



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 November 2018

**MOTION**

**Business Program**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.20 am): I put to the Leader of the House one of the reasons why the LNP may have used that particular opportunity. It was probably that about 200 bills had been passed that year already. If you look at the average number of bills passed by the Labor government in the 55th Parliament and in this parliament, there are significantly fewer bills per year than under the LNP government.

This motion that the Leader of the House has moved is guillotining another bill—and, God forbid, we are debating one bill again this week. The work and effort that goes into that—one bill! The bill is going to be guillotined and debate will be cut off again. That was not necessary because we were prepared to come back in December and keep the debate going—to debate whatever bill. The government has eight bills on the *Notice Paper*.

I apologise to the Leader of the House that I was unable to attend the Business Committee meeting yesterday. I know that the member for Maroochydore represented me. By all accounts, it is reported to me that it was a similar agenda. The meeting went for about 30 seconds—the government had their way; the opposition lost out.

**An opposition member:** Lots of consultation.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Lots of consultation—same, same. It was *deja vu*. I thank the member for Maroochydore for attending that meeting. It is important to note that the Leader of the House is excited because this week we are going to be doing the valedictory, which is the end of the year celebration to thank all of the parliamentary staff. At the same time, we are also thanking the Governor for his speech a year ago! I do not think I have ever seen a time when we are saying, 'Happy Christmas,' but also, 'Your Excellency, thank you for the great speech you made a year ago.' It is nearly a year ago since the election. It is because the government, the Labor Party, are lazy. They have not been able to get their agenda through the parliament under the guise of family friendly hours.

We see the parliament sitting less. We see the Premier jetsetting overseas more often. She is never in Queensland. In fact, between the last sitting week and this sitting week and between previous sitting weeks, the people of Queensland have been asking, 'Where is the Premier?' No-one knows what she does. The tourism minister does not know where the Premier is. They do not know whether she is on a 747 jetsetting somewhere—to Asia and China. The Premier travelled to China to watch the Queensland Ballet. She only had to go across the road to watch the Queensland Ballet. She did not have to fly to China to watch the Queensland Ballet, for goodness sake!

If we look at the statistics, in the 54th Parliament, which was the LNP government, there were 605.42 hours of debate time. In the 55th Parliament, which was the first Palaszczuk government, there were 558.24 hours—nearly 45 hours less debate time. This year, in the 56th Parliament, we are up to only 158 hours. Is the Leader of the House seriously going to tell us that in the next two years between

now and the next election they are going to go from 158 hours of debate time up to 605 hours? If that is the case, they are going to have to triple their legislative agenda next year because they will not get to that figure—605 hours of debate time under the LNP government in the 54th Parliament. The reason for that debate time was that we did not stop at seven o'clock.

**An opposition member:** We worked.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** We worked. The members of the parliament worked hard. They actually did what they are paid to do, and that is to work through the night and debate legislation.

This Palaszczuk government is one of the most resourced governments in Queensland—over 224 ministerial staffers. They said this morning that this opposition is the most resourced opposition. No, it is not. I think 22 staff for seven members of parliament is a pretty overresourced opposition. I reckon that if you are the opposition party and you only have seven members of parliament to 22 staff you are pretty resourced.

**Mr Dametto:** We have none.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am not taking the interjection from the Katter party member. We are not talking about his resources because they are subject to an important Ethics Committee investigation into the Premier. The reality is that it is a lazy government. They want to go home at six o'clock every night. They do not have the legislative agenda. They pull up stumps this week. The issue is not that we are not sitting in December; the issue is that we only found out about it a few days ago. No-one could anticipate what the diary was going to be like next year. Do members know why? It is because the Premier cannot make a decision. She cannot make a decision—

**Mr Mander:** She doesn't make decisions.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** And does not make decisions. Queensland is worse off because of this Premier and the Labor Party.

*(Time expired)*