




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 2 April 2019

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.11 am): In accordance with sessional order 2B, 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 Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 3 hours to complete all stages;
 - (b) the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 3 hours to complete all stages; and
 - (c) the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 2 hours 30 minutes to complete all stages.
2. The following time limits for the bills listed in paragraph 1 apply:
 - (a) question on third reading to be put by 2 minutes before the expiry of the maximum time; and
 - (b) question on long title to be put by 1 minute before the expiry of the maximum time.
3. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified in paragraph 2, or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 4 April 2019, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call upon the minister to table any explanatory notes to government amendments to be put;
 - (b) shall then 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.

The intention for this parliamentary sitting week is to schedule times for three bills. One bill is a continuation of debate from the last sitting week—that being the Economic Development and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. We will also be debating the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Health the Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Although we have allotted times in the business motion for those three bills, there is additional time in government business this week which will allow us to move on to other business on the *Notice Paper*.

In speaking briefly to this motion, because I do not intend to repeat myself every single week when it comes to this motion, I note that, without anticipating debate, the Manager of Opposition Business may be seeking an amendment to this motion. That amendment goes to wanting to have within the motion that the last half hour of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be set aside for consideration in detail.

I absolutely welcome the fact that we are having a genuine discussion about how bills should be debated in this House. I would say to the Manager of Opposition Business that I do not believe the amendment is necessary. In fact, I would like to see this House get to the model that we see operating in the Victorian parliament which is that we do not actually allocate fixed times for individual bills, we

just have the bills to be debated for the week and then at the end of the week if the bills have not been completed then the questions are put in relation to the bills. We should not need to get to the point where we set specific times for reply and consideration in detail because we should be managing our own business within that time.

If the opposition wants adequate time to put questions to the minister or to raise issues in consideration in detail, that can be achieved within the time that has been allotted. I can stand here today as the Leader of the House and give that commitment to the opposition. I have spoken to the health minister about this. We will work to ensure that there is adequate time, half an hour, set aside for consideration in detail without needing to amend this motion. We will do that.

That now puts the responsibility in the hands of the opposition. Can the opposition do the same? Can they manage their business to ensure that within two hours we finish the second reading so that they can be provided the time they want for consideration in detail? That can be done. We should not have to set a guillotine for the second reading debate to accommodate the opposition because they cannot manage their speakers.

I would welcome this sort of discussion at the business committee meetings on a Monday evening. It is still very difficult to allocate the appropriate and adequate time for these bills because the Manager of Opposition Business comes in, as he did last night, and says, 'We are going to have 38 speakers on every bill.' I could try to manage it around 38 speakers, but having said that we just got the speaking list for the economic development bill and there are 24 speakers from the opposition. Is it 38 or 24 speakers? Are they struggling to get every single one of their members to prepare a speech on every single bill that they are actually not going to speak on?

I say once again that there is adequate time and as Leader of the House I can assure the opposition that the health minister can sum up this bill in time to give 30 minutes for consideration in detail if the Manager of Opposition Business can manage the opposition business and ensure that they have allotted speakers within the time limit. They want us to guillotine them because they cannot manage themselves. The offer is there. Let us see if the opposition can be responsible and mature and manage the business so that we can give them the half hour they need.

(Time expired)