



Speech By
David Janetzki

MEMBER FOR TOOWOOMBA SOUTH

Record of Proceedings, 9 March 2021

MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.28 am): There is a very good reason why we continue to debate this motion. It is about accountability. It is about the opportunity for the opposition to have its say. That is why from the very beginning we have argued this motion every single sitting week. The Manager of Opposition Business argues the case every week simply because we want to have our say in the people's house. We make no apologies for that. We make no apologies for having our say in the people's house. Everybody who is here who wants to speak should be able to speak.

We saw what happens with this government last Friday afternoon when it came time for the delivery of the Mason Jett Lee report. That report, released in the shadows of Friday afternoon and thus avoiding scrutiny, was a disgrace—

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The contribution of the member has absolutely nothing to do with the content of the motion before the House. The motion is about the order of business and two bills being put before the House. He is straying well off the topic of the business motion.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I am prepared to give a little bit of latitude, but I remind the member to stay on the topic.

Mr JANETZKI: The question of accountability is what this motion is all about. We saw evidence of the government's arrogance on Friday afternoon. I note that there is a bill on the *Notice Paper* with the words 'child protection' in the title. Wouldn't it have been timely for this government to bring that bill on to be debated today or this week? The child protection bill on the *Notice Paper* could have been brought on today to debate the systemic issues that have been laid out clearly throughout these reports—five years since Mason Jett Lee died—involving three ministers and two directors-general. Time and again we have seen reports redacted and delayed and still no answers or accountability from this government.

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is a motion about what government business is being brought on for the sitting week; it is not about what reports have been introduced or tabled and when. The member is significantly straying from the motion before the House. I ask that he be brought back to the motion.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I do tend to agree that you are straying. I ask you to come back to the motion.

Mr JANETZKI: We on this side of the House will never resile from holding the government to account, whether it be on the Mason Jett Lee fiasco or on a range of other issues that have popped up just this week and that should be debated today such as government waste or four beds for a prison at Gatton for \$30 million.

Ms GRACE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is almost an abuse of parliamentary privilege and procedure. We are debating a specific motion. Members opposite use this debate to address other topics.

An opposition member: What is the point of order?

Ms GRACE: The point of order is on relevance. I ask that they be brought back—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind you that you cannot debate a point of order.

Ms GRACE:—to the topic of the motion. Time and time again, the member is ignoring the ruling of the Deputy Speaker.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, I remind you not to yell across the chamber. Member for Toowoomba South, I have already cautioned you to stay on topic. I remind you of that once more.

Mr JANETZKI: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The abuse of parliamentary process to which the minister just referred is this government's arrogance in shutting down debate in this House. For so long, in sitting week after sitting week, our opportunities to debate have been curtailed.

I go back to the initial procedural motion that was moved in relation to this motion. They cut out private members' statements and took away the opportunity for members on this side of the House to speak about issues of relevance to us and our constituents. Every time we come into this House we should have the opportunity not just to speak on every bill if our members want to but also to speak about issues of relevance to our communities. The abuse of parliamentary process is by those opposite, who continue to shut down proper debate in this House.

There are two bills on the *Notice Paper* this week to which all of our members could easily have spoken. The two bills before the House, the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill and the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill, will be guillotined at 5.55 on Thursday night. That is the abuse of the parliamentary process that we see.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! I remind everybody that I am trying to listen to the member.

Mr JANETZKI: Our members may wish to speak to these important issues. The abuse of parliamentary process is by those opposite, who continue to curtail our opportunities to speak on issues of relevance to our communities. It is not good enough for those opposite to raise points of order on relevance on issues that we think should be part of the debate this week. We saw it last Friday in relation to the Mason Jett Lee report. What about the wastage of this government or the integrity crises—whether it be emails or anything else—that continue to hover like a dark cloud over this government? They are integrity issues that we should have debated in this House, because it is the people's house. We will never stop fighting for our members' right to speak freely and fulsomely in this House.