




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2019

MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.26 am): I stand to speak against this business program motion. We just had some international visitors from other parliaments around the world. Most, if not all, practise the Westminster style of government. I am sure they have come here to observe how we do things and maybe learn some things from us. One thing they should not take away from this House is how democracy has been absolutely trounced in this state with regard to this motion that we debate week after week. They may not understand that it is all about prohibiting or limiting debate in this House on many important issues. It concerns limiting not just debate but also the hours we spend in parliament. In the past week next year's sitting calendar was given to us. I am told that parliament will sit for the fewest number of days in the past 10 years.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Mermaid Beach, I do not believe that is your correct seat. Your interjections are not being taken.

Mr MANDER: Every parliamentary sitting day we protest against this limitation on democracy in terms of the number of hours that we sit and the number of hours to debate an issue. We are constantly gagged and now the number of days are limited as well.

What is also disturbing, particularly this week, is the government's priorities for parliament. This week the government's priority is to rush through the public holiday bill in time for Christmas Eve. On the *Notice Paper* is an incredibly important bill relevant to what is happening in our state at this moment—the child death review legislation.

I would have thought that any government would respond to the tragedies that we have seen not just last week but since this review was initiated two years ago, but, no, it is not the priority of this government to bring that bill forward so that we can bring about changes that will protect children. Instead, it is this government's priority to kowtow to the unions and to make sure that it gets their bill up in time which will have a negative impact on businesses and employees over the Christmas period. This says a lot about the priorities of this government—that is, it wants us to speak about a public holiday bill rather than the protection of children.

Ms Leahy: Vulnerable children.

Mr MANDER: Yes, vulnerable children; I take that interjection from the member for Warrego. That is why we have and will continue to get up each week and compare the priorities that we have with the government's priorities. The Manager of Opposition Business has already mentioned that another significant issue is integrity and ensuring that government ministers act appropriately. Again, would one not think that it would be a priority of this government to introduce the bill that it has already publicised to the *Courier-Mail* because these ministers need something hanging over their heads to ensure they behave correctly? They have already been put on a booze ban because they cannot behave themselves, so their Christmas parties are going to be very boring.

An opposition member: What about Montville?

Mr MANDER: That is right: they had their little get-together in Montville between the big three—the big three who are not speaking to each other, apparently, and I am not sure whether the booze ban was lifted over that little party that they had together.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Everton, I draw you back to the motion please.

Mr MANDER: As I said, the agenda of this government reflects its priorities. It has no idea, it has lost touch with the Queensland public and it is drifting, and we are seeing the results of that in the economic performance of this government. We will be voting against this motion.