




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 17 February 2016

MOTION: AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (6.24 pm): Mr Speaker, last evening I said that the opposition's brain trust had been hard at work over the summer holidays to come up with a swag of motions and ideas for the six o'clock scream. Yesterday they used this daily opportunity to discuss the important issues facing the state by moving a procedural motion to revisit an idea from last year. Well, today they have truly hit the bottom of the barrel. If this is day 2, I cannot wait to see tomorrow night's effort.

Here is the LNP's plan for Queensland. Take out your papers and pencils, members opposite, and jot it down, because it has taken the Leader of the Opposition and his team all summer to come up with this. Here is the big pitch to Queenslanders: under a future LNP government, draft parliamentary chair committee reports will be provided to committee members two days prior to any meeting to discuss said report. It is a slogan you can bang on a bumper sticker. I can see it on a corflute. It is going to go really well for them. The slogan can go right over a big picture of the Leader of the Opposition doing his best 'Sam the Eagle' impersonation with a recently unfurled flag caught in the breeze. What a sight! I can just see it; it is fantastic.

We have heard some valid concerns and issues raised by the proposers of this motion tonight. The reason the government opposes this motion is because there are valid processes for them to pursue these valid concerns. Those valid processes, as set out by the member for Nudgee and the member for Logan, are through the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. If the member for Mudgeeraba has these concerns, she has the capacity to raise them with the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. It is created as the standing orders committee to consider these sorts of matters. Not for the House as a whole to deal with them, but for those matters to be considered by a committee—the very matter that she is trying to defend and support—so that we can deal with potential unintended consequences of such a change. These are things that need to be looked at and considered at length and in detail, not in a screaming match on a Wednesday night for half an hour. We have not seen these issues raised at the CLA. I welcome them being raised at the CLA. I am happy to look at that and consider that. There is a process to allow for that to happen. We heard from the member for Logan that it has not occurred under the system so far.

It is clear that the opposition have dropped the bundle on private members' motions this week. They did not spend the time at their love-in retreat drafting these motions. They spent their time trying to be inspired by the leadership, but it is not working. Instead, we have the Leader of the Opposition come into this place with his hangdog-looking face, trying to sit through his colleagues' failing efforts.

I know that there is a lot of focus today on the member for Callide. I wish him well. I wish him the best of luck for his future. Our loss will surely be the gain of a future federal Turnbull-Joyce-Seeney opposition. The dedication he showed to good policy and integrity in his time as deputy premier will be really welcome in Canberra!

My heart has to go out to the Leader of the Opposition today. He hears all this excitement about where the members for Toowoomba South and Callide are going, and he sits in his office surrounded by dead moths and visions of Maranoa, AA Milne characters dancing before his eyes. He laments what could have been. Meanwhile, the member for Clayfield has a spring in his step because he knows that he is a contender now.

Mr HART: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Tonight we are here debating the very serious issue of giving members of parliament time to do their job, and the member for Sandgate is completely off track. I would ask you to bring him back to the motion.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask the member for Sandgate to ensure his contribution is relevant to the topic of debate.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Thank you, Mr Speaker, for your guidance. In the moments remaining to me, I will reiterate that we as a House should oppose this motion because the proper course of action to consider, understand and deal with this issue is through the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. I oppose the motion.

(Time expired)