




Speech By
Jarroed Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2018

MOTION

Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.11 pm): The Leader of the House can lower her voice and talk softly wanting to be our friends all she wants. Do you think the Deputy Premier is sitting downstairs listening to the Leader of the House's new modus operandi for this parliament of respect, all working together and sitting down with the LNP on a Monday morning to work out what our agenda is for the parliamentary sitting week? Do you think the Deputy Premier is sitting in her office saying, 'I agree with the Leader of the House'? The Deputy Premier is a member of this House who least respects the rules of this House—and people for that matter, I might add. As if that is going to happen.

The Leader of the House can lower her voice all she wants. The reality is this: they have not been able to get their agenda through the parliament. They have not been able to ram their agenda through the parliament because they already cut the hours of parliament. I can look the Leader of the House in the eye and say that we told the government this was going to happen. I said months ago we will be standing in here debating curtailing the debate on bills because the Leader of the House and the government have not been able to get their act together and get their agenda through the parliament.

We will now have this nice bills committee that will meet on a Monday morning. Incidentally, the bills committee has no power. It has no binding nature when it meets on a Monday morning and we all sit down, hold hands, sing *Kum ba yah* and drink the Kool Aid. It has no power. If the Leader of the House on a Monday morning wants to sit down with me or wants to ring me to ask what the LNP's priorities are for the week, she can do that now. She can ring the crossbenches and ask what our priorities are for the week. She can do that now, but under this proposal we are going to have this meeting on a Monday, the Leader of the House will put her ideas forward and she will ask us what we think should be the agenda. The Leader of the House will then take that view and run off to the Premier's office and say what the committee came up with. Do you think the Premier's office will say, 'Okay, let's all work together. We will agree with that.' As if that is going to happen! The reality is that the Leader of the House is smokescreening this—in some new way modernising how parliament is going to work. It is not going to work like that.

The reality is that they have not been able to get their agenda through. They have had only a few bills pass this year. We have not even done a quarter of the address-in-reply to the Governor's speech. Under our system of democracy with Her Majesty Elizabeth II as our Queen and Head of State in Queensland we have not even finished the address-in-reply and we are nearly in September. This did not even happen under the former leader of the house's regime. He had his own problems, I might add, but this did not even happen under his regime.

If Labor members think this will create a new-found respect and the Deputy Premier will fall in line, one only has to read the *Courier-Mail* today to see what the Deputy Premier thinks about her own members of parliament. It is not going to happen like that. The Leader of the House can dress it up. As the saying goes, you can put lipstick on a pig but it is still a pig.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is the policy I am talking about. I am talking about the policy. The Leader of the House can dress it up how she wants. The reality is this: they moved amendments earlier in the year to cut debate times and have family friendly hours. We said at the time that it is not going to work. The government will not be able to get the agenda through that it wants because parliament needs to sit sometimes until the early hours of the morning so members are afforded the opportunity to have the debate. They arrogantly went ahead because they have a majority and said, 'No, we don't agree with that. We are going to have these family friendly hours.'

Look at this week with family friendly hours. We had the great Clubs Queensland in here. I could not go home to the Sunshine Coast because I attended the dinner supporting the club industry. I sat with clubs from the Sunshine Coast. Last night we supported the Japanese community who was here and the Taiwanese community who was here.

Mr Hinchliffe: That is part of the point.

Mr BLEIJIE: My point is that we are already here anyway. We could have been sitting here debating laws and attending the various functions, as has happened for 150 years in this place. For 150 years members of parliament have managed to go to multicultural events and do their business in the chamber, but Labor cannot do that. They cannot think about doing two things in one night. One looks to history on these things. I want to read a quote from a member of parliament back in the day—

Honourable members interjected.

An honourable member: Any day?

Mr BLEIJIE: In modern history. This member of parliament said this—wait for this; you will love it—

The opposition will be opposing the motion moved by the Leader of the House because, once again, we are seeing the LNP using its massive majority on the floor of this parliament to rush through bills and not allow the freedom of speech and the freedom of expression which goes to the heart of the legislation that will be before this chamber. We are prepared to stay to the early hours of the morning to debate this legislation. We are prepared to stay here and work through the night to make sure that the voices of workers are heard in relation to this bill.

This member continued—

Let the debate be without guillotine. Let the members of this House express themselves and not have a government put the gag order in relation to this very important piece of legislation. There are 22 names on the list to speak and if 22 members want to speak on this bill they should be able to speak on this bill.

I absolutely agree.

An opposition member: Who was that?

Mr BLEIJIE: That was the honourable member for Inala and current Premier who was the opposition leader at the time. 'Let the members speak,' she said numerous times.

That was my point earlier. The Leader of the House can dress it up however she wants. The position of the Premier only a few short years ago was, 'Let the members speak. Let the members speak on behalf of their constituents.' I could have said that. In fact I did say that—not the exact words, but similar words—in the last six months. I agree with the Premier: 'Let the members speak.' Do you know what the difference was back then, Mr Speaker? If all the members wanted to speak, they got a chance to speak because the Liberal National Party were happy to be here at four o'clock in the morning. We were happy to do that.

The Premier now thinks it is a virtue to have one meeting at 11 o'clock at night. The member for Inala, the Premier, is happy to have one meeting at 11 o'clock at night and speak, and so she should because she is on half a million dollars a year. She should be right to have a meeting at 11 o'clock. I am surprised it is only one, actually, for a lazy, arrogant Premier and government.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: You cannot take objection because the Premier has—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana!

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker—

Mr BLEIJIE: I know what you are going to do.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you will resume your seat and you will put your comments through the chair. What is the point of order?

Mrs D'ATH: I believe the comments are unparliamentary.

Mr SPEAKER: I believe the language has been consistently used by other members of parliament and there is no point of order. Member for Kawana, I remind you about my previous ruling. Do not test me today.

Mr BLEIJIE: The reality is the Labor Party have a majority in the House. They are only doing this to ram through their agenda. This is not about sitting down with the Liberal National Party to work out what is in the best interests of the legislation in this House. The reality is they have been unable to get their agenda through. Remember, this is the Leader of the House who as the Attorney-General changed the electoral system in Queensland with 17 minutes notice. She wants to stand up here today and lecture people about working together for the benefit and future of all Queenslanders, when the Leader of the House changed the electoral system with 17 minutes notice. Queenslanders see through this. We have a lazy, arrogant government. This is a part-time parliament. We might as well just skype from home and not come here now, because the reality is that we spend limited time here debating important bills in this House.

(Time expired)