



Speech By  
**Hon. Dr Steven Miles**


**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 September 2018

**MOTION**

**Business Program**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.59 am): At the last sitting during this debate I urged the member for Kawana, for the benefit of his own backbench, to come to the parliamentary Business Committee meetings with some feedback about which bills the opposition would like to spend more time on—which bills there would be more speakers on. I am pleased to say that he has taken that on board. As a result of his contribution as well as the very valuable contribution of the member for Noosa, the government has adjusted the times for debate this week based on that feedback. As the Attorney-General and Leader of the House has outlined, that will allow proper debate on three important bills including extra time for the police powers bill and proposed amendments as well as a revocation motion to be moved by the environment minister as well as the regular parliamentary business of the week. The last time we debated such a motion the member for Kawana said—

Never in the history of this parliament have we had to debate a motion that outlines what we are allowed to speak about and how long we are allowed to speak about it.

He said ‘never in the history of this parliament’ but, in fact, during the term of the Newman government 17 such motions were moved, six of them by the member for Kawana. The member for Kawana moved six such motions that he said had never before been moved. The value of these sessional orders were proven last sitting and they will be proven even more effective this sitting week. I congratulate the Leader of the House for her leadership in introducing them.

In opposing them, the member for Kawana consistently says that he wants members of his caucus to be able to speak about whatever matters to their electorates. We just finished question time. There are three big issues facing Queensland right now and there was not a single question on the drought, there was not a single question on aged care and there was not a single question on the strawberry contamination crisis facing our farmers. The member for Glass House sat silent and did not ask a single question. If they cared so much about the issues affecting their electorate, why would they not ask questions about those electorates? That was the worst question time performance we have seen from this opposition yet. No doubt it will only get worse this week. I commend the motion moved by the Leader of the House.