




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 4 September 2018

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.54 am): I am pleased to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the House, just as I was pleased to attend the first meeting of the parliamentary Business Committee last night. This new committee—and this motion today—will ensure that the House maximises the time it spends on the matters that members want to spend time discussing. It will deliver to members certainty about what will be debated when and for how long. It will ensure that stakeholders and members of the public can be in the gallery when a bill they are concerned about is being debated or watch online with knowledge of when a particular bill will be debated.

The Leader of the House and I came to that meeting in good faith, well prepared for the discussion. We knew how many people—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Minister, resume your seat. Member for Toowoomba North, I am sure you do not want to be the first person removed from the chamber over the parliamentary business program. I ask you to cease your interjections.

Dr MILES: The Leader of the House and I came to that meeting with knowledge of how many members of our caucus wanted to speak to each bill, with knowledge of which committee reports were contentious and which were not, and having consulted ministers to see who had amendments and who did not. The member for Noosa well represented the crossbench on behalf of the member for Hill. I think one good outcome of these reforms is that the crossbench will be better informed about the business of the House each and every week. Sadly, though, those opposite were very poorly represented at the meeting. The member for Kawana came along with no insights about which bills his members thought were more important or less important. He sat there and sulked. He made no contribution whatsoever. I say to those opposite: I understand that you do not support this process—and that is fine; you can continue to oppose it—but, for the sake of his own members, the Manager of Opposition Business should at least come in the knowledge of which bills his members want to debate and for how much time. He should contribute to the meeting because it will make this House run better and ensure opposition members get more of a chance to speak to the matters of concern to them.

As the Leader of the House has outlined, the outcome of that meeting was the motion moved by the Leader of the House. Three bills will be debated this week. We will spend four hours on the Plumbing and Drainage Bill, in recognition that the minister has amendments that members might want to debate during consideration in detail. The other two bills will each have three hours of debate. I, for one, am looking forward to knowing which bills will be debated when and for how long this week. I think it is a very good reform. I am looking forward to it.