



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2019

**MOTION**

**Business Program**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.16 am): The Leader of the House may not wish to repeat herself, but I am certainly not restrained by that constraint. This is an assault on democracy. It is a parliamentary week-by-week assault on members being given the opportunity to speak in this House on these important matters.

We saw last parliamentary sitting week that in terms of the three bills that were debated—the nature conservation bill, the justice bill and the guardianship bill—opposition members were guillotined from the speaking list. On the nature conservation bill we had four members guillotined. I table a copy of that speaking list.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, speaking list titled 'Nature Conservation Bill' [489](#).

On the justice bill we had nine MPs guillotined. I table a copy of that speaking list.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, speaking list titled 'Justice Bill' [490](#).

On the guardianship bill we had two members guillotined I table a copy of that speaking list.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, speaking list titled 'Guardianship Bill' [488](#).

The Leader of the House talks about managing the House and the opposition managing our speakers. When the Leader of the House talks about managing, what she means is cutting, guillotining, scrapping, gagging members from speaking. The Leader of the House talks about managing, but she did not manage the Minister for State Development very well last week because he was gagged on his feet when speaking to his own bill. He was summing up the entire debate and then like a deer in the headlights when he was called to order to sit down he seriously looked around and wondered what on earth just happened. The Minister for State Development was guillotined under his own Leader of the House's motion. He was gagged by his own government.

He looked around seeking answers as to what this was all about. Has he not been listening this parliamentary term? Does he not know what these business committee motions are all about? They ensure the Labor Party get their way without debate and without information being disclosed in the public realm.

The Leader of the House said that 2.5 hours is enough to debate the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. No, it is not enough time. In the Business Committee meeting yesterday, when asked about the times that I thought were applicable, I said that the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill should be six hours; the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill should be six hours; and the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill should be five hours. Do honourable members think I got that approved? No.

I will tell the Leader of the House something else: this is all just to say to the public, 'It's about efficiency. It's about managing timetables.' The dangerous thing about this is that for the last two sitting weeks the *Notice Paper* has been emailed to members prior to the Business Committee even deciding

what bills were going to be debated during the week. The Leader of the House says she wants open discussion and dialogue—‘Let’s cooperate, Jarrod’—but that is rubbish. It is garbage. It is the government getting their own way with their majority. If they want to cooperate with the Leader of the Opposition and the Manager of Opposition Business, they would not send the *Notice Paper* out saying what the bills will be this week. They would have a conversation in the Business Committee, but that did not happen. That is the arrogance that is creeping in ever and ever more so with this government.

We want to talk about issues this week. We want to talk about, for instance, optional preferential voting. If they do not want people to vote a particular way, we say change the law. Where is the debate on that this week? We had the biggest health crisis last week and the Premier could not even mention health in her ministerial statements this morning. We had a code yellow last week and there has been nothing from the Premier about health this week. The Premier stood up this morning and asked, ‘Why didn’t the opposition ask any questions about the federal budget?’ Why would we? She cannot even answer questions about her own budget and her own government. Why would we ask questions of the Premier about ScoMo’s budget, for goodness sake!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Kawana, come back to the motion, please.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Of course. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your guidance. I move the following amendment—

That the following words be inserted in 1(c) after ‘to complete all stages’—

‘with the question on the second reading to be put by 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum time.’

I table a copy of that amendment.

*Tabled paper.* Document, undated, titled ‘Amendment to Business Program Motion’ [491](#).

The reason for this amendment is that, for whatever unknown reason, in the health bill we are about to debate there is an amendment to the Retirement Villages Act dealing with freehold title. It has nothing to do with the health bill. The opposition wants to ensure that members can adequately address the issues in consideration in detail. That is why we are moving an amendment; otherwise the government will ensure that the 2½ hours is filled without consideration in detail, which is a gag on democracy.

*(Time expired)*