




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2018

MOTION

Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.51 pm): As the member for Glass House has said, this parliament has sat in this chamber over the last 150 years to debate the laws of the state and to hold governments accountable, and there is a great fallacy in the tradition that we have seen applied by those opposite over the past six months as part of their continual filibustering where they have made some sort of grand suggestion—and I am sad to say that the member for Maiwar has been duped by this grand suggestion—that the tradition of a parliament is that every member has the right to speak on every matter. That is not the tradition of parliaments anywhere in the world and I defy anyone to give me examples and show me where that has been the case. That is ridiculous. That is not the case.

The sessional orders provide limited arrangements to what we do and how people have their voice heard now. That has always been the case. That was the case in 1868. It was the case in 1860. Those opportunities have been limited. There were opportunities for people to contribute and to have their say and it is ultimately, as I have said before in this chamber around these sorts of matters, always the parliament that is the ultimate manager of its own business, and that is what the provisions of the Business Committee amendment proposed by the Leader of the House provide. When I made that point—when I said that the parliament managed these matters—the last time this matter was debated along the way in this parliament on 15 June, the member for Toowoomba North responded in his contribution on that debate at that time on the remarks I made. He said—

I take the minister's point that the House needs to be managed, but in most parliaments in the Westminster system there is a fair amount of negotiation and there is a reasonable amount of compromise.

I think he just invited us to introduce a Business Committee. The Leader of the House is providing your wish, member for Toowoomba North. He went on to say—

When that happens, there is better legislation because it is more representative of the people's will ... if everybody who represents the people ... has an opportunity to have an input.

That is indeed what a Business Committee provides for. For those matters where you have a genuine opportunity and a genuine desire to contribute, that provision is made.

On that point, I noted that the member for Kawana quoted the Premier in remarks that she made during the 54th Parliament, and wasn't that parliament a great advertisement for parliamentary democracy—the 54th Parliament under the Newman government? Did the leader of the House at that time offer the opposition the chance to have a say in terms of the timing that could happen around those debates? No, they did not. That is what is before the House—an opportunity to manage the parliament's business. I do note that there are some quarters on that side that do think this is the way forward—they obviously see the reforms that we have undertaken as the way forward—and I make mention of the

leader of the house during the 54th Parliament. I quote the member for Mermaid Beach in his address-in-reply this year when he said—

... I am chuffed that the Queensland parliament has finally been dragged into the 21st century with meaningful sitting hours to hopefully produce meaningful outcomes in a respectful and driveless forum. The moral of this dialogue is that we must always look for change for the better in this parliament and relentlessly pursue the betterment of the parliament in the interests of better government for Queensland.

That is what we are doing. I am not here speaking as part of the 'bring back Ray' campaign, but what I am saying is that the Leader of the House has put a very sensible proposal forward that puts the parliament in charge of the parliament's business, as has always been the case, so do not believe the misty-eyed concepts of the parliamentary tradition. In a parliament like the Westminster parliaments that we enjoy and the Westminster itself with 650 members in the House of Commons, how can members believe that they all get a chance to speak on every single thing? They do not, and that is why we stand in the tradition of the parliament being the determiner of the business of this House and of it managing our business. That is 150 years strong in this chamber and I stand on the side of progress and modernising, and that is what we do with this motion today.