




Speech By  
**Jarrod Bleijie**

**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 May 2020

**SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.14 am): I note that in the motion moved for the special adjournment by the Acting Leader of the House he has put parliament to sit next on 16 June. Members will know that the 16th is when the second week of estimates was meant to be. It is no surprise and no secret that the opposition has objected to the early suspension of the Queensland parliament. We have successfully shown that Queensland parliament can safely sit in a COVID-19 world, despite what the Premier has been saying. We have sat for six days in 12 weeks. Six days out of 12 weeks we have sat.

**Mr Dick:** What about the New South Wales parliament?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I do not care what the New South Wales parliament does, Minister.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Comments will come through the chair.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I do not care what the federal parliament does because we are Queensland parliamentarians—

**Mr Mander:** We are Queenslanders!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** And we are Queenslanders and we should decide when the Queensland parliament sits, not base it on what the federal government is doing.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Kawana, you will direct your comments through the chair. The Treasurer will cease his interjections.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The government is not handing down a budget. We have two weeks of estimates scheduled in the parliamentary calendar and we could easily sit from 9 June. As I said, we have sat six days in 12 weeks. The parliament should be sitting. We are going from adjournment to a special adjournment. There is no consistency with the government in terms of the sitting calendar.

With this new sitting week of the 16th—which should be part of a two-week estimates sitting—it will mean that parliament will only sit for five weeks before the election. We think parliament should be sitting more and sitting more often. As we have seen the rights, liberties and freedoms of Queenslanders reduced, we should be sitting more to hold the government to account. The Premier may want to run from scrutiny and may not want parliament to sit, but we do. The opposition is ready, willing and able for parliament to sit.

**Ms Grace:** This motion is a waste of time.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the education minister. She says I am wasting time. The Acting Leader of the House has moved a motion. We have not known when parliament is going to sit. The government is not having a budget now.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for McConnel will cease her interjections.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** We have two weeks of estimates scheduled for the weeks beginning 9 and 16 June. Parliament could easily come back on the 9th because that was in the calendar anyway. The questions remain. Once we sit on the 16th, is the calendar that is set down for the rest of the year going to happen? Mr Speaker, with your leadership, you have successfully made parliament be able to sit virtually. We have amended the sessional and standing orders to ensure that parliament can sit.

As I have consistently said from day dot 12 weeks ago when the Premier announced parliament would not be sitting and we sat for one day and then cut off that night and then went home and then had to come back that night to pass more legislation, members of parliament will be able to successfully sit in a COVID safe world, and we have been. Look at how the parliament is structured at the moment. Do members know what? We have the majority of members on precinct. We have over 90 members of parliament on precinct, successfully being able to work and do our job that we are paid for. I cannot understand why this Premier continually seeks to run away from scrutiny and why we cannot just sit pursuant to what is scheduled. I move the following amendment—

Omit '16 June', insert '9 June'.