




Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2020

MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.26 am): I note that there are a number of new members in the House today, so it is important that we run through why the business program motion is important. The member for Kawana alluded to that, but he did not go into the detail of why the debate is necessary. It is necessary that we debate this motion every single sitting week because, put simply, we do not trust that side of the House to preserve proper parliamentary process.

The previous speaker said that the member for Kawana sounds repetitious, but I for one do not believe he does sound repetitious. I think he is far more than the amateur thespian that the member for Miller miscategorises him as; I think he is quite the professional thespian. We oppose this motion time and time again simply because we do not trust that side of the House to run this parliament fairly. We on this side of the House will never apologise for defending the right of members in this House to have their say. Members on this side of the House deserve to have their say on whatever bill may be before the House. We make no apologies for that.

Over the last term of government, time and time again that side of the House, the government, showed a complete disregard for parliamentary processes. Let's think back to the sessional orders that were passed last time: they removed private members' statements before question time, they guillotined debates, they curtailed consideration in detail. Time and time again we saw that side of the House completely disregard the traditional parliamentary processes for debate in this House. Of course, there are also the 'family-friendly' hours that mean that no-one on this side of the House from regional Queensland is able to return to their electorates early. We also have to arrive here earlier. Time and time again we have seen that that side of the House has no regard whatsoever for parliamentary process. Therefore, we make no apologies for opposing this motion time and time again.

On the *Notice Paper* there are two bills: the disability services bill, which will be overseen by the member for Surfers Paradise for the opposition, and the COVID bill, which will be overseen by the member for Clayfield for the opposition. Last term bills similar to the COVID emergency response bill were introduced with no notice and debated within an hour. They were tabled in this House with no time for parliamentary scrutiny. This bill has also been dropped on the House. It has not gone through any parliamentary process and will be debated quickly by the House. In one bill we saw major changes to the Local Government Act. Members will recall that in the last parliament the local government minister completely 'balled up' a whole range of aspects—

A government member: Unparliamentary language.

Mr JANETZKI: I withdraw. Some 229 amendments to the Electoral Amendment Bill were dropped on this House at 9.30 the night before debate. Some 229 amendments—100 pages worth of amendments—were simply dropped on the House—

An opposition member: Avoiding scrutiny.

Mr JANETZKI: Avoiding scrutiny. Again here we see a COVID bill before this House that is changing significantly the local government regime. Again there is no scrutiny—no scrutiny whatsoever.

I refer to the worker screening bill before the House. Blue cards have been a major issue for this government—bills being withdrawn, amendments being moved at the last minute. This bill is an important bill and deserves extra time for debate, simply because the protection of our children is most important to the running of this state.

In my speech last week where I was happy to second the nomination of the member for Mermaid Beach for Speaker, I talked about this place being the forum for the testing of ideas. Those on the other side of the House do not want to see that; they want to see this place shut down. I cannot believe that we are still having the same debate. We on this side of the House want to have our members of parliament heard. Yesterday worked fine without a business program motion, yet today the government wants to get this motion passed so it can gag our members. We on this side of the House will never apologise for wanting our MPs to have the right to speak on whatever bill they seek to speak on. Our communities deserve nothing less.