




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 23 August 2018

MOTION

Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.40 pm): I rise to speak against the motion. I cannot agree more with my colleague the Manager of Opposition Business in his description of the delivery of the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General thinks that if you speak in hushed tones, if you speak in a steady way, if you try to be statesmanlike, that gives some credibility to the statements you are making. I do not think I have heard a more sanctimonious, more irrelevant, more hypocritical delivery to this House in my time as a member of parliament.

The Attorney-General talked about what the public thinks of parliamentarians. She thinks that bringing in something that will curtail the ability of members to speak up for their electorates will somehow increase our credibility in the community. Since this government has come to power it has done everything possible to curtail the democratic process. Those opposite talk about family-friendly hours. I do not see too many Labor members getting in their cars and going home to their families once parliament adjourns at 7.30. Members from all around the state travel to Brisbane. We should be spending the maximum amount of time in the House so that we can get legislation passed.

Dr Rowan: Not a part-time parliament.

Mr MANDER: Not a part-time parliament. I take that interjection from the member for Moggill. I wonder why those opposite are continuing to bring in these so-called reforms to curtail the scrutiny of government. You do not have to look too far to see what they would try to hide from—issue after issue demonstrating the failures of this government. We on this side of the parliament—the opposition—should have every opportunity that the House can give us to keep the government accountable.

In the last week we have seen reports about the excessive waste of taxpayers' money on the Gold Coast during the Commonwealth Games. We have heard about how older Queenslanders will be picked up by the grey nomad tax. This motion affects our ability to question the government about these policies. Changing the name of the Lady Cilento hospital would cost millions of dollars—millions of dollars that could be spent helping patients and young people who require attention rather than on this politicking that is taking place.

On the economic front, why are we fifth in the CommSec State of the States rankings? Why can we not ask questions about that? Every person in this House should have the same opportunity to do this. What about the 'rail fail', that goes on and on? Every member of the opposition wants to be able to question the government and not have their opportunities curtailed in any way whatsoever.

This is a government that is trying to hide from scrutiny. I can understand that, because there are so many things that need to be scrutinised. We should have every right available to us so that we can ask questions and represent our electorates in the way our constituents expect. What will win back the respect of politicians is those opposite letting us to do our jobs.