




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2020

PAIRING AGREEMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.17 am): I rise to make a brief statement regarding the pairing arrangements today. I want to thank the Manager of Opposition Business and the opposition whip for agreeing to pair 30 opposition members with 30 government members at this day's sitting. These pairing arrangements are essential to allow for a reduced number of members on the precinct and in the chamber, which is similar to what other jurisdictions have done including the Australian parliament. I would like to table a copy of the agreement for the benefit of all members and also for history's purpose. I thank the members for their willingness to be paired out.

Tabled paper: Document titled '56th Parliament Pairing Agreement' [\[625\]](#).

The opposition have indicated that, while they have 30 members paired, a number of them may attend the precinct but will not participate in any vote. The government has paired a number of backbenchers, in particular from regional Queensland, and as such they will not attend the parliament. They will stay in their regions and stay in their communities, just like we are asking all Queenslanders to do. This is a responsible course of action and I want to thank all government members who are paired who have remained in their electorate, excluding the ministers who are obviously here to answer questions from the opposition and to speak to the important COVID bills that the parliament will consider today.