



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2018

**MOTION**

**Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.36 pm): This is what you get with an arrogant majority Labor government with everything it accused the LNP of over the years. Those opposite snuck under their little rocks for the last three years in a hung parliament and pretended to be accountable, open and transparent, realising they had to fight every fight for every vote they could, but the minute they get a majority they guillotine debate, they silence debate. There are more members in this place now. There are 93 members in this House and now it is guised by the Leader of the House as, 'It's appropriate to set time frames in these sorts of debates.' No, no, no. That is what they called a guillotine in the old days. That is what they call it when you cut off debate. That is what they call it when you silence members and you do not want to face scrutiny. That is what this is about.

The Leader of the House said that this is a very important debate that we are going to have at five o'clock—so important that we are truncating the debate to one hour and we are only allowing members to speak for five minutes. Out of the 93 members of parliament, that is only five or six opposition members, one crossbench member and those opposite. I would not say that that is a fair and reasonable debate time for 93 members of parliament to debate such an important issue.

This important issue, as the Leader of the House said, that we are talking about relates to the sessional and standing orders of parliament that have been in place now since Peter Wellington was the previous Speaker. He put in place those sessional and standing orders which we have abided by for over three years, and all of a sudden in one hour the Leader of the House wants to throw it out without really any consultation with other members of parliament. In one hour she wants to throw it all away because they are afraid of scrutiny. The member can sit there and pontificate and whinge about what I am saying, but that is the reality. Incidentally, I feel sorry for the member for Pine Rivers. I do not know how she drew the short straw to end up on our side of the House out of the Labor Party. Heaps of new members got on the government side, but the poor member for Pine Rivers drew the short straw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, please come back to the motion.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will come back to the debate; of course, Mr Speaker. This is an important debate and the Leader of the House is saying that it is so important members get five minutes. The Leader of the House says that we do not want repetition. I am never repetitious.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I was going to jump to take personal offence at that, because let the record show: I am never repetitious. I always stay on message and I always talk about the issues that are important to the people of Queensland.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, could you repeat that please?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** No, Mr Speaker. It is also important for the new crossbench. We now have four or five new members of the crossbench—Independents, Katter party and One Nation—who have never seen the previous sessional orders that former Speaker Wellington introduced. They have never had the debate, so it may seem to them that given the debate we are going to have for sessional orders one six o'clock motion debate a week would be fine and they do not know about the three-minute speeches before question time. Those debates are just as important for the crossbench as they are for the opposition because that is their time to hold this government to account and they ought to have the same time as anyone else in this chamber to hold the government to account.

I put it to the crossbench—

**An honourable member:** And the Greens.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I include the Greens member in the crossbench. They will have a limited ability to speak in this one-hour debate. The matters that we will debate are as important to the crossbench as they are to us.

As I said at the start, this is what we get with an arrogant Labor majority government. Everything they accused the LNP of doing—and they were still doing it this morning by going back five or six years ago—they will do in a majority Labor government. One thing that came out of this election that I am glad about is that we have a clear majority because, finally, the people of Queensland will see what a Labor majority government will do. It will rush things. In the past we saw Andrew Fraser and Paul Lucas guillotine debate. We saw Cameron Dick, the member for Woodridge, guillotine debate. They were scared of scrutiny. They did not want to have debates on these matters.

The Leader of the House offered to brief me on these sessional orders, for which I thank her, and she did. I told her that we would not be able to agree with them. Not at any stage was I told that we would be having only a one-hour debate. All the sessional and standing orders are being thrown up in the air and we would have only one hour in which to debate these important issues. Motion debates are important for crossbenchers and opposition members. Three-minute speeches before question time are important for crossbenchers and opposition members. We know why the government does not want the three-minute speeches.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, I ask you to come back to the relevance of the motion. It is about time frames.

**A government member:** Always relevant.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** No, I said I am not repetitive. I put it to the crossbench and the opposition members that we will not be supporting this motion for this debate. We should have a proper debate on the sessional and standing orders. I am prepared to be here as long as it takes so that every member of the crossbench and every member of the opposition can debate the sessional and standing orders. If that means that a minister, who is paid over \$330,000 a year, has to stay past six o'clock at night, I think they should do that. Where else do they have to go? If a minister is whingeing that they get \$350,000 a year but they want to go home and tuck themselves into bed at six o'clock at night and not debate these sorts of things, that is their problem.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, I ask you to come back to the substantive part of this motion, which is time frames.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am prepared to debate these time frames all night and I challenge the Labor government to do the same. The Minister for State Development was squawking, 'We have to deal with the issues of parliament.' Guess what? The sessional and standing orders are important for parliament. They tell us what time we have to be here. They tell us what time we finish. They tell us how we debate. The sessional and standing orders might not be important to you, but they are important to me and they are important to the other members on this side of the House. That is why this motion should be defeated.