




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 14 May 2019

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.24 am): I move the following amendment—

That the member for Kawana's amendment be amended by inserting the following words after paragraph 2(d):

- "3. If the nominated stage of each government business listed in paragraph 1 has not been completed by the allocated time specified in paragraph 2, or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 16 May 2019, Mr Speaker:
- (a) shall call upon the minister to table any explanatory notes to government amendments to be put;
 - (b) shall then put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill or motion without further debate;
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders."

For the benefit of members, let me be clear what is happening here and what is going on with these amendments. The member for Kawana could have come along to our Business Committee meeting last night and tabled his amendment, and we could have had a discussion about how to manage the time of the House and about how to ensure that the motion that the Leader of the House moved accommodated the feedback of the opposition. He chose not to and chose instead to deal with this matter here on the floor of the parliament.

In good faith, the Leader of the House—in fact, the government—is willing to work with the opposition on this to ensure that their contribution and their wishes in terms of the business of the House and this motion regarding the business of the House are accommodated. We will, therefore, support the amendment moved by the member for Kawana including the amendment that I have moved to ensure that these important bills get passed in this sitting week. These are important bills. I assume that is why the member for Kawana thinks we need more time to debate them.

To be clear for the interest of members, the motion of the Leader of the House proposed four hours of debate on the Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill; the member for Kawana has proposed extending that to six hours. The government had proposed 30 minutes of ministerial reply and consideration in detail; the member for Kawana has proposed doubling that to an hour. The government had proposed 6½ hours of debate on the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill; the member for Kawana has proposed extending that to eight hours. The government had proposed three hours for ministerial reply and consideration in detail in consideration of the fact that most of the disagreement across the chamber relates to amendments; instead, bizarrely, the member for Kawana has proposed reducing the amount of time for consideration in detail.

As I say, in recognition of the very important progress we have seen here from the member for Kawana and those opposite, we will accept those variations of time, with my amendment requiring that these bills be dealt with this week. They are important bills and we want to see them voted on this week. As is the case every week, it is now up to all of us in the House, particularly the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business, to manage the debate, to manage the speaking times and to ensure that all of the matters that they wish to raise in those debates do get raised. I commend the motion, the opposition's amendment and my amendment.