




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 15 February 2018

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.45 pm): I rise to oppose the time constraints being imposed by this lazy Labor government. Its changes to the sessional orders of this parliament are an arrogant attempt to escape scrutiny and transparency. These changes are political expediency at its worst. They are another example of a Labor political act of bastardry, as we have seen in this House—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, will you please withdraw that comment. The language is unparliamentary.

Ms BATES: I withdraw. These changes are designed to stop those opposite from being accountable to this parliament and the people of Queensland. Lazy Labor does not think that it should have to front up to Queenslanders. It does not mind that it does not have any record to stand on, as long as it can find a way to cling to power.

We know that those opposite have introduced less legislation during their time in office than was introduced under the LNP. We know that, in the last parliament, there were fewer sitting days than there were in the one before it. We know that 30 more bills were passed by the LNP than there were under Labor. We know that more LNP bills went to committees for consideration than did Labor bills. We know that the LNP debated bills for 70 hours longer than did those opposite.

A government member: This is a debate about time limits.

Ms BATES: I am talking about time limits—70 hours longer than they were debated by those opposite. Labor replaced these debates with 22 additional hours of waffle and spin.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is a debate on a procedural motion. It is not a walk through history; it is about the specific motion on time limits.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Miller. I am keeping a very close eye on the member. I will be addressing all members of the House very shortly about the issue you have just raised.

Ms BATES: Sadly, removing private members' statements is just the latest example of Labor's blatant disregard—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, the motion that has been moved talks to the issue of time limits: five minutes for each member, with the total debate time before the question is put to be one hour. That debate is scheduled to take place at 5 pm. I put all members of the House on notice. This is a procedural motion about time limits. I expect that all future contributions will deal with that matter and not the substantive matter of the motion that is to be put at 5 pm.

Ms BATES: There are some new members here in the parliament on both sides, including the crossbench, who have not been in this parliament previously and seen the way business was conducted in the House. I think it is appalling that, as usual with this Labor government, at the death knell these changes to the sessional orders are being brought in to stop members from representing their electorates by being given time to speak to issues that are relevant to their areas. We need to make sure that we have a robust debate. Mr Speaker, you said that this morning in the information that you gave us.

Mr SPEAKER: Member, can I clarify that you are speaking to the time in which members can speak on behalf of their electorates in the debate at 5 pm or are you talking in general? I have just made a very clear statement to the House about the substantive motion being debated at 5 pm.

Ms BATES: It is really quite brash of this government to come in here and reduce the time.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, we will hear the member in silence.

Ms BATES: We want to make sure that every member in this House has the opportunity to speak on why these sessional orders are being changed, which I know will be dealt with later. It is very important that people can actually get up and say, 'I am here representing my electorate. I want to be able to speak for a particular period of time on something that is really important to my electorate.' Everybody in this chamber has the right to do that. Everybody in this chamber was elected by the people in their electorate to enable them to do that. What we are seeing here tonight is the Palaszczuk Labor government being arrogant and out of touch and abusing their power in this House. There will be less time for non-government business and less time for scrutiny of this government.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you are straying again to the substantive motion to be debated at 5 pm. If you have no further contribution regarding the time frames for that debate at 5 pm I would ask you to resume your seat.

Ms BATES: On behalf of the new members in this chamber who have not seen the arrogance of this Labor government, I think that we should have the opportunity to speak for as long in this place as we need to. If it is something the other side do not like that is just too bad. We are all here to represent our own electorates and everyone should be given that opportunity.