




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2019

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.27 am): Obviously, I do not know what happened yesterday afternoon in the opposition caucus, but the Manager of Opposition Business was looking pretty bruised after their conversation. He skulked into our meeting more sullen than usual. He was sulkier than usual. We asked, ‘How many people do you think might want to speak to these bills?’ He said, ‘Thirty on all of them.’ It is a wonderful coincidence that 30 members wanted to speak to all four of these bills. They were all equally important. I asked the member for Kawana if he could name any of them and he could not. He had no idea who on his side wanted to speak to these bills, which comes to the crux of this debate that we have every sitting. The Manager of Opposition Business—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for McConnel, I have been calling your name several times. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Mr Bleijie: Hear, hear!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, you are now warned under the standing orders for your interjection while I was speaking. Members, we have a plethora of members already on warnings. I notice that some of those members are starting to make some interjections. Their next move will be out the door.

Dr MILES: This brings me to the crux of the debate that we keep having every sitting and that is that the Manager of Opposition Business cannot do his job. Whether he is too lazy to manage the business of the opposition, whether he lacks the authority to manage the business of the opposition, the reason we keep having to have this debate is because the member for Kawana cannot do his job: he cannot manage the business of the opposition. He could not name them, but he said that 30 members wanted to speak on every one of these bills. Do members know how many times 30 opposition members spoke on a bill last term—apart from appropriation bills? Never! Zero times! Apart from the appropriation bills, never once last term did those opposite manage to round up 30 speakers, but this term they do every time.

One might expect the government and opposition to engage in a debate like this, but the member for Noosa, on behalf of the crossbench, put very clear and sensible suggestions to the member for Kawana about how, if he managed his business, those opposite who wanted to speak would all get the opportunity to speak. It was a valuable contribution, but of course it was rejected by the member for Kawana because he cannot manage the business of the opposition. Again I say that is because he is either too lazy or he lacks the authority.

The member for Kawana says the only reason we need this committee and this motion is to stop them filibustering. That was a uniquely honest reflection on his strategy. This week we will debate four important bills. We will have more than adequate time to raise all of the matters relevant to members and their constituents and I, of course, endorse the motion before the House.