




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2018

MOTION

Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.27 pm): I am pleased to speak in favour of the Leader of the House's motion here today. The model that is proposed is consultative and collaborative, and that is the best kind of workplace model that we need to see. It is good to see that there will be consideration and deliberation of what we will do during the week. That means we will manage business as far as possible in a collegiate manner which does incorporate some of our best parliamentary traditions. The crux of this motion is that this is the best way we can manage our workplace. We will come in here every sitting week and we will debate bills and update and modernise legislation to keep pace with community expectations and standards.

The motion is akin to modernising the laws and rules which govern this place to bring them in line with community expectations and standards. The model is also about being outcome focused in our workplace. These are things we see through our Queensland workplaces. This will make sure that we produce and pass bills. It will mean that we will pass the motions we need to pass and we will not waste time on that political, pointless posturing that we sometimes see in here. I do remember there was one member some weeks ago who rushed in here to debate a motion and they got up to speak not knowing quite what clause was being debated, and that member had to be passed a bit of paper telling him, or her, what the clause was about. This model will prevent that kind of thing. Most importantly, this model will help us get back to our electorates earlier so we can get in and do that all-important electoral work which we also need to be doing as members of parliament.

The proposed model in this motion is what is expected at other Queensland workplaces—that is, for people to use their time well on the job they are expected to do. It is not adopting work practices that are going to make people in their workplace tired or function less efficiently than they should be, putting other people in danger. It is about using some collaborative decision-making in the workplace, which we do see in workplaces. That is a very useful model that we do see in Queensland workplaces.

What are the other benefits of this model? We will stop wasting time, deliberately frustrating debate and filibustering. We will stop having those frivolous debates on the timing of the ringing of bells, for example. Not only that, in echoing what the Attorney-General said, it goes towards restoring that public faith in politicians by providing clear schedules for the parliamentary week ahead so members of the public can schedule their own attendance in the chamber if they need, or watch it online, so they can hear about the important matters that affect their life. It sets out the parameters within which we can organise our thoughts and our time to do the best for all Queenslanders.

I point out that we will still work within parliamentary rules and guidelines. They are called the standing orders and sessional orders and indeed the Speaker's rulings and practices, all of which govern how this place operates. This is not about limiting the opportunity for debate. There are different

models operating in many jurisdictions—not just in Queensland, but across the globe—and all of those models are about managing the efficient running of their chambers. That is what we are doing here today and that is nothing unusual.

The member for Kawana talked about those great functions we have had here with our multicultural communities and Clubs Queensland. We can have those kinds of functions because of this kind of model. This model allows us to bring in those people with certainty, and it allows us to host all these wonderful visitors to our chamber as well. Members of the opposition say they are happy to be here at 4 am. However, the last time we did something at 3.30 in the morning they were not ready whatsoever. We were here and they all came into the chamber in their pyjamas.

Ms Pease: Don't remind me!

Mr WHITING: I do not want to put that image back into people's mind. This model will avoid that kind of image being broadcast to the rest of Queensland. I commend the motion moved by the Leader of the House.