




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.48 am): This is another Labor attack on democracy in the great state of Queensland. As I said last sitting, the Leader of the House can put on a soft voice and sit around the table like we did yesterday at 5.30 and sing *Kum ba yah* but, as I said when I addressed the meeting yesterday, the meeting has no power. It makes recommendations to the Premier and the Premier decides what happens this week—or, in the case of this government, the Deputy Premier decides what happens here this week. I suspect that, if the Deputy Premier had asked Minister Bailey to check his emails and change his emails, he would take notice of the Deputy Premier and do it.

I agree with the Leader of the House on one thing. She said that the public looks at politicians with a level of cynicism. I agree. You would have to, if you looked at historical context and looked at what the Premier said only a few short years ago. When the Premier was opposition leader she said of Labor opposition members—

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.

I understand why the public would treat us with a level of cynicism when the honourable the Premier said that in her role as opposition leader only a few short years ago. She also said in another debate—

Let the debate be without guillotine.

Every Tuesday morning we will debate a guillotine for the week ahead. The now Premier, the member for Inala, said—

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—

these issues. She went on—

There are 22 names on the list ... and if 22 members want to speak on this bill they should be able to speak on this bill.

How times have changed—and the Leader of the House wants to know why the Queensland public are cynical of politicians and their motives! That is the reason. There is another reason. As an example, the member for Woodridge came into the chamber this morning and had a big cry because the Manager of Opposition Business did not give a pair so he could travel to Adelaide for a few days. The member for Woodridge should understand that Labor has a majority. He does not need my blessing to fly to Adelaide; he ought to go to the Leader of the House and get her permission. It is not up to the opposition. Again, maybe he went to the wrong office. Maybe he should have walked upstairs to the Deputy Premier's office rather than to the minister's room next door. He was speaking to the wrong person. He should put the leave request in to the Deputy Premier.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been very tolerant, but the member for Kawana has strayed very far from the motion before the House. I ask that he be brought back to the motion.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. I will consider your comments and I will rule accordingly.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, to save you the trouble of considering it, I do not even know what the motion is about. I turn back to the issue at hand—that is, the arrogance and the rot that has set in with the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is arrogance; it is the rot.

Government members stand up in the chamber and say, 'We want to work with the crossbench and the opposition in terms of what bills they want.' I will tell honourable colleagues how it went down yesterday. While I was in our party room I received a text message from the Leader of the House that said, 'These are the bills to be debated this week. All you have to do is let us know how much time you want on each bill.' The government had already decided which bills were going to be debated this week. It was not the case that I was going to sit in this meeting at 5.30 pm and offer an alternative proposition to the Leader of the House. It is a joke! I got a text message. As if I am going to go into the 5.30 pm meeting and say, 'We want to debate this piece of legislation,' and the Leader of the House will be accommodating of that request! This is a ruse. It is a guise for nothing more than the government being arrogant, ignorant of the people's wishes and concerns, and intolerant of the views of other people in this chamber. That is what it is. Those opposite do not want to have the debate.

Let's look at the three bills mentioned in the motion. The time allocated for each bill is three hours or four hours. If we divide that in half, the opposition gets 1½ hours—or at best two hours—including consideration in detail, to debate the legislation. If we divide that time by 10 minutes we see that two-thirds of the opposition members will not be able to be heard this week. The views of members of the plumbing industry, truck drivers and other constituents ought to be heard in the debate of the relevant bills.

When we look at the comments of the now Premier from only a few years ago we can see that the story has been completely flipped. Years ago the now Premier stood in this House as opposition leader and said, 'I want to be open and accountable to the people of Queensland.' What a joke! She has shown the Labor government for what it is. She says, 'I hear nothing. I see nothing. I know nothing.' I agree with that. The Premier knows nothing, sees nothing and does nothing in this state. This motion is arrogant and ignorant and it should be opposed.