




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 14 May 2019

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.15 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 Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of four hours to complete all stages,
 - (b) the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of six hours and 30 minutes to complete all stages, and
 - (c) the motion standing in the name of the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts proposing the revocation of state forests and dedication of protected areas under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, a maximum of 30 minutes for debate.
2. The following time limits for the bills listed in paragraph 1(a) and (b) apply:
 - (a) for the Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the minister to be called in reply 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum time,
 - (b) for the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the minister to be called in reply three hours before the expiry of the maximum time,
 - (c) question on third reading to be put two minutes before the expiry of the maximum time, and
 - (d) question on long title to be put one minute before the expiry of the maximum time.
3. If the nominated stage of each bill listed in paragraph 1(a) and (b) has not been completed by the allocated time specified in paragraph 2, or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 16 May 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.

In speaking to this motion, I acknowledge the member for Kawana, the member for Noosa and the member for Murrumba for participating in the business meeting last evening to negotiate the times that should be allocated to these bills. The bills being debated before the House this week will be the Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the Working With Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and also a revocation put forward by the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts in relation to dedicated protected areas under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, which are all important works for the parliament to consider this week. The times allotted were as a consequence of discussions at the committee meeting last night.

I note that the opposition have circulated and are intending to move amendments. Without pre-empting that debate, I say that I welcome the opposition now acknowledging the importance of allocating times for debating these bills and adopting the business program. Of course, in future I would like to see that input actually occurring at the meeting on a Monday evening, as opposed to amendments being put forward in this chamber. However, I recognise that the opposition now understands the merits of allocating time for debates to ensure that there is time for ministers to speak in reply and during consideration in detail. I look forward to, in future meetings, seeing genuine contributions about the times that should be allocated to bills.

I asked if there were any views that there should be a difference, particularly in relation to the blue card issue where the opposition had put forward a number of amendments. The government has indicated to the opposition that it intends to move amendments. I asked how much time they would like to see allocated in consideration in detail. The government had proposed three hours, because there is significant detail that I am sure the shadow minister would like to speak to in his amendments, as would the government. I asked the Manager of Opposition Business to come back if, after speaking to the shadow Attorney-General, there was a view that that three hours should be different. Instead of coming back to me as offered, they moved this amendment. However, as I say, I welcome the fact that the opposition has realised the benefit of this new program. I see it as a very positive step forward for the workings of this parliament.