




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 11 August 2020

MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.31 am): I once again rise to speak against the business motion. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads may accuse the Manager of Opposition Business of being an amateur thespian, but the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is a professional actor. No-one does it better on the Labor side of the House than the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, who is consistently acting because he cannot do his job properly. We have again come here to talk about an attack on the democratic processes of this House.

It is very interesting that the way this Labor government addresses the issue of dealing with more bills this week is not to extend the hours so we can talk about those things; it is to actually eliminate debate. We have eliminated the debate on committee reports because this government cannot manage its agenda. We had to eliminate that debate because they eliminated a whole week of parliament. We would welcome extra time so we can talk about issues that are important to Queenslanders. As the Manager of Opposition Business already mentioned, we are cognating bills that simply have nothing to do with each other. The future fund bill and the royalties bill are totally separate issues that deserve separate debate and focus—issues that are all supposedly about the economic future of our state. If I was this government I would not want extra debate time about these things either, because they do not want the flaws of this government to be exposed.

What have they done? They have eliminated debate time for committee reports, they have cognated bills, and they have refused to extend the hours of debate so that not only the 38 LNP members but all 93 members can contribute, and that is what the democratic process is all about. As the Manager of Opposition Business said, this government is good at eliminating things, and the most significant thing it eliminated is the budget. This morning the minister for Cross River Rail was asked about the budget of Cross River Rail and she said, 'It's in the budget papers.' What budget papers is she referring to?

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Clearly, the member is not addressing the motion. He is now debating entirely different content to the motion moved by the Attorney-General.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In reference to that point of order, under the standing orders my recollection is that the minister just spoke about the borders. If the minister could tell—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Kawana, we are not going to debate across the chamber what people spoke about.

Mr BLEIJIE: Correct, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not made a ruling yet. Member for Everton, I have been listening very intently to what you are saying. I am going to give you a little bit of latitude, but I encourage you to come back to the motion we are debating, please.

Mr MANDER: Thank you for that direction, Mr Deputy Speaker. The point I am making is that it is important that in this House we have time to speak about matters that are relevant to everyday Queenslanders, and of course one of the most important matters is a budget—a budget that we have not seen and will not see in this term of government—because there are questions that need to be asked about those things. Just a few weeks ago the Treasurer spoke about cost-saving measures and he mentioned glossy advertising. What have we seen in the last three or four weeks on our television screens and newspapers? A proliferation of advertising—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MANDER: An avalanche of advertising. I will take that interjection from the—

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I think I am going to pre-empt you, member for Redcliffe. Member for Everton, I gave you a little bit of latitude. You now need to come back to the motion we are debating.

Mr MANDER: At every sitting and at the final sitting we will continue to fight for the democratic right of Queenslanders to have their representatives in this House speak on their behalf. By continuing to truncate debates, by continuing to refuse to extend the hours of operation and by cancelling sitting weeks that democratic right is not being exercised, and it is plainly wrong. If we want to see change in this area there is only one way we can see that change, and that is to elect a government that acknowledges and respects the democratic right of every Queenslanders for their representative to enunciate those views. On 31 October Queenslanders will have a chance to bring real change to this House, and that is by electing an LNP government.