




Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA NORTH

Record of Proceedings, 18 March 2020

MOTION

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.32 pm): I too rise with concern in relation to a decision being taken away from the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. We have seen a lot of different rights of this parliament taken away over the sitting of this parliament. We have seen a constant guillotine on almost every bill that has come through the place. We have seen a government change legislative acts that relate to elections with no notice—well, 18 minutes notice. We have seen a lot of things taken away from this democracy.

Whilst we are in extraordinary times, and I do support the government taking extraordinary action in these extraordinary times, I am very concerned that this parliament will not be sitting tomorrow but my wife will be at school tomorrow with 700 or 800 kids. If this crisis is so desperate then I have to ask: why are so many other things open?

In relation to this motion about committees reporting back, I am curious to understand, with the parliament shut down, how these committees will function, how they will report and how they will gather evidence. We could seek answers to these questions if we were only allowed to sit in this parliament. I am concerned that the structures of this parliament are being tampered with and a majority of this parliament is being used to circumnavigate the rights of this parliament. I am very concerned about that.