



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 May 2018

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COUNCILLOR COMPLAINTS) AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL  
(IMPLEMENTING STAGE 1 OF BELCARRA) AND OTHER LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT BILL**

**Allocation of Time Limit Order**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That so much of the standing and sessional orders be suspended to allow all remaining stages of the Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to be completed by 5 pm on this day's sitting including:
  - (a) consideration in detail on the bills to be completed by 4.55 pm
  - (b) questions on third readings to be put by 4.57 pm
  - (c) questions on long titles to be put by 4.59 pm
2. At the time so specified, Mr Speaker shall put all remaining questions necessary to complete consideration of the bills, including clauses en bloc and any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the bill en bloc, without further amendment or debate.

This motion is being moved because what we have seen in the last two sitting weeks of this parliament is a deliberate strategy of those opposite to delay the business of this House.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Why don't you support democracy?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take the interjection of the Leader of the Opposition—'Why don't you support democracy?'

**Mr SPEAKER:** Speak through the chair, Attorney-General.

**Mrs D'ATH:** It is hard to accept that there is any sincerity in those comments when those opposite claim that the delays in bills being considered in this House are as a consequence of the change of sitting hours. We heard that in the debate last sitting week and this week

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition, you will have an opportunity to respond, if you so wish. Until then I will hear the Leader of the House.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take those interjections. The Leader of the Opposition would like everyone outside this parliament to believe that what has been happening over the last two weeks is the normal processes of this chamber every sitting week. We know that that is not true. Even in the last parliament with a minority government and very serious bills before the House we did not see that strategy from the opposition. They did not have every single member speak during consideration in detail.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nicklin.

**Mrs D'ATH:** We are not talking about genuine questions being asked or genuine points of clarification being sought from the minister in consideration in detail. We are talking about rehashing the same points that members, including the shadow minister, made during the second reading stage. We saw sheets with speaking points being circulated last night. Some members struggled to understand what they were reading out and to explain what they were saying.

**Mr McArdle** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Caloundra.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I come back to the lack of sincerity of those on the other side of the House when they talk about democracy and the sitting hours of this House. Can I remind those opposite—the LNP—that when we introduced these new sitting hours we proposed that there be 26 hours of sittings each sitting week and, of that, 16¼ hours be set aside for government business. Those on the other side might remember that they moved an amendment putting forward their own sessional orders. I remind all those members on the other side who have been carrying on about the new sitting hours of this House and how they somehow infringe their rights to be heard that the LNP's version meant that we would be sitting for 24½ hours each week with 15½ hours of government business. That is fewer sitting hours and fewer hours for government business.

The Leader of the Opposition and the Manager of Opposition Business should not come in here and claim that the changes to the sitting hours are somehow to blame for the fact that they are dragging consideration in detail out for hours so that they can try to embarrass the government into not passing a bill. Are we about good policy or good politics in this chamber?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** What you are doing is not good politics. The LNP would like people to believe that it is somehow going to leave egg on the face of the government if we do not get this bill through.

**Mr Molhoek:** It is not about egg on faces; it is about terrible legislation.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southport.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection from the member for Southport, claiming that it is terrible legislation, except they are seeking to support a large proportion of this legislation and amend and expand it. My question is: does the LNP believe that it is appropriate to drag this out so that potentially this legislation does not pass until June, the next sitting week—

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southport. Leader of the House, I want to make sure that you do not stray into discussing the bills before the House in your contribution.

**Mrs D'ATH:**—leaving serious questions in doubt about the public's confidence in local government? We need to resolve these issues. It is important legislation. Every member of this House has had the opportunity to speak in the second reading debate, if they sought to do so. There is no validity to the arguments on that side about democracy. Democracy is putting proper debate before the House, arguing the points and passing or considering legislation.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs. I will repeat my warning to members. If you wish to rise to your feet to speak in this debate, you may have an opportunity to do so. Until then, cease your interjections.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Again, those on the other side would have the public believe that this is just the normal process of this parliament, but this is a deliberate act.

**Mrs Frecklington:** No, it's not.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection—'No, it's not.' I welcome those on the other side to do a bit of research and come back to this House and tell us how many occasions in the last parliament every single speaker on the opposition side spoke in consideration in detail. They should put it out there, if they want to claim that this is not deliberate.

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southport, you are warned under standing orders. This is the third time I have had to speak to you. This is not a conversation; this is a house of debate.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Attorney-General is making a direct attack on those of us on this side of the House. I am a former councillor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No. Member, there has been no personal reflection on you. The member is entitled to make a contribution and be heard.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Again, for those who claim that their rights are being infringed in some way and that democracy is being harmed by these new sitting hours, there was approximately 15 hours of debate on the vegetation management bill. This parliament has an obligation to the people of Queensland. Every elected member of parliament has an obligation to the people of Queensland—that is, to properly consider but not abuse the rights of this parliament.

Those opposite who say, 'It is about our constituents; we have a right,' should explain why they did not feel like they needed to exercise the same right on the serious and organised crime legislation or tackling alcohol fuelled violence or even on compulsory preferential voting. They did not feel the need to speak on behalf of their constituents on every single occasion and have every single member speak. It is an absolute furphy. It is a load of rubbish. This parliament is not going to be held to ransom by the LNP and their cheap politics in this House. We will get on with business.

As Leader of the House, I would like to work with the opposition and the Committee of the Legislative Assembly, like other parliaments do, and sensibly sit down and implement the full model that was considered in the past in relation to the Victorian practices—that is, not just sensible working hours but fixed times for setting of bills so that it is transparent and everyone knows at the start of the week how bills are going to be debated. If the opposition does not want to work with the government to achieve sensible practices then we will make sure sensible practices are implemented in this House.

I really hope some common sense starts to prevail on the other side because we have a job to do. People are sick of this cheap, petty politics. We need to lift above this and we need to get our job done. We can have sensible debate. Those opposite are not going to hold this parliament to ransom. They are not going to hold Queensland to ransom in not letting legislation be properly considered and voted on by the House.