabled. There is a real disadvantage there for private members' bills. We have many bills in the House at certain points in time. If there are acute issues dealing with those bills then they need to be dealt with. To that end, I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Leave granted.

Mr KATTER: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing or sessional orders, the second reading debate of the Transport Legislation (Taxi Services) Amendment Bill commence during the sitting week starting 19 April 2016, with all remaining stages to be completed by 5 pm on 21 April 2016.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.