




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 19 May 2020

MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.33 am): How laughable it is when this government talks about discipline! We have seen what has happened here over the last week, which has been an absolute shambles. I do think they have lost a deputy premier since Jim Elder. 'Oops, we lost a deputy premier! She's gone; let's bring in another one.' This government expects us to get on our knees and grovel and thank them for allowing us to come back to parliament this week. That is their reaction. That is what their attitude is with regard to parliament.

At the sitting week at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic they went a day short. Every week we had to wait with bated breath to see whether we would come back or when we would come back. They came back for a day. We quickly went through probably the most significant legislation that has gone through this House in the parliament's history, and again the debate was truncated. Now we have this sitting, and we should be eternally grateful for the privilege of being here. Of course, we do not know when we are sitting again.

One of the principles we debate every time we come to parliament is that, when you truncate parliament, when you have these so-called family-friendly hours, when you say you can only debate for a certain period of time, when you take away some of the speaking rights the previous parliament had, it is more about the issues you do not cover and that you cannot cover as an opposition. This morning has been a classic example. The Premier has come out and basically said that the road map to easing restrictions that was released last week is not worth the paper it is written on. Queenslanders and businesses are looking for some consistency and some certainty. Now we hear about border confusion and the different positions the government has—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do not see anything in the business motion before the House that relates to the matters that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is speaking to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Everton, I would ask you to come back to the motion, please.

Mr MANDER: As I was saying, it is about the opportunities the opposition does not have to examine the government's agenda and their policy initiatives—some of which, as they rightly claim themselves, are some of the most significant that have been brought into this House. The opposition is all about keeping this government accountable. That includes making sure the new Treasurer knows what the debt level is and whether the Premier understands the testing regime with regard to coronavirus and realising that, when you are asymptomatic and you are tested, it picks up whether you have the virus or not and not saying things like, 'I'll look into that', which is the regular response we get from the Premier when she basically stuffs up her lines.

Mr Janetzki: 'I've got to go to lunch.'

Mr MANDER: 'I've got to go to lunch.' I will take that interjection. The consistency issue is incredibly important, whether it is in relation to the borders or the schools. We want to ask questions and we want to debate the fact that we have been misled. The Queensland public has been misled with regard to the safety of schools. All along this government has told us it has been unsafe to go back to school. The Chief Health Officer admitted last week that that was not the reason why schools were closed: the reason was to send a signal to 'dumb Queenslanders'—that is what they think they are, dumb Queenslanders—who cannot work out we are in a dangerous situation at the moment and cannot adapt how they live their lives so that we get the great results we have. Queenslanders have proven they understand things and they are happy to comply to make sure we keep this state safe.

We will get up in every sitting of parliament to debate a motion which takes away the basic principles of democracy. The Minister for Main Roads seems to be saying, 'What, you expect people to get up and represent their electorate? You expect everybody to get up and give their opinion on legislation? How dare you expect that!' That is why we will get up and speak every time about the principles of democracy. They have defied that and undermined those principles.

(Time expired)