



Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2020

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.15 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 Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2), a maximum of three hours to complete all stages;
 - (b) the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill, a maximum of 3.5 hours to complete all stages;
 - (c) Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 3.5 hours to complete all stages; and
 - (d) the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill, a maximum of two hours to complete all stages.
2. The following time limits for the bills listed in 1 apply:
 - (a) the minister to be called on in reply:
 - (i) for the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) cognate debate by 20 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
 - (ii) for the Implementation of The Spit Master Plan Bill by 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours; and
 - (iii) for the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 30 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
 - (b) consideration in detail to be completed by three minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
 - (c) question on third reading to be put by two minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours; and
 - (d) 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, 20 February 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.

This week the House will get on with debating bills on behalf of the people of Queensland. Members will note that there are five bills which are the subject of this business program motion—that is, the two appropriation bills that we will be debating cognately this week and also the Spit Master Plan bill, the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Community Based Sentences (Interstate Transfer) Bill. I appreciate that these bills might not be the ones that

normally get the headlines in the media, but they are important pieces of legislation that allow us to continue to serve the people of Queensland and to keep this state operating as it needs to. I look forward to hearing members' contributions to these debates.

With this business program motion this week we have also ensured that the majority of the bills do have time allotted for the minister to reply to issues raised in debate and that there is time for consideration in detail. I was hoping that as time goes on we could have more flexibility in relation to the business program motion. In fact, Victoria does not even allocate individual times for their bills; they just say, 'These are the bills we are going to debate this week,' and whatever is not finished by the end of the week will be put. I hope that we can get to that level of maturity in terms of the way we conduct ourselves in this chamber. However, the reason I am putting into this motion time allotted for the minister to reply and consideration in detail is that, unfortunately, we are still seeing those on the other side filling up the speaking list for the sake of making a point but not necessarily contributing anything new to the debate. We do see from time to time members on the other side struggling to put a speech together. They simply pick up the parliamentary committee report and have a quick read of the second reading speech and do nothing but regurgitate what is in those two documents.

I do hope that we have genuine debate of these bills that are before the parliament this week. I want to acknowledge all of the members who contribute to the Business Committee meeting on a Monday evening and thank them for their contributions. I will acknowledge also that the Manager of Opposition Business did request two other bills be brought on for debate this week. I can advise the House that the government indicated that we are still working on the views of stakeholders in respect of those important bills and may be bringing further amendments forward to those bills. That is what good governments do: they take on board what is put to the parliamentary committees on those bills; they look at submissions made to those committees on those bills; they take that on board and consider whether there should be further changes. Unlike some other governments of the past, the Palaszczuk government is one that will consult and will listen to the community when we do put these bills forward.

Mr Batt: Two bills last sitting did not go to committee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Bundaberg.

Mrs D'ATH: I am sure that member could put himself on the speaking list for this debate if he wants. However, he might want to talk about the bills set down for debate this week as opposed to what we did last week. We are a government that actually looks forwards and not backwards, as those on the other side often do. Those opposite should look back in history a little bit more. If they need a bit of reminding, Campbell Newman will tell them exactly what they did in government and what he thinks they will do again even if they try to con the people of Queensland that they will not do that.

I commend the motion to the House. I ask members to support this motion and show that we can work together in the best interests of Queenslanders to get these bills debated.