



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 3 May 2018

## MOTION

### Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.07 pm): I thank the Leader of the House for briefing me on this matter prior to the introduction of the motion today. I have to say though that, having reviewed the amendments now, it is groundhog day or 'we told you so', because already the government has to extend the sitting hours of parliament to deal with parliamentary business because family friendly hours have not worked so well, have they?

In the past we did not have to move sessional and temporary standing orders for the budget. If we look at each day, it says that it is government business until the adjournment is moved. That used to be the case on every sitting night. We now have our seven o'clock automatic adjournments on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and the automatic adjournment at six o'clock on Thursdays. For budget week the Leader of the House says that we need to extend those hours because otherwise we will not get through the budget speeches.

The Leader of the House and the government ought to have a look at the number of bills that have been reported on by committees, the number of bills currently before committees and the fact that we have only been able to debate one piece of legislation this week and we are still not finished that piece of legislation, yet we are less than three hours away from the automatic adjournment. This is just the start of an extension of time, time and time again for the sessional and standing orders.

As has been the practice for years and years, the opposition will not stand in the way of a government's budget. That is why we will be supporting the allocation of time for speeches because we know that, if we do not, the government is going to guillotine the debate anyway. We want to make sure that our members get the opportunity to speak to the budget.

The election was in November last year. Other than for those new members who have made their maiden speeches, we have not really made inroads into the address-in-reply. We are going to go into a budget sitting week and have the budget debate as well as the address-in-reply. Members will be giving their address-in-reply to the Governor's speech and also delivering their reply to the budget speech given by the Treasurer. In the 10 years that I have been in this place, that has not occurred. This is because the government has curtailed the hours of debate under the guise of family friendly sitting hours. We are now seeing that the government members are not able to get their agenda through this House because they are lazy. That is why this amendment has been moved to the sessional orders for budget week to keep members here after seven o'clock at night. Effectively, the amendment says, 'Don't go home at seven. We need you here. We will go back to what it was like in the old days of the last parliament and sit after 7.30 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday nights and 6.30 pm on Thursday night.'

I am speaking to this motion because this is just the start. As more bills are introduced, as the committees get more burdened with the government's legislation—and this week we have not even had one bill completed in a three-day sitting—we will see that the government cannot manage the business of this House.