



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2019

**MOTION**

**Business Program**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.21 am): Mr Deputy Speaker, I do not know how my name came to be missed from that list today, but that is good. The Leader of the House gave us a history lesson of who said what in this place.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection. I remind the Leader of the House what her leader said when she was in opposition. When the Premier, the member for Inala, was the opposition leader she sat in the seat two seats down from me and in the very early hours of one morning basically said, 'I don't care how long this debate takes. I don't care what hours we're here. We will sit here, because every worker in Queensland has the right to be heard through their member of parliament.' What has changed? Labor members are on that side of the House.

**An opposition member:** They're in government.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** They are in government. They have a majority.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection. Yes, they won. Of course, the members opposite spent three years going on about arrogance, hubris, accountability and integrity. Have we not seen a downfall in four years!

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** If I were the Minister for Local Government, I would not be interjecting. Over the past few weeks I have seen for the first time ministers protesting against their own minister and the Local Government Association hate its minister so much that it is going to run a campaign on social media against the government. This government is in chaos. The disunity in this government is unbelievable. We have ministers attending protests with other people holding signs about the blood on the hands of the minister. It is unseen.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order: relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, I suggest you come back to the topic of the debate. Otherwise, I will ask you to resume your seat.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I table pages 1 and 2 of the speaking list to the fisheries bill.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, speaking list for Fisheries Bill [402](#).

Guess what? Members were cut off. The debate was guillotined. The members for Bonney, Mirani, Pumicestone, Southern Downs, Hinchinbrook, Nanango, Glass House and Ninderry were not given the opportunity to speak to that bill. I table the speaking list for the Human Rights Bill.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, speaking list for Human Rights Bill [403](#).

Members were cut off and the debate on that bill was guillotined.

**An opposition member:** On human rights.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Their human right in having the opportunity to speak was denied. They would probably now have a claim in the Human Rights Commission and be compensated handsomely. The reality is that, years ago, the unions fought for a 38-hour week. The time for debate on the bills for this sitting week is 11.95 hours. That is all the members opposite want to work. We sit Tuesday to Thursday and all the members opposite can put in is 11.95 hours of debate time. We know that, on that side of the House, the talent for debate is bereft. We know that it is a challenge for the members opposite to get to 11 hours of debate time.

Yesterday in the bills committee meeting I was asked, 'How many speakers want to speak to all the bills?' I said, 'Approximately 30 on each bill.' That is because we have 38 members of the Liberal National Party who want to or deserve the opportunity to speak to bills, if given the chance, but they do not. On the ABC's Steve Austin program the Leader of the House accused the opposition of filibustering. Yesterday in the committee meeting the health minister said, 'Name the speakers who want to speak to these bills.' He was trying to pre-empt the opposition by getting me to tell the government which opposition members were going to speak to the bill. How arrogant of you to say to me—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Kawana, through the chair.

**Mr BLEIJIE:**—that the minister has the right—

**Dr Miles:** You couldn't name one, let alone 30.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart):** Order! Minister for Health, I was on my feet. I continue to advise you, like Mr Speaker said, that there will not be quarrelling across the chamber. Member for Kawana, you need to direct your comments through the chair, please. Minister for Health, if you continue you will be warned under the standing orders.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The Minister for Health does not have the right to know or demand from me which opposition members are going to speak to government bills. That is the individual right of those members. As I said last week, at some stage during the 12 hours of debate things may spark in members' minds, or their constituents may contact them, or they may see something in the media and say, 'I want to put my name on the list. I did not think I would want to on Tuesday.' That is the right of members of parliament, including the crossbench. The members of the committee, including the crossbench representative, say, 'We just have to be more efficient with parliament. Let's work out our speakers.' It is not about that. It is about members being paid good money to be here to represent their constituents.

*(Time expired)*