




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2019

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.26 am): Of course, I rise to again speak in support of the business program motion moved by the Leader of the House. If ever there were anyone in this place to describe someone else as smug, arrogant and self-righteous, it is the member for Kawana. In fact, from him I almost take it as a compliment.

The Business Committee met yesterday afternoon and we heard from the crossbench and the LNP members that they thought the most important matter of government business to be discussed this week was the Great Barrier Reef protection measures. We took that feedback on board. I have to say that I agree with them. As someone who first ran for office in 2015 motivated by the need to protect the Great Barrier Reef, I believe that that bill is the most important one to be discussed this week. That is why with the feedback we received from those opposite and the crossbench we shortened other government business: we shortened debate on my bill, we shortened debate on the national heavy vehicle bill and we agreed to defer committee reports to another sitting so that we can allow 7½ hours to debate the very important measures to protect our Great Barrier Reef.

I have a message for the Leader of the Opposition—actually, it is not my message; it is Scott Emerson's message—and that is she is never going to cut through if she hates the Great Barrier Reef. LNP members are never going to cut through when they want to spend 7½ hours, eight hours, nine hours or 12 hours arguing against measures to protect the Great Barrier Reef. They will never cut through while they are the opponents of protecting the Great Barrier Reef. Queenslanders love their Great Barrier Reef. They love its diverse ecosystem. They love the fact that we are the custodians of the only living thing visible from space. They, of course, appreciate the jobs and the investment supported by the Great Barrier Reef.

People all over Queensland support protecting our Great Barrier Reef. People all over Queensland care about this bill to provide better protections to the Great Barrier Reef. People all over Queensland will be watching those opposite use their 7½ hours to oppose protecting the Great Barrier Reef, no matter how much time they have. They will never convince Queenslanders that the reef should not be protected. I commend the business program motion to the House.