




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.21 am): It will come as no surprise to honourable members that we are going to oppose this motion moved by the Leader of the House. We are opposing the motion for a number of reasons, some of which I will detail, that I have not spoken about before in these debates.

The reality is that there is not enough time to debate these three bills this week. I attended the meeting yesterday. Interestingly, I would have thought the reef bill would have been debated in Townsville. It has a huge impact for North and Far North Queensland. I would have thought the reef bill would have been debated then. We had an active audience in the gallery, albeit small but there was an audience. I thought when we were in North Queensland and Far North Queensland that would have been the appropriate time to debate the reef bill. We attempted to bring on the debate of the reef bill, but something tells me the government did not want to debate the reef bill. That is because they are not comfortable talking about the issue in regional Queensland; they have to do it in South-East Queensland, where the ministers are more comfortable in their little bubbles. That is why we will debate them here.

I attended this meeting yesterday and I acknowledge the member for Noosa. Again, I am not going to verbal the member for Noosa but she did express concern about the reef bill; she said that members should be afforded the opportunity to speak to the reef bill. That is what I say every week about every bill. While the reef bill might be important to the crossbench, so are other bills important to the opposition. That is why I always say that if a member wants the opportunity to speak they should have it.

In response to that, the health minister, who sits on this committee, made the flippant remark that if we want more time, then the opposition can easily forgo things during the week such as the disallowance motion that we were talking about. Such an arrogant, self-righteous, irritable, smug individual you are, just dismisses—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Through the chair, please, member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: The vice-regal premiership is now rubbing off on the government ministers so he says, 'Take stuff away. Let them eat cake.' Let me repeat: the smug, arrogant, irritable, self-righteous minister yesterday said, 'Just get rid of stuff. Just don't do stuff.' Do we just not turn up to work? Is that the health minister's answer to all this? For the government to get its agenda through, the opposition just does not debate disallowance motions? We want to debate the disallowance motion because it is about the hike in registration costs and the cost-of-living pressures felt by Queenslanders because of the government.

The minister yesterday said, 'Just don't do the disallowance motion. That way you will free up an hour. Don't do the committee reports.' I looked into the committee reports. I will accept that we will not debate the committee reports and then we will get another hour of debate on the bill. However, this

egotistical maniac of a Minister for Health, who sat in this meeting yesterday thinking that he controls the shots and that this parliament is just a plaything for him, is wrong. That is the arrogance that this government now has because of its majority. This parliament is its political plaything. Parliament is never a political plaything; it ought not to be. That is why we will oppose the motion; that is why we will oppose the timing for the debate of this motion: we always believe that members should be afforded the opportunity to speak.

The Leader of the House got up and talked about 'the opposition members with their speaking notes'. If she listened to her own members and she can tell me that those members opposite are not using speaking notes, then I will get up and take it, but I think not. I am looking at the member for Stretton and his in-depth analysis in his speech. I see it there; he is ready to go.

The reality is that the Palaszczuk Labor government is treating parliament like a political plaything, displayed yesterday by the health minister, who was so dismissive of disallowance motions that members should be afforded the opportunity to debate. We look forward to the disallowance motion debate when we can talk about the cost-of-living pressures caused by the Labor government under the weakest Premier in Queensland's history.