



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2020

**MOTION**

**Business Program**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.18 am): Let us not get ahead of ourselves, Leader of the House, in anticipation of my support for this process, despite the fact that the Leader of the House has indicated that I had asked for the consideration in detail on one particular bill, the COVID bill, to be reduced from one hour to 30 minutes. That was simply due to the fact that there are no amendments being moved and the honourable shadow minister, the member for Clayfield, has indicated the opposition's support for the bill. I know that debate is continuing and it will ensue.

I cannot explain to the House the level of excitement I felt yesterday when I received a note inviting me to the first Business Committee meeting of the 57th Parliament. I felt privileged. I attended the meeting this morning and it was good to be there. I ticked a box. I attended and was told that this week we would debate the COVID bill and the NDIS bill. The concern that I have relates to the time lines for the bills.

I am really excited at the fact that we have now switched over to the 57th Parliament because at some point towards the end of the last three-year term someone was possibly going to pull me up on repetition during debate on the business program motion. I am happy that today we are starting afresh so that for the next four long years I can repeat all of the things that I have said for the past three years.

Today the debate on the business program motion will finish at 11.45. We will have about 15 minutes until the lunch break to speak on the COVID bill, that is, from 11.45 to midday. From midday to 2 pm the House will adjourn for lunch. We then have a very important condolence motion that I expect will go from 2 pm to 3.30 or 4 pm. Then we will debate the COVID bill from 3.30 to 5 pm and the private member's motion from 5 pm to 6 pm. Consideration in detail will be debated from 6.30 to 7 pm. In all, that leaves about 1½ to two hours to debate the COVID bill.

For three years the Leader of the House has said to me, 'All I request is that you come into the Business Committee meeting with an open mind and do not have every one of your members on your list of speakers.' I accepted that advice. This morning I turned up with a list of 21 of 34 members who wish to speak on the COVID bill. Of course, some government members will speak as well. Based on the calculations that I have just given the House, there will be 1½ to two hours for debate on the COVID bill, excluding half an hour for consideration in detail. That is simply not sufficient.

In her contribution the Leader of the House just said—and I wrote it down—that she loves to see input by all members. However, input by all members can never be achieved under the regime in Queensland. It could not be achieved in the last parliament and it will not be achieved in this parliament because of the time lines and the guillotining of debates.

In the past 12 years that I have been in this place I cannot recall a time when the budget debate has been suspended to rush through another bill because of the time-sensitive nature of things. I understand the time-sensitive nature of the bill, but had the government listened to what I have been saying for the past three years and sat longer hours in the 56th Parliament then the NDIS bill would

have been passed and we would not be debating it now under an urgency motion. If the government had sat longer in the last parliamentary term, the 56th Parliament, we could have debated all of these time-sensitive bills because we knew it was a fixed four-year term, we knew the election was going to be on 31 October and we knew when the 56th Parliament was going to finish. If there had been proper planning, it could have taken place.

However, we start this parliament where we finished the 56th Parliament by rushing bills. The debate will be guillotined. Even with allowing half an hour or an hour for consideration in detail, debate will be limited. I table a copy of the list of opposition and crossbench members who wish to speak on this bill.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, speaking list titled 'Covid Bill—p1' [328](#).

Many members will miss out on speaking on the COVID bill. They keep saying that COVID is the biggest issue of 2020 and this is a COVID bill, but the majority of members in this chamber will miss out on the opportunity to speak on it. As I have said, the NDIS bill had already passed through the committee process and it should have been passed in the 56th Parliament, but it was not. I am sad to say that we are going to see a lot more of the same under this government, that is, arrogance, hubris and the integrity crisis that we saw during the past three years.