




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

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MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (11.24 am): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise and support the Manager of Opposition Business in relation to his amendment. I find it completely ironic that here we are approximately 18 months or halfway through this term and, if I go back to the opening of parliament and the Governor's opening speech, it contained words—yet again—that the Palaszczuk government mark 2.0 will be super improved and more open, transparent and accountable than ever. How ironic! If we turn the clock back to 23 minutes ago, the Premier said words to the effect that she could talk about health all day long. There is only one problem with that: Premier, you cannot. For a start, you have to have the intellectual rigour to be able to speak for more than 24 minutes, which is more than we can say for the member for South Brisbane with her budget speech last year. I think that went for 24½ minutes. We will see whether she can do a bit better in a couple of months time.

Churchill said—we all know the old turn of phrase—'Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others.' I will say this: it is essential. We can listen repeatedly perhaps to the member for Redcliffe and also, with respect, to my great friend the member for Kawana, but this is my first crack at this and I will say this: at the end of the day it really does matter because we have four extra members in this parliament. We have gone from 89 members to 93 members of parliament. That is great. We have an increase in democratic representation. There is one problem. They actually have less time to speak.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: If I had more time to contribute, I would normally take, with absolute glee, the interjection from the member for Sandgate. We will get to him very shortly. This is the member who thinks he is the Voldemort of Queensland parliament. He absolutely likes to conjure and think that he is smarter than everyone else in the sandpit. He comes from Sandgate but he really likes to play in the sand when it comes to the caucus. Some of us who were here last term know that he snuck in here—more sneakily than the member for South Brisbane normally does—and said, 'We're going to change the rules, folks.' We had 18 minutes notice.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Chatsworth, can you come back to the motion, please.

Mr MINNIKIN: With relish, Mr Deputy Speaker. Thank you for your guidance. I appreciate very much your guidance. It is essential that every single member here gets their fair chance to speak. If we look at the orders of the day on the *Notice Paper*, we have the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The recurring words there are 'and other legislation amendment bill'. Why would that be? There is a great example right across the chamber—exhibit A. I will get to exhibit B shortly—my favourite member. Exhibit A is the member formerly for Brisbane Central who is now the member for—help me out—

Mrs Frecklington: McConnel.

Mr MINNIKIN:—McConnel. Thank you. When it comes to amendments, she is the queen of bringing in amendment after amendment after amendment. She needed all the time that this place—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance to this motion.

Mrs Frecklington: It is relevant to other amendments.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I do not need the assistance. Member for Chatsworth, I ask you to come back to the motion.

Mr MINNIKIN: Certainly. Thank you very much for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. I believe, with respect, that it was relevant insofar as time—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chatsworth, we are not going to debate my decision. I am instructing you to come back to the motion.

Mr MINNIKIN: Absolutely, Mr Deputy Speaker. The reality is that, when we look at the speaking lists from this side of the chamber, the average speaking time for each member on the second reading debate is approximately 10 minutes—around nine minutes. We do not have a stopwatch on members opposite, but I can tell the House that the politburo send down speaking notes for the backbench. It is formulaic, apart from probably the member for Stretton. We normally get a bit of variation there. Generally speaking, they time their speeches to about three or four minutes and then sit down just so that they can get through their speaking list.

On this side though we want to make a genuine contribution. The reason has been tabled already. We have example after example of members who have wanted to speak on legislation but have been guillotined. The member for Coomera was curtailed. I think that was the first example we saw. It was embarrassing. We have members on the other side who probably need all the help they can get. They need more time than anyone. We saw the contribution from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads this morning. He needed all the time he could get. When it comes to democratic principles, they like to hark on about accountability and transparency but, if cut to the chase, all they want to do is simply guillotine us so that their city based members can get back to their electorates by 7.30 each night so they can try to prop up their Brisbane seats. We know exactly what the intent is here—exactly.

(Time expired)