




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 4 February 2020

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.24 am): If Queenslanders ever needed to be reminded of the arrogance of those opposite and how their votes are taken for granted they should listen to the member for Kawana. He has already appointed the member for Nanango premier nine months before Queenslanders even get to have a say. I hope the Clerk puts aside money for bigger beds, because if that is ever the case we will need to make sure there are king-size beds all around.

Of course I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the House. The member for Kawana does not need to worry: we are not expecting any surprises from him anytime soon, just as we have not seen any surprises from those opposite on the first day back to parliament in 2020. They have nothing more than the same old personal attacks. They have no plans: nothing other than negative, sniping personal attacks. That is all we have seen this morning, and that is because we never see surprises from the LNP and we do not expect any further from you, member for Kawana. But if there was something that was a bit surprising it was that we did not get any questions about Currumbin. That by-election campaign has already thrown up a few surprises. LNP branch members were a bit surprised that the candidate had been selected. They were a bit surprised they had not met her before. They were a bit surprised she had not been to a branch meeting yet.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Minister for Health, I ask you to come back to the business motion, please.

Dr MILES: I am responding to claims made by the member for Kawana. The member for Kawana also raised questions about the lengths our government is going to ensure that our health officers—particularly the Chief Health Officer—have the powers they need to respond to the current novel coronavirus public health emergency. This situation has evolved rapidly over the last week, and we are constantly receiving advice all day and all night about how we can best respond to this situation. We make no apologies to those opposite or the member for Kawana that, as soon as the advice was available, we could and should pass laws through this House. That is why this morning I offered a briefing to all MPs on both sides of the House about the current situation and about why those laws are important. If the member for Kawana avails himself of that briefing I am sure that, with the interests of his constituents at heart, he will understand the urgency of that bill and support it. At least, I hope so.

The Leader of the House has already outlined how business motions have delivered very efficient procedures for debates in this chamber over recent years and will continue to do so. I welcome the opportunity to support the motion.