




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 13 November 2018

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.25 am): I rise to again support the parliamentary business motion moved by the Leader of the House. I must say that, while I missed my weekly catch-up with the member for Kawana last night, I did not miss his contribution this morning. Let me respond to one point that he has made. He has come in here and criticised our Premier for going to China to develop trade links with China that create jobs here in Queensland. This shows how out of touch those opposite are—to score political points against a Premier creating jobs and delivering trade for Queensland.

In talking to the motion, let me say again that thanks to the reforms introduced by the Leader of the House we will do some important things this week. First of all, we will have a very important debate about substantial reforms for the resources sector here in Queensland. We will have five hours of debate on that very important bill introduced by the Deputy Premier. I was pleased to work on those reforms when I was the environment minister and will be very pleased to speak in support of them in that five-hour debate. We will also have a long debate on the opposition's disallowance motion.

We will also this week, for the first time in four years, have the opportunity at a proper time to recognise the contribution of our parliamentary staff. We will, for the first time, have a chance at a reasonable time to have a valedictory debate—

Mrs D'Ath: Not at midnight, not at one o'clock in the morning.

Dr MILES: Not at midnight, not at one o'clock in the morning—to properly recognise the work they do supporting our democracy, supporting our efforts all year. I understand that, in addition to the valedictory debate, Mr Speaker has organised for us to see the lighting of the Christmas tree which will be a lovely event. I understand that he has agreed to allow us all to have one drink at that event before moving on to the more traditional end-of-year Speaker's drinks.

When we take that moment to recognise the staff of the parliament—staff like Colleen, who I understand is retiring after this sitting week—isn't it fitting that we will have an opportunity, thanks to the Attorney-General's reforms, to properly thank Colleen for all of those lunches and all of those meals? When we all go to see the lighting of the Christmas tree and get that one drink that Mr Speaker has kindly agreed to allow us, I urge members not just to thank the staff, not just to toast the staff but also to thank and toast the Leader of the House because without her reforms we would not have that opportunity to recognise their contribution. I commend the motion to the House.