




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.24 am): There are two things I can say to the Leader of the House. One, never assume what I may or may not get up and do in this place.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Not even he makes that assumption. There might be one day when, to everyone's surprise, the opposition supports this motion.

An honourable member: What?

Mr BLEIJIE: I said 'might'. The only support the government will get from us on this motion will be when we revert to the good old days when members were afforded the appropriate and unlimited opportunity to speak at any given time of the day and at any given time of the early morning. That is what we want to see. Secondly, the Leader of the House keeps saying that members just fill the speaking list for the sake of filling the speaking list.

Mr Mander: That's an insult.

Mr BLEIJIE: That is an insult to members in this House. It is an insult to the members duly elected by their constituency. No electorate in Queensland is the same. The issues for my constituents in Kawana are different to the issues of the constituents of the Leader of the House in Redcliffe. They are different and constituents should be afforded the opportunity to have their issues represented. Isn't that why we are here? We are the representatives of the people. Approximately 40,000 people elect us every term on the basis that we represent them in the state parliament.

The Leader of the House said she has statistics that show that more people get opportunities to speak. That is wrong; it is because they have curtailed debate. It is how she reads the statistics, just like how Labor does budget figures and so forth. She fudges the statistics. Because of the guillotining every day of every debate, our members deliberately cut short their speeches to afford other members the opportunity to speak. I do it on the basis that everyone should have the right to speak to a bill. Not everyone speaks on every bill—and that is the individual right of members. As occurred yesterday with the disability bill—I did not have my name on the original list, but I listened to the debate. Some things are said in debate that trigger a constituent issue in our electorate and so we may feel the need to speak to a bill. On the Sunday before 9.30 Tuesday of a sitting week, we may not necessarily have the whole week planned out in terms of, 'I will speak on this, I will speak on that and I am determined not to speak on that' as things change. These are the real statistics about members not being afforded the opportunity to speak: 22 members of parliament on the list did not get to speak to the blue card bill. I table a copy of that. Fifteen members missed the opportunity to speak to the natural resources bill. Six members missed the opportunity to speak to the electoral bill. I table a copy of that document.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, speaking list titled 'blue card bill' [956](#).

Tabled paper: Document, dated 14 May 2019, speaking list titled 'electoral bill' [957](#).

Tabled paper: Document, undated, speaking list titled 'natural resources' [958](#).

The Minister for Education interjected earlier at the Leader of the House saying that it is not about the quantity but the quality of speeches. If that is the case, we might as well take every Labor member off the list because the quality of speeches on that side does not live up to expectations. Strangely, the business committee meeting occurred yesterday and not on Monday. The parliament commenced on Tuesday, the budget was handed down and then the government decided to move the business committee motion to decide what would happen retrospectively the day before! Why was the business committee meeting at the end of the day when parliament had been in session for the entire day? The business committee usually sits on a Monday. The reality is that the whole process is a farce. The Leader of the House can fudge, read and dictate the statistics however she likes. The reality is that members are not given the opportunity to speak in this place. In the debate we want to talk about all the big issues, as we will in the debate today, like the leadership of the Labor Party, the rumblings, inner turmoil and chaos. Government members tried to flip it all this morning as if it were not an issue. I cannot wait for the debate this afternoon. 'Nothing to see here,' they say. Members should be afforded the opportunity to speak. That is why we oppose the motion of the Leader of the House.