




Speech By
Leanne Linard

MEMBER FOR NUDGE

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2018

MOTION

Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.44 pm): I rise to speak in support of the reasoned and sensible motion moved by the Leader of the House regarding the establishment of a business committee for the Legislative Assembly. As outlined by the Leader of the House, the Business Committee will enable the efficient running of this chamber, to enable bills to be considered in not only a timely manner but also a considered manner.

The proposal before us today is based on the Victorian parliament's model, a model which has operated in their Legislative Assembly since 1993 and has been used successfully for over 25 years. I note that it was introduced by a Liberal government, the Kennett government. Twenty-five years later, despite some changes, the assembly still uses that same government business program. I believe that we could and should do likewise here in the Queensland parliament.

The Business Committee will guarantee what bills will be debated each week, giving certainty to not only all members of this House but also stakeholders, the media and interested Queenslanders, enabling them to visit the House or tune in online to listen to the debate of legislation which affects them.

I, like all members of parliament, have a duty to act responsibly when I discharge my duties in this chamber. We need to ensure that we as the collective work in the best interests of all Queenslanders to benefit our great state. I believe that the motion before us will assist in achieving that. The actions we have seen in recent times of filibustering on debate and stringing out debate on bills, in particular in consideration in detail—repeating the same points over and over—do not display the responsible and constructive manner in which this House should operate. It does not serve the interests of our respective communities and it does not serve the broader public interest. We all know how the public view politicians, and our collective actions in this House go a long way to determining how all politicians are viewed. The proposed changes strengthen the openness and transparency of this House by setting a framework and timings for the week ahead to improve the awareness of how parliament operates.

While I know that those opposite may view or at least purport to view this as stifling debate, limiting the opportunities of members to speak, the reality is that not all members get to speak on everything. Not everyone speaks during the adjournment debate each week. Not everyone speaks during question time. Not everyone speaks during debate of private members' motions. Not everyone speaks during matters of public interest. While I can go on, these examples show how this House regulates the operations of itself.

At the end of the day, the House is its own master. It controls its own destiny, and I believe that the motion put forward by the Leader of the House strengthens the mechanisms by which this parliament works, and it seeks to do so in a consultative and constructive way.

In the spring session of 1993, during debate on the proposed change to sessional orders, the then minister for industry and employment, who moved the motion, said—

It is generally acknowledged by members on both sides of the House that, irrespective of one's political persuasion, the time they are in the House should be used efficiently and effectively.

...

The government has proposed a new Sessional Order to establish a Government Business Programming Committee that will enable us to overcome some of those difficulties. The House is expected to provide effective debate and the scrutiny of Bills. The amount of time wasting and filibustering that takes place in the House from time to time—

There was then an interjection. The member continued—

I do not apportion blame. It has happened on both sides of the House. If the honourable member is suggesting that I have been guilty of it on occasions, he is probably correct, but that does not make it right. Such action does no-one any credit and does nothing to raise the standard of Parliament or its members in the eyes of the public.

I support the motion moved by the Leader of the House.