




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 12 February 2019

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.32 am): It is great to be back debating a motion about parliamentary business. As the Leader of the House outlined, this new process for managing parliamentary business is working. It is delivering ample opportunity for the opposition members to stand up in this place and raise concerns on behalf of their communities.

I enjoyed my regular catch-up with the member for Kawana at the parliamentary Business Committee meeting. The member for Kawana commenced his speech by saying that, at the start of this year, the opposition members find themselves in the exact same place as they found themselves at the end of last year. That is correct: on the opposition benches. They should get used to being there. During question time I heard some mumbling about a plan B. If any member opposite has a plan B, now is the time to use it, because plan A is not working out very well at all.

Last year, every time we had this debate the member for Kawana would stand up and say that we were rushing through the House too many bills and that the opposition members were not getting enough time to speak to them. Today, he is complaining that there are not enough bills to debate and there is too much time to speak to them. He cannot have it both ways. As the Leader of the House has outlined, this sitting week we will debate two very important bills. We will commit time in which to debate those bills so that members have an opportunity to contribute to the debate on them.

Again, at the meeting the member for Kawana failed to represent his side in any meaningful way. He had no idea how many members of the opposition wanted to speak to either of these bills. He did not say, 'Actually, we're more interested in one or the other. We have a long list of speakers to one.' There was no contribution from him at all at the meeting. Once again, he just sat and sulked.

The Attorney-General outlined how, in consideration of the challenges facing the community represented by the member for Traeger, the government had agreed to alter the business schedule to allow him to be absent this week and to deal with matters that he had raised on his return at the next sitting. That demonstrates how at least the crossbench is working with us on the important process of managing the business of the House. I acknowledge again the contribution of the member for Noosa in representing the crossbenches in that discussion. I look forward to a very productive week in this House.