




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 4 September 2018

MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.57 am): I rise to speak against the government's motion. This is a sad day in the Queensland parliament. This is a sad day for democracy in this state. 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.

Those on the other side of the House made some snide remarks at different times this morning about the Joh era. I am sure that some members opposite—I imagine that the members for Woodridge and Inala would have been there—would have protested in street marches in the late 1970s and 1980s about not being able to democratically come together and have their say. They are now defying the same principle they fought for. The thing that probably motivated them to come into politics—that is, the circumvention of free speech—is now the thing they are advocating for.

This is a constant theme of this parliament. This Labor government has tried everything possible to make sure that it will not come under the scrutiny that it deserves. At first we had the so-called family-friendly hours and those changes meant that we now have committee meetings on Monday mornings, yet that is definitely not family friendly for the regional members on our side of the House because many of them have to leave on Sunday morning to ensure that they get to the parliament on time. Those opposite talk about family-friendly hours, but I do not see any of them running off home at 7.30 each night to go back to their families because they have other motivations for their family-friendly hours. We saw the absolute farce of the estimates hearings of blocking questions from the opposition—reasonable questions—because those opposite do not want to come under scrutiny.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Moggill. It was a protection racket. Even last week when there was a committee meeting to discuss a bill before the House—and I will not mention the bill—members from the Labor side of the government—

Mrs Frecklington: Pine Rivers.

Mr MANDER: The member for Pine Rivers—I take that interjection—and the member for Thuringowa were blocking totally reasonable questions.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MANDER: It was the member for Thuringowa, was it not?

An opposition member: Logan.

Mr MANDER: Sorry, it was the member for Logan blocking questions. This constant theme is taking place with this government stopping our ability to ask questions.

There are 39 members on this side of the House and a quick calculation shows that we represent 1.4 million constituents in this state. Those 1.4 million constituents deserve to have their MPs get up in parliament and speak on any bill that they want to speak to. We will be going back to those 1.4 million constituents to tell them what is happening in this House—that is, we are not allowed to speak on what we want to speak on for as long as we want to speak on it. We are going to remind them and remind them and remind them of the arrogance of this government.

What is it trying to hide? It is pretty obvious when we see during question time today that the main roads minister was under interrogation about his failure to obey a direction from the Premier and when we see the minister who is responsible for youth justice and domestic violence justifying taxpayers' money for perpetrators of domestic violence to have leave. This type of thing is unbelievable and these are the questions that our 1.4 million constituents want us to ask of this government. Every sitting week in this parliament at this time we will get up and speak about our democratic right. We will not relent on this because this is an important principle of our democracy and we will let everybody know what this government is trying to achieve.