




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.28 am): If the member for Kawana was disappointed, you can imagine how I felt, Mr Deputy Speaker. We all have to make sacrifices in this job. I am prepared to take one for the team. I am very pleased to play a role here and support the government program. What we see here is the usual amateur thespian routine from the member for Kawana. He is like the actor who has played the same role for five years who knows the lines but does not really have any passion behind them anymore. He goes through the motions but there is nothing really there—the kind of thing that sends everybody off to sleep.

We are very clear in this parliament in relation to having contemporary values, family-friendly hours and managing the business of this parliament. I have been here for five years now, and that has been long enough to hear an endless number of opposition speeches with the same old dusty talking points they still use from the Bligh government. Time and time again you hear the same points being made about the same piece of legislation. Family-friendly hours challenge all of us to prioritise the points and contributions we need to make. That is what parliaments do all around the world and we are no different.

The member for Kawana loves to tweet and Facebook about anything to do with the royal family. He loves the monarchy and he loves the UK. He loves everything about the UK except the way they run their parliament, because that is exactly how we run this parliament using Westminster principles, prioritising legislation and ensuring we have enough space for all the things we need to do: there are prebriefings for the opposition; the non-government motion on Wednesday evening; we have made provision for first speeches; and ordering programs so there is ample time for shadow ministers, committee members and others to make their contributions.

It is incumbent on all of us not to waste this time with long, turgid speeches until two o'clock in the morning. That is not what people out there think the parliament should be about. The parliament should be ordered, just as any other parliament is throughout the world, particularly within the Westminster system which ours is based on. This program is sensible. I cannot see any issue here in terms of the amount of time people have to debate it. The member for Kawana made the point, 'Oh my God, we don't know what's coming up.' Well, doesn't the member for Kawana realise there is a pandemic on? That means it is a dynamic situation. We have to be consistent with all of the health advice in this parliament. Is it any surprise to anybody here or anywhere else that we will be debating coronavirus related legislation? Why is this a surprise to anybody? Clearly, this is a situation that the government continues to respond actively to in all sorts of ways, and the legislature is no different.

We have been incredibly successful in this state. We are the best-performing state in terms of our response to the coronavirus of any jurisdiction in Australia. We declared a health emergency on 29 January, six weeks before the United States, and now we only have 13 active cases in Queensland

though it is still spreading, so we have work to do. Compare that to New South Wales where, depending on whether you read the *Financial Review* or the *Sydney Morning Herald*, there are between 412 and 560 active cases and community transmission remains very strong.

We have to manage this parliament in a way that is consistent with the situation and the circumstances we have, and that means ensuring that everyone prioritises their role here. The opposition could learn a little bit about discipline and focus, because that is what it requires. We do not need long, turgid speeches until two o'clock in the morning. That is not what a modern parliament is about. I back the Acting Leader of the House. The opposition should wake up to themselves and stop wasting time. They say time is precious, yet they waste half an hour in every week of parliament with the same old speech from the member for Kawana. I sense a contradiction.