



Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2020

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.14 am): I move—

1. That the following business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time as specified—
 - (a) the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, to complete all stages by 6.55 pm today, Wednesday, 2 December; and
 - (b) the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill, a maximum of one hour and 30 minutes 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 COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by no later than 6.25 pm today; and
 - (ii) for the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) 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 for the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill in 1. has not been completed, and the nominated stage for the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill has not been completed by 6.30 pm on Friday, 4 December, 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 take this opportunity to welcome all 93 members to the 57th Parliament and, in particular, welcome the 10 new members to this chamber. Most importantly, I welcome the eight new Labor government members to the chamber and to the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The motion before the House today is straightforward and similar to previous motions in the 56th Parliament whereby the House is considering and hopefully will agree to put structure and time frames around what will be debated during this week's sitting. There are two bills which are the subject of the motion. The first is the COVID-19 Emergency Response and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which was introduced by the new Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. It is a bill that is time critical and therefore the government is prioritising this bill during this week's sitting and is proposing that it be concluded today. It should be noted that the debate on this bill commenced yesterday.

The second bill within this motion is the Disability Services and Other Legislation (Worker Screening) Amendment Bill which I have been advised is a bill which will align Queensland to the national approach, meaning it is legislation which is being considered or has been considered by other jurisdictions across Australia. This bill is also time critical as there is a commencement date of early next year in every state and territory. While it is budget week and the House usually deals exclusively with the appropriation bills on Thursday and Friday, due to the time critical nature of the disability bill the House will spend some time on Thursday or Friday debating this bill.

As the member for Sandgate said last week, the House is the master of its own destiny and the motion before us today is merely a tool to help manage the business of this chamber, but to ensure the people's house works in an efficient manner on behalf of Queenslanders it requires the input of all members of the chamber. I look forward to a constructive working relationship with all members of the 57th Parliament and in particular the Manager of Opposition Business; the member for Noosa, who is also on the Business Committee on behalf of the crossbench; and, of course, my colleague the Minister for Transport.

I thank the committee members for the respectful way in which the meeting was held and for delivering what is proposed to go forward today. I advise, and have indicated to the other committee members, that there has been a change from what the committee agreed to today. I have agreed, as chair, and notified the other committee members, that although we were setting an hour aside for consideration in detail on the COVID bill at the request of the opposition we have now reduced that to half an hour. I am happy to have made that change in the motion that is before us to consider. With those remarks I commend the motion to the House and look forward to the enthusiastic contribution from the Manager of Opposition Business.