



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 9 March 2021

**MOTION**

**Business Program**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.21 am): I thank the Leader of the House. She continues to dream and live in hope that one day we will be in this parliament and she and I will agree on the business motion. I would be doing an injustice to the debate and misrepresenting everything I have said for five years if I were to ever agree to this attack on democracy. As I have indicated over the past five years, for the same reasons I never supported the establishment of the Business Committee I oppose the continuation of the Business Committee.

Having been in government before, I understand that the government sets the agenda. However, what we have seen changed over the years is this Labor government setting the agenda but then saying they want to finish early so people can go and do things—the family friendly hours we have talked about. We have seen so many occasions when the parliament has not been able to carry out its duty and do its job and the time has been extended. If we keep breaching the rules and the covenants around why this process was set up in the first place, why are we even proceeding with it or continuing with it?

Under the business program motion that has been moved by the Leader of the House today, we will be debating only two bills this week and continuing with the address-in-reply debate. I ask the question: is it because the government has run out of things to talk about? Is it because they have to, dare I say it, filibuster in debate on bills?

**Mrs D’Ath** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** You have spoken. It is my turn.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Members, I remind you to direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you for the reminder, Madam Deputy Speaker. I put to the Leader of the House that the government have run out of things to talk about. We have only two bills to debate so they will fill the rest of the time with the address-in-reply debate. Of course, the two bills we are debating are the craft beer or liquor artisan bill and the waste management bill, which are important to many people across Queensland. I know our shadow minister for the environment will lead the charge in that respect.

There are things missing from this business program motion today. What about transparency and accountability? What about all of the things we talked about in question time today? I love the fact that the government spent the first half of question time saying that emails about issues from five years ago are not relevant and then finished question time by saying that emails or RTI applications from eight years ago are somehow relevant to today’s proceedings. It is interesting that they are picking and choosing which times in history are relevant and no longer relevant. I suspect they only do that when it interests them to pick the time in history.

We would like to be talking about the issues that matter to Queenslanders. The Premier may want to dismiss the email scandal, but it is actually an issue that is relevant to Queenslanders.

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Surely you are not taking this as a point of order. Surely not, 'Mangocube'. Come on!

**Mr BAILEY:** This contribution by the Manager of Opposition Business has nothing to do with the business actually before the House. I ask you to draw him back to the content of the matter.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, I tend to agree. I will ask you to stay focused on the topic.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** As we debate this business program motion regarding debate of the waste management bill and the liquor bill, all I am saying is that there should be more on the agenda. What we continually advocate for in the Business Committee is more time for members to have their say on the very important issues that are missing from this motion. With respect to these issues, I am speaking not only about what is on the business program today but also what should be on the Business Committee agenda, and that is the accountability and transparency the government are running from, that the government are hiding from. The government's approach is, 'I see nothing. I hear nothing. I do nothing.' That is what they are running from and they will not answer the questions.

Where is the debate about releasing the emails? Where are all these important issues that Queenslanders do appreciate and do understand? It is not good for the government to come in here and decide that that is of no interest to Queenslanders, because it is. Parliament decides what is of interest to Queenslanders, and those issues are of interest despite the fact that the government may not want to talk about them. I know why they do not want to talk about them. It is why the Premier was getting very angry this morning in question time, and it is because we hit a nerve. We hit a nerve and they do not want to talk about it, but they should.

I still hate the fact that we have a Business Committee. I resent the fact that I have to go to a meeting at six o'clock every Monday night and talk about these sorts of things. At the end of the day—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I love meetings with the Leader of the House. I just do not like them with the Minister for Main Roads. No matter what government members say in the Business Committee, they will come in here and do what they want anyway and it may not be what we discussed in the Business Committee. We should oppose this motion.

*(Time expired)*