




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 3 May 2018

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.44 pm): Again we have another example of the Leader of the House and the government not being able to manage the agenda of the House and the legislation before it. I take the Leader of the House's point that it is normal practice to have one-minute bells for divisions.

I will give a practical example of what happened before our lunch suspension to highlight the issues around one-minute bells for divisions. There was a division and then debate on an amendment went for 25 to 30 minutes. If we had adopted one-minute bells for divisions that would have meant that for 30 minutes members would not have been able to attend meetings with constituents in the parliament or stakeholder meetings or attend to other matters.

If an amendment to a particular clause is moved and then there is subdebate on that particular clause, then that is generally—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members on both sides will cease interjecting. I am listening to the Manager of Opposition Business.

Mr BLEIJIE: In that situation it would generally be one-minute bells for the divisions when they follow one after the other. They do not here. These are different subjects. The shadow minister responsible for the vegetation management laws has moved one amendment out of a series of four or five amendments. They are all dealing with different issues. If this House—opposition, crossbench and government members—were to debate each individual clause dealing with different specific matters then that is not how the House usually operates. In fact, that is certainly not how the House operates.

With respect to the example I gave before of one particular provision and the amendment that was moved by the shadow minister, the member for Burdekin, I point out that we are still in the midst of debating that particular amendment. There will be other amendments that will follow that amendment. This motion has been moved because the Leader of the House cannot manage the time of this House. We have one bill before the House and we have only 2¼ hours left of the day.

I would suggest that if they did not do this then they would do one of two things later. They would either guillotine the debate on the vegetation management laws or—

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: We do not want to go home. We are happy to stay all night. They would either guillotine the debate on the vegetation management laws or move a motion to extend the sitting hours—a motion just like the one we have just debated in relation to the budget sittings. When they looked at the sitting time frames and government business they should have heeded the warnings of the opposition that they are not going to get through the business of government in the time they have allocated.

The one bill that has been debated this week is a contentious bill. All members have had an opportunity to speak on the bill. They now want to curtail the time and force members to be here, there or wherever. The debate should operate as it does at the moment. Members should have the opportunity to continue to have meetings or do whatever business they have on the parliamentary precinct without this time being curtailed by the Labor Party.

They cannot hide from the fact that this is sloppy management of the House. That is all it is. Stirling Hinchliffe would never have done this. The former leader of the House would never have allowed this rubbish, debacle, chaos, rabble and this curtailing of members' speeches.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members on both sides will cease interjecting.

Mr BLEIJIE: All honourable members should have the opportunity, the appropriate time, to get back to this chamber to vote. The government are hoping that by having one-minute bells for divisions between now and the six o'clock automatic adjournment a few members will miss the vote. For the people in the gallery and the rest of the world watching today, it is okay for the ministers who are all out in their ministerial offices just out there—

Ms Jones: It hurts, doesn't it?

Mr BLEIJIE: It is going to hurt you a lot more when you are in opposition. I will tell you that.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you will put your remarks through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for Cooper, like the member for Woodridge, never served a day in opposition. She had a holiday, a sabbatical. Just like I said about the member for Woodridge, the member for Cooper would not be able to handle a day in opposition.

The ministers are all just out there. They can rush back in here within a minute. For other members of parliament who have to go throughout the precinct—maybe having meetings with parliamentary staff in their offices about parliamentary business—that is wrong. Members of the parliament should have the appropriate time to be able to come to this chamber. If the answer to this is to not speak on clauses, to not speak on motions and to not speak on amendments being moved then that is curtailing members' right to speak on those particular provisions. I would strongly urge everybody in this House to oppose this because it is abusing the process and it is abusing the rights and immunities of members of this House.