




Speech By
Amy MacMahon

MEMBER FOR SOUTH BRISBANE

Record of Proceedings, 12 October 2021

MOTION

Business Program

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (12.27 pm): This government has just one chamber and a complete majority, but they still only manage to get organised and tell us what is happening on Monday night. We have only seen the business program motion in the chamber just now. It proposes just six hours to debate their Housing Legislation Amendment Bill. This is the bill that they introduced in June. It is pretty much a watered-down version of the private member's bill I introduced in May, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation (Tenants' Rights) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which genuinely looks to protect renters, end unfair evictions, cap rent increases—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for South Brisbane, you are pre-empting debate on that issue. Can I just bring you back to the motion, please.

Dr MacMAHON: These are issues that need to be aired in this chamber.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane, come back to the motion, please.

Dr MacMAHON: We have just six hours to debate housing in the midst of a housing crisis in Queensland. Is that acceptable? The Community Support and Services Committee held a cognate inquiry into these bills. There is no reason why these bills should not be debated together. I would like to table a motion that I will move in a moment to debate these bills in cognate.

Tabled paper: Proposed cognate motion by the member for South Brisbane, Dr Amy MacMahon MP [1711](#).

Thus far the government has been unwilling to properly consider renters' rights here in Queensland. Just six hours of debate is rubbing salt in the wounds of the hundreds of renters who have engaged with the parliamentary process on the debate—the hundreds of shocking stories that we have heard from right across Queensland.

I support the motion that is put forward for 8½ hours. I had been going to propose nine hours, but I think 8½ hours gives us a proper opportunity to consider this bill and its amendments in detail. In the middle of a housing crisis, the Labor government should be doing everything they can to ensure that we have secure housing for all Queenslanders. My motion for a cognate debate does exactly that. I urge the House to support it.