



Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 8 September 2020

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.19 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 Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of one hour to complete all stages;
 - (b) the Meriba Omasker Kazipa (Torres Strait Islander Traditional Child Rearing Practice) Bill, a maximum of 1.5 hours to complete all stages;
 - (c) the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Wage Theft) Amendment Bill, a maximum of two hours to complete all stages; and
 - (d) the Public Service and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of two hours to complete all stages.
2. The following time limits for the bills listed in 1. apply:
 - (a) consideration in detail to be completed by three minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours;
 - (b) question on third reading to be put by two minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours; and
 - (c) question on long title to be put 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, 10 September 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 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.

In moving this motion, I welcome members to the final scheduled sitting week of this parliamentary term. This week is certainly historic because, for the first time in Queensland's history, we know when the election will be due to the legislative reform passed through this chamber to establish four-year fixed terms. It will be in the interests of all Queenslanders to have four-year fixed terms. Moving forward, that reform gives certainty to Queenslanders and, more importantly, to the business community. Never has there been a more critical time to have that certainty.

Queenslanders need a government that will provide stability for the next four years and that has a plan to protect our health and a plan to allow our economy to open and grow. That is what this government has been doing and it is what we will do if we have the privilege of being re-elected on 31 October. The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of ensuring that we protect Queenslanders and, while doing so, is making sure that the Treasurer can help drive economic growth in this state through great reforms, working with the business sector—small, medium and large—right across Queensland to get us on the right track.

However, this week we also need to deal with important legislation to make children safer through the child sex offence reforms that have come out of the royal commission. That massive body of work was very important to this nation and to this state. The royal commission uncovered shocking child sexual abuse in institutions. It showed up the lack of scrutiny and accountability in how institutions handle complaints around child sexual abuse and how we protect children in this state. In this chamber we will be dealing with another piece of historic legislation, and I am glad to see that the member for Cook is here. I refer to the Torres Strait Islander traditional child-rearing practice bill. It is a very important piece of legislation that I am glad we can debate in the last week of this parliament.

We will be debating the Criminal Code and Other Legislation (Wage Theft) Amendment Bill to protect workers' rights. That bill is about ensuring that employers who deliberately go about stealing workers' wages will be held to account. We will also be debating the Public Service and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which is a really important piece of legislation about job security. Again, there has never been a more important time to ensure that people have job security. If you want a loan, whether for a small purchase such as a car or for something bigger such as your first home, being a casual worker is an impediment to getting that loan. This bill is about ensuring job security going forward. It is about recognising as permanent employees public servants who work day in and day out to serve the people of Queensland.

This week the Treasurer will be introducing and we will be debating appropriation bills, which are really important in laying the groundwork for Queensland's economic recovery plan, which we have already released, and our fiscal and economic review. They are also important to the commitment of this government, if we have the privilege of being re-elected, to immediately come back, provide a full budget and go into a full estimates hearing.

Critical work is to be done this week. I hope that members recognise that this is an important week. Never before have we known that it is our last sitting week before an election. Let us take full advantage of that. Let us show our best side in these debates. Let us show the people of Queensland what true parliamentarians look like through our debates. Let us show respect and get on with this important work.

I finish by saying that valedictory speeches are to be made this week and I will work with the Manager of Opposition Business on an appropriate time for that. I want to thank all of the clerks and the parliamentary staff for their work during this important term, which course included the Townsville regional parliament.

In these last few seconds I pay tribute and pay my respects to the former member for Mackay, the Hon. Tim Mulherin. His title says it all: he was an honourable man and we will miss him.