




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2018

MOTION

Sessional Orders

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.08 pm): Just because there might be other lazy politicians around the Commonwealth does not mean that in Queensland we ought to follow suit and become lazy, bludging politicians. Just because their little comrades from other Labor governments ring them up and say, 'We are the Dolly Partons of the world, working nine to five. We finish at five o'clock. Why do you blokes go to midnight?', does not mean we should do the same. Just because there are lazy Labor politicians everywhere else does not mean we ought to follow them.

This is lazy Labor. This is arrogance. For the information of the new members, this is what a majority Labor government brings. Last year the Premier stood and, with Peter Wellington, made a big deal about this new era in Queensland of openness, transparency accountability. Gone! Peter Wellington has gone and so has that openness, transparency and accountability.

They are now wanting to put committee meetings on Monday mornings. They say this is under the guise of family-friendly hours. What about the regional members who cannot fly out of places like Biloela or other areas in rural and regional Queensland on a Sunday so cannot get here for committee meetings on Monday mornings?

We are losing the three minuters. I know why we are losing three minuters. It is because their great strategy before every question time was to bring in poor little Duncan Pegg, the member for Stretton, with a big blockbuster three minuter. He would then sit down so embarrassed because we had the big guns get up on this side of the House. I felt sorry for the member for Stretton. They do not want transparency before question time. They do not want the grabs on TV before question time.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will take that interjection. I know why you do not want them. They made the government look bad and it showed the government up for what it really was—incompetent and lazy.

The other thing with these proposed timings for parliament is that we lose the motion debates every night. We used to have motion debates on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They will be gone. There would be one of those a week. The opportunities the opposition and the crossbench have to deliver new speeches in the parliament and to hold the government to account are gone under this proposal. That is why they only want an hour to debate this. They want this issue swept under the carpet as quickly as they can. I move our amendments to the proposed sessional orders—

1. Sessional Order 1(a)(b) and (c) omit, and insert —

“Days and Hours of Sitting and Order of Business

1. (a) The House shall sit on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
(b) The House shall sit each day from 9.30am on Tuesday and Thursday and from 1.00pm Wednesday until the automatic adjournment is declared in accordance with Sessional Order 2(2)(c), unless adjourned earlier in accordance with Sessional Order 2(3).

- (c) The Order of Business for each Sitting Day shall be as follows—

Tuesday

*9.30am—10.30am—Preliminary Business **

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Private Members' Statements

10.30 am—11.30 am—

Question Time

11.30 am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—

Matters of Public Interest

3.00pm—5.00pm—

Government Business

5.00pm—5.30pm—

Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.30am to take precedence)

5.30pm—7.30pm

Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business (in accordance with Sessional Order 1(d))

7.30pm—8.00pm—

Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.30am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

Wednesday

*12.00pm—1.00pm—Preliminary Business **

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Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (6.00pm—7.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

Private Members' Statements

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Question Time

2.00pm—2.30pm—

Introduction of Private Members' Bills #

2.30pm—7.00pm—

Government Business

7.00pm—7.30pm—

Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.30am to take precedence)

7.30pm—8.00pm—

Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.30am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

(If there are no Private Members' Bills to introduce, or any introduction to complete, the next item of business to commence with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusted accordingly.)

Thursday

9.30am—10.30am—Preliminary Business *

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Private Members' Statements

10.30am—11.30am—

Question Time

11.30am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—

Private Members' Statements (Total time 60 minutes, 20 members x 3 minutes each)

3.00pm—4.00pm—

Debate of Committee Reports (in accordance with Sessional Order 3) if no reports to debate, Government Business

4.00pm—6.00pm—

Government Business

6.00pm—6.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

** (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

These amendments are reasonable. These amendments put the committee meetings back to Wednesdays to allow members of parliament to go to their party room, shadow cabinet or cabinet meetings on Mondays. They also bring back the three minutes before question time so we can hold the government to account. They also give the crossbench and other MPs more time each week to debate motions. That means more time for the member for Hill to get up in this parliament and fight for his constituents. That is what this is about.

I urge honourable crossbench members to support the amendments that I have moved because they are reasonable amendments. As I said at the start, the only reason we are debating this motion is because we have a lazy government. Members of the 55th Parliament who have returned to this parliament will remember that there were times when we were twiddling our thumbs because there was

not enough legislation to debate in the parliament. The reason they need to finish at five is that they have no work to do.

I suspect it will be the same in the 56th Parliament as it was in the 55th Parliament—they ran out of things to do so then they had to bring in the real big guns. As I said, the member for Stretton used to get up and talk about all manner of things he had no idea about, but he did it for his comrades, did you not, member for Stretton? They had nothing to talk about so they would bring in all the big guns to talk about legislation they had no idea about. The reality was that they did not have enough bills going through the chamber and the committee process. They were filibustering. I do not know anything about filibustering.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will take that one. I do not believe in repetition in this place either. We have a lazy government. They are a continuing bunch of lazy ministers. They do not have enough work to do. I urge all honourable members to support the amendments that the opposition has moved so that we can truly do the work that the Queensland taxpayers pay us for.

(Time expired)