




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 22 October 2019

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.23 am): I rise again this week to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the House that will see us debate important bills this week and will see members get an important opportunity to contribute to these debates. Let me note a couple of matters raised by the member for Kawana. First of all, he raised the concern of the member for Noosa that she was unable to speak in a debate in the last sitting. Of course, it is the Manager of Opposition Business who is responsible for ensuring that members of the crossbench get that chance to speak and get that chance to represent their community. The fact that they are treated with contempt and disrespect by the Manager of Opposition Business—by all of those opposite in fact—is what results in them sometimes not getting that opportunity to speak. If the member for Kawana were better at managing opposition business, were better at managing his part of the debate in this House, then the member for Noosa would have had an opportunity to speak.

The member for Kawana, in opposing this motion, also, in effect, argued that we should have the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill passed later. After being out there in the public demanding that these laws should be brought in quicker he then comes into this House and demands that they be debated slower. He demands that we take more time to consider those important laws being brought to the House in this motion, which is the result of the consultation that occurred at the parliamentary Business Committee meeting yesterday afternoon. We will complete debate on the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. It is near the end of its parliamentary process already. Twenty minutes will allow us to complete all stages.

We will move on to the Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. We will have four hours to discuss it. The debate on that bill commenced when we all sat in Townsville. I know, Mr Deputy Speaker, you were very pleased to have us all up in Townsville at that time. We will then have a very substantial amount of time—six hours—to debate the Summary Offences and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. That is the bill that this government knows is important and that the Premier has said will be passed this week. Thanks to this motion we will ensure that it is debated and considered this week.

By moving this business program motion, as we have almost every week of this term, we are ensuring that the business of the parliament is effectively managed, ensuring that important bills are considered and debated. In opposing it each and every week the opposition members show that they have no internal discipline, no ability to manage their own business, that the Manager of Opposition Business has no authority in his party room, no ability to manage their speaking list, to manage their time and to do the important job of making sure that the crossbench get to speak to matters that are important to their communities.

It is time for these theatrics to end. Every single week, having to have this debate, is like groundhog day. The member for Kawana gets up and makes the same speech at the business committee, makes the same speech in here, even though, ironically enough, he is the only person in this House to have moved an actual gag motion, which he did in the sitting before last. The hypocrisy is astounding. I commend the parliamentary business motion moved by the Leader of the House.