



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

## MOTION

### Business Program

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.18 am): I can advise the House that I lost a lot of sleep last night thinking about this motion today, following the discussions in the Business Committee yesterday. I was thinking of all the reasons I have opposed said motion in the past, and I cannot bring myself to justify one of the oppositions I have previously held with respect to this motion today. I can see the Leader of the House acting very surprised, as is the member for Noosa!

The *Notice Paper* lists the orders of the day: the child protection bill, the address-in-reply, the Criminal Code consent bill, the workers compensation bill and the nature conservation bill. That is all. Then we have two bills referred to parliamentary committees: the youth justice bill and the COVID emergency response bill. We only have four active bills to debate and we have two bills under consideration by committees. We have the ongoing debate of the address-in-reply, which, I understand, has about 17 hours remaining.

Over the last five years I have opposed this motion because we have said that the government was rushing things and guillotining legislation. I have always held the view—and I still do—that members ought to have the right to speak on a bill that impacts them and their constituents. However, I find myself in a different situation today. Two bills will be debated this week without a guillotine placed on them—other than the Thursday evening guillotine by which time both bills have to be completed. I cannot help but conclude that the only reason this is the case and the government is allowing lots of speakers on each bill is that it has run out of things to do. There is nothing there. There is limited legislation to debate.

If we did in this sitting what we did in the last six or 12 months of the last parliament, we would get through the four active bills on the *Notice Paper* and have nothing to debate next sitting week. There are two bills before parliamentary committees. Unless the government introduces a heck of a lot of bills this week and sends them off to committees, the parliament will have run out of government legislation to debate. It shows, therefore, that there is no plan from the government. There is no agenda. The child protection bill and the Criminal Code consent bill—both important bills—will be debated this week. If members want the opportunity to speak, they will have it. As we saw last sitting week, there was plenty of opportunity to debate two bills. If we do what the government has been doing for the last three or four years—that is, rushing through bills—then all the bills on the *Notice Paper* will be dealt with.

Although I cannot oppose the motion today, members should not think for one second that I do not know what is going on. It is not by the good grace of the Leader of the House or the government that they are wanting to work with the opposition to ensure a seamless transition of two bills this week; it is the fact that they know that if they get through those two bills quickly we will get to the next two bills, which will mean four bills will have been debated this week, and then there will be nothing left for parliament to do. This is like when parliament did not sit for the last 12 months because they did not want to use the virtual parliament.

That is the reality of the situation now. We have done a 180. Last year, bills were continually being guillotined. Now the government knows that it has lazy ministers who have not introduced bills and do not have cabinet support to introduce bills. There is no agenda. There is no plan. Where are the plans from the health minister? Where is the legislation introduced today to fix ambulance ramping across Queensland? That could be a bill. That is an idea. How did they not consider that at cabinet? We know that there is the important issue of youth justice, but that bill is before a parliamentary committee at the moment. The committee has not reported and the bill is not subject to debate.

The reality is that those opposite have run out of things to talk about. They have run out of things to do. Therefore, there is no vision. If this is the case so early on in the term, God help us for the next 3½ years when it comes to what this parliament will do. I suspect they will cease sittings because there will be no bills to debate. That is what we get with a third-term, arrogant, lazy government with ministers who have nothing to do. They cannot show why they are making \$350,000 a year. It is a waste of money. It is a waste of resources. This is an arrogant government—get rid of the lot of them. I support the motion.

*(Time expired)*