



Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

Record of Proceedings, 19 May 2020

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (11.18 am): I move—

1. That the following government business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time as specified:
 - (a) the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 3.5 hours to complete all stages;
 - (b) the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 2.5 hours to complete all stages; and
 - (c) the motion standing in the name of the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts proposing the revocation and dedication of forest and protected areas under the Nature Conservation Act 1992, a maximum of 20 minutes for debate.
2. The following time limits for the bills listed in 1 apply:
 - (a) consideration in detail to be completed by three minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
 - (b) question on third reading to be put by two minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours; and
 - (c) question on long title to be put by one minute before the expiry of the maximum hours.
3. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified in 2, or by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 21 May 2020, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration;
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill or motion without further debate;
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

I wish the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Leader of the House all the very best with her recovery. I know she underwent surgery on her hand yesterday and is on the road to recovery. That is a phrase that will be used again and again during this sitting and others.

As the Premier outlined this morning, I am acting in the Attorney's stead this week which includes in this role as Acting Leader of the House. I would like to thank all members of the Business Committee for their attendance last night. It was my first Business Committee meeting. It was certainly a very interesting meeting to attend, with some members' contributions being more constructive than others. I must say that I thanked the Manager of Opposition Business for being gentle with me on my first occasion.

On behalf of the Leader of the House, I would like to thank the Deputy Premier for his attendance and contribution to the Business Committee as the deputy chair in recent times. Due to the changes in the ministry, the member for Miller has been appointed as the Premier's proxy to the committee and was also elected deputy chair last night. We welcome him to the committee.

Turning to the matters at hand, the motion circulated to members speaks for itself, with a total of three hours and 30 minutes allocated to the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill; and two hours and 30 minutes to the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, to which I note the government is moving amendments which deal with the statement of reservation raised by non-government members.

Also provided for in the business motion is 20 minutes to be allocated to the revocation motion standing in the name of Minister Enoch. In addition to this, the House will deal with urgent legislation in relation to our government's response to COVID-19. This bill will be introduced by the Deputy Premier later today, with debate most likely commencing tomorrow afternoon.

Briefings by ministers to their relevant shadows and crossbench members will take place if those non-government members wish. I have been informed that previously the opposition have taken issue with being briefed prior to seeing the legislation, so I trust that this arrangement of the bill being introduced for them to see it prior to any briefings occurring will be amenable to them.

In addition to the legislation described, the House will conduct its usual scheduled business. This means going back, as much as we can in these extraordinary times, to a usual sitting week. That includes the introduction of private members' bills and debate; matters of public interest; private members' statements; and, of course, the non-government motion on Wednesday evening. All of those normal parameters are back in place.

As was noted earlier, members will also be aware that there will be the first speeches for the newly elected members for Bundamba and Currumbin later today. I am sure that we will all seek to congratulate them in an appropriate social distanced manner.

I reiterate that in these challenging times we do need to make sure that we have a business program that provides for and manages the business of this House including urgent legislation that is required to respond to COVID-19. I note—because I anticipate that the Manager of Opposition Business will make some comments about his disagreement with the whole concept of the business program motion—

Mr Mander: Don't make assumptions.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Indeed, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition will do the same, I suspect. I reiterate—and I have a chance to say this on this occasion—that we look to the Westminster tradition. This House looks to the Westminster tradition. We hear that harked upon. What arrangements do they have in the Palace of Westminster, in the House of Commons, to organise the business when they have almost 600 members of parliament? They do not all get a chance to speak to every bill. They work out an arrangement—the House makes those provisions—a similar arrangement to this business program motion. It is done in the Palace of Westminster, so get over yourselves—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Address your remarks through the chair.

Mr HINCHLIFFE:—and get on board with something that makes this House operate efficiently and effectively. I commend the motion to the House.