



Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 26 March 2019

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.16 am), without notice: I move—

1. That the following government business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time as specified:
 - (a) the Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 3 hours to complete all stages;
 - (b) the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 45 minutes to complete all stages;
 - (c) the Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 5 hours to complete all stages; and
 - (d) the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill, a maximum of three and a half hours to complete all stages.
2. The following time limits for the Bills listed in (1) apply:
 - (a) question on third reading to be put by 2 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours; and
 - (b) question on Long title to be put by 1 minute before the expiry of the maximum hours.
3. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified in (2), or by 5.55pm on Thursday, 28 March 2019, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on the minister to reply to the second reading debate;
 - (b) shall 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.

In moving this motion, the House will be considering four bills this week. The House has already started consideration of two out of the four bills within the motion and time has been allocated accordingly for the remainder of these bills and two additional bills to be debated. As everyone in this House knows, we have this debate each week and discuss what should be the motion and the business before the House. Generally it ends up more of a debate around the sitting hours and those opposite continuously complaining about those sitting hours. I hate to pre-empt the debate that may be coming but I can rely on every single previous debate on the business motion in the past, but I refer to the member for Kawana's view on what he calls family-friendly hours and what I refer to as sensible parliamentary sitting hours. Last night those opposite, including the member for Kawana, once again reiterated for the Business Committee the LNP's opposition to the new sitting hours model.

I want to take the parliament back to 15 February 2018 and what actually happened on that day. Some might remember that when we were debating the government's motion on new sitting hours there was an amendment moved. There was an amendment moved by the member for Kawana. In moving this amendment, the member for Kawana said—

These amendments are reasonable.

Members may not recall that debate, but let me refresh their memories. In doing so, the member for Kawana, in referring to his own amendments as reasonable, in fact tabled amendments that would see the sitting hours of this parliament be one hour to 1½ hours less than what we currently sit each week. That was the proposed amendment being put forward by the opposition that it said was reasonable at the time. However, the member for Kawana comes in here each week and comes to the Business Committee meeting and claims that those opposite would rather the sitting hours as they were under the previous parliament. They would rather be debating bills until two o'clock or three o'clock in the morning so that all their members can be heard and that under the new sitting hours their members are unfairly missing out.

I will put a few facts around that. Through the work that the Parliamentary Library has done of all the bills identified as having been completed other than the appropriation bills in the last parliament, I am advised that, on average, the second reading debate took approximately three hours; on average, consideration in detail took 16 minutes; and the average number of speakers to bills across the whole of the last parliament, excluding the appropriation bills, was 15 members. What do we see under our new sitting hours? The average length of second reading debates is approximately three hours and 45 minutes. The second reading debate is longer. The average length of consideration in detail is 36 minutes, which is more than double the length of consideration in detail in the previous parliament. The average number of speakers to bills in this parliament is 26 members instead of the average number of 15 speakers to bills under the previous sitting hours.

When those opposite get up and say, 'Our members are missing out,' I say that the only reason those members are missing out on speaking to bills in this parliament under the new sitting hours is the way the member for Kawana manages opposition business. That is a direct result of the decision of the Leader of the Opposition and her leadership to appoint the member for Kawana as the manager of opposition business. He does nothing but obstruct every possible step of the way as opposed to working with all members, including the crossbench, to get the work of this parliament done as the people of Queensland expect. People have a right to expect members to come in here and properly debate and consider legislation and get work done within sensible hours so that they can come in and observe the parliament and the work of the parliament. I support the motion.