



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**


**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2020

**MOTION**

**Order of Business**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the order of business for this day's sitting be altered by omitting everything from the lunch break at 1.00 pm and in lieu inserting 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm matters of public interest and 2.00 pm to 2.30 pm automatic adjournment.

In speaking to this motion briefly, can I say that, as the Premier, every minister and you, Mr Speaker, have said this morning, we are in unprecedented times which require unprecedented measures. We know that many people are still going to work, businesses are operating and children are going to school and being taught by their teachers today. We also need to understand that in all of those environments there are new norms being created to deal with this pandemic. We have to follow suit. We want to ensure that the essential business of this parliament is attended to, but we are doing it in a responsible way and on the best health advice we have. We know that many workplaces are adjusting their behaviour right now—telling many in their workforce to work from home where they can and to work using different models.

We will follow the advice we have each day to reduce the risk for members of this parliament whom we know have a vast range of contact with the broader public because of the events we go to and the involvement we have with the community. If any one of us were to get sick with COVID-19 the risk of us passing that on to many others is great. We also have a responsibility to reduce the risk for our staff and the staff on the parliamentary precinct. That is why we propose these measures.

I acknowledge the Manager of Opposition Business and thank him very much for his cooperation in working through how we proceed with parliament this week and how we proceed going forward. I will continue, as we have agreed to do, to have dialogue around the further days of this sitting week and also future sitting weeks. I moved this motion so that we can move forward with a plan for this week which will allow us to do necessary business but also allow the government to undertake the very important work that it is needing to do outside of this chamber to continue to respond very quickly to the COVID-19 pandemic that is facing our community.