



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Bailey**


**MEMBER FOR MILLER**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2018

**MOTION**

**Sessional Orders**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.13 pm): I rise to oppose the amendments moved by the member for Kawana and support the government's motion. This is a parliament. This is not a Young Liberals meeting or a Young Nationals meeting. This is not a place for amateur thespians like the member for Kawana who revels in having a captive audience—as bored as we might be by his performances.

Under the proposed sessional orders this parliament will still have more hours of debate than any other state parliament in the country. Let us have a look at that. The proposed sessional orders mean there will be 26 hours of debate in Queensland. There have been an average of 24½ hours of debate in the New South Wales parliament—the largest parliament in this country; Victoria, 25½ hours; Western Australia, 22 hours; South Australia, 21½ hours; and Tasmania 22½ hours. Only the Commonwealth parliament—

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, you unfortunately have a very loud voice. It is much louder than many others on your side of the House. I ask you to cease interjecting.

**Mr BAILEY:** Only the Commonwealth has more sitting hours, and they sit for four days. Let us not hear this pathetic argument about democracy and being gagged. That is the repetitiveness of the opposition. If ever there were an endorsement of this reform by this government it is the repetitive contributions from the opposition where they have two sentences on a loop going around and around. This parliament should be about teamwork and discipline. If someone cannot get their argument across in a reasonable time frame then they should not be here. That is what this is about.

It is the 21st century. This parliament is a workplace and it should be family friendly. We should not be having ridiculous late-night debates until two in the morning. Who were the greatest complainers during the last term about sitting late? It was them. They complained so many times about late-night sittings—it was a conspiracy; it was shocking. When we move to take those out all we hear is the repetitive, bleating loop from the LNP—around and around. This is sensible reform—three full days of debate and moving the parliamentary committee meetings to Monday. It is not exactly earth-shattering; it is just common sense and sensible.

We are moving the disallowance motions and the private members' bills from Wednesday to Tuesday—oh, my God, the world is going to fall in if we bring these reforms in! We are reducing some of the time limits. The time for the second reading contribution of the minister and the shadow minister will be reduced from one hour to half an hour. If someone cannot get their arguments across in half an hour then they are not doing their work properly and not being thorough.

There are a range of reductions which are not about curtailing debate. They are about discipline. They are about people getting to the point and not filibustering and being the amateur thespian that the member for Kawana is. This parliament could do with less of that and do with more teamwork and more discipline. These sessional orders will promote sensible discussion.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, please resume your seat. I am hearing continual interjections from the member for Mudgeeraba, the member for Toowoomba North and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Please cease your interjections. If you wish to make a contribution, then make a contribution on your feet.

**Mr BAILEY:** Let us compare these sessional orders to the sessional orders of the Newman government. Under the Newman government there was four hours and 30 minutes for preliminary business and question time. What is there under these sessional orders? There will be five hours and 15 minutes. That is hardly a curtailment of democracy. If we compare private members' business time it was 30 per cent of the total time under the Newman government and 29 per cent under these sessional orders. That is almost identical. If we compare government business time we find it was 51 per cent and under these sessional orders it will be 54 per cent. As members can see they are relatively marginal adjustments, but sensible. Let us have a full Wednesday of debate during the daylight where there will be more time for media scrutiny rather than debate into the night—until the ridiculous hours of midnight or two o'clock.

The final thing in support of these sessional orders is that we will never again see opposition members gallop back into the chamber half dressed like we saw them do in the last term. We will not see that again under these sessional orders. I actually think it is a good thing for democracy to see the member for Hervey Bay with a shirt on in this House. These are sensible, modern, family friendly sessional orders. I speak against the amendments and in favour of the motion.

*(Time expired)*