




Speech By
Deb Frecklington

MEMBER FOR NANANGO

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2018

MOTION

Sessional Orders

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.19 pm): I rise to support the sensible amendments moved in the House by the member for Kawana. That contribution by the minister over there shows how out of touch this Palaszczuk government is. Family friendly what? Seriously! There are major issues with the changes to these sessional orders. Firstly, they are shutting down the opposition and the crossbench's ability to hold this government to account in this House which is exactly what we were elected by our electorates to do. The other thing is that they have made the week of parliament completely unfriendly for everyone who is from outside of Brisbane and who has to travel to Brisbane. They will now have to leave their family on a Sunday, not those members over there who live in inner-city Brisbane. We will have to leave our families on a Sunday.

Mr Speaker, your cabinet even moved the time it will meet to later on a Monday so that I believe you, Mr Speaker, will be able to travel down from Cairns after spending a full Sunday with your beautiful family. That is what regional members want to do and that is what we like to do. It is hard enough to be away from our families without having to extend it to a whole week.

Importantly, this motion is saying that this government does not want to be open and accountable. We should not be silenced. Neither the opposition nor the crossbench should be silenced in this place. They have taken away the ability for the opposition and the crossbench to have the three minutes before question time. They have taken away the ability for the opposition and the crossbench to have an evening debate—to debate an issue that is of relevance and importance to our side, not the government. It is a debate to prove to the government that things should be different, as the LNP did in opposition last time when we won several six o'clock debate motions. We no longer have that option here in this House.

Mr Mander: They don't want to be embarrassed.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is exactly right. I take that interjection. They certainly do not want to be embarrassed. This is about hiding away, and no wonder. The Palaszczuk government has a culture of cover-ups and we know it. It has all been proven. For the benefit of the House, I am more than happy to prove that by tabling the front page of some papers. The front page of the *Courier-Mail* from 21 July 2017 says 'Big little lies'.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition, who knows the standing orders, is deliberately flouting them using props in this debate. She should know better than anybody in this place.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Firstly, I think the honourable minister should let his colleague do her job as Leader of the House.

Mr SPEAKER: Be careful.

Mr BLEIJIE: Secondly, the opposition leader has said she will be tabling the documents and she will table them if she has an opportunity without being interrupted.

Mr SPEAKER: I appreciate the assistance of members in trying to point out where some of those on the opposite side may not be meeting standing orders. I was going to remind the Leader of the Opposition, who does know because she has been in this place for some time, that she must table those items. Leader of the Opposition, please resume your contribution.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I table the front page of the *Courier-Mail* from 21 July last year with the big headline 'Big little lies'.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 21 July 2017, titled 'Big Little Lies' [\[191\]](#).

Another front page of the *Courier-Mail* that I will table is from 27 April with the headline 'Blind to scrutiny'.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 27 April 2017, titled 'Blind to Scrutiny' [\[192\]](#).

Finally, the front page of the *Courier-Mail* from 28 April clearly indicated a culture of secrecy in the Labor government with its headline 'Culture of secrecy'. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 28 April 2017, titled 'Culture of Secrecy' [\[163\]](#).

Here we are having a debate about what the government are trying to do to democracy in Queensland, and that is they are running roughshod over anyone who does not see it their way. There are many people in Queensland who do not see it their way. Those people are represented here by those of us who make up the opposition and the crossbench in this great House. That is what Queensland democracy is all about.

The Queensland opposition, the LNP, will not be silenced. We demand with our amendments, moved by the member for Kawana, to reinstate the three minutes before question time, rather than sitting in this House like we had to do this morning and listen to political speeches by ministers misusing ministerial statements and what they are supposed to be for, and also to reinstate the committee hearings on a Wednesday morning, which was the will of this parliament on both sides in 2011 when they understood that members from regional Queensland had a right to see their families and work in this place.