




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 13 November 2018

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.15 am), without notice: In accordance with sessional order 2B, I move—

1. That the following government business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time for each bill specified:
 - (a) the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill, a maximum of five hours to complete all stages.
2. The following time limits apply for bills listed in paragraph 1:
 - (a) minister to be called on in reply by two hours before the expiry of the maximum hours;
 - (b) consideration in detail to be completed by three minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
 - (c) question on third reading to be put by two minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours; and
 - (d) question on long title to be put by one minute before the expiry of the maximum hours.
3. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified in paragraph 2, or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 15 November 2018, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on the minister to reply to the second reading debate;
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill or motion without further debate;
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

In briefly speaking to the business program motion this week, in terms of the first bill to be passed the committee report on the bill contained only two recommendations. The first was that the bill be passed and the second was that a minor drafting issue be amended. There were no statements of reservation or dissenting reports. This shows broad support for the substance of the bill. I understand, however, that there will be amendments in consideration in detail. That is why the motion has prescribed discrete time for this House to consider those amendments and to ensure that members get the opportunity to put questions and hear from the minister directly in relation to the proposed amendments.

This week the House will also undertake address-in-reply contributions, a disallowance motion to be moved by the member for Glass House, debate on committee reports, introduction of bills, private members' statements, adjournment statements and the end of year valedictory speeches. As this is the last business program motion of the year, I would like to reflect on how it has been operating.

As at today this parliament has considered and passed 29 bills this year. An analysis of the sitting weeks for which this parliament has utilised the new business program motion shows that the bill pass rate is approximately 3.66 bills per week. This is compared to 2.7 bills per week without the business program motion. Simply put, the business program motion is working, with more bills being considered and passed on average with the motion than without.

I have no doubt, based on the interjections we heard earlier this morning, that those on the other side may make reference to the sitting calendar this year and a tentative sitting week not being utilised. I will briefly speak to that. As always, those on the other side say one thing and then do another when they are actually in government.

When the sitting calendar says 'tentative sitting week to be confirmed', that is what it means. It is a tentative sitting week that the government of the day decides whether it will utilise or not. I would think that those members on the other side, seeing many members missed out on the opportunity to attend many school events last year because of the election, would welcome the opportunity to be in their electorates, to share the Christmas cheer, to celebrate with their wonderful schoolchildren who are graduating and to go to award ceremonies and so forth.

The last time there was a sitting calendar with a tentative sitting week was in 2013. The member for Mermaid Beach was the then leader of the House. The member advised, 'I wish to confirm that the tentatively scheduled sitting week of 3 to 5 December 2013 will not be required. Therefore, please note the final sitting week in 2013 will be the sitting week of 19 to 21 November.'

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order, members!

Mrs D'ATH: As always, they are happy to do one thing in government but, of course, have a bit of a whinge when they are in opposition about the government of the day having the same opportunity to not utilise the tentative sitting dates. As this is the last business motion for the year, I wish everyone a lovely Christmas and a safe new year, and I look forward to continuing this debate in the new year.

(Time expired)