




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.23 am): When the member for Kawana was saying that he lost sleep over this I was thinking he must have been thinking about bringing back the stuffed toy on his shoulder—bring back the rat—but apparently not. Apparently it was much more substantial. What we have just heard from the Manager of Opposition Business is that he does not oppose the motion, which is a rarity. I will acknowledge that.

Mrs D’Ath interjected.

Mr BAILEY: There is a smile from the Leader of the House. It is a pretty rare event because he loves his time to get up in here, be the amateur thespian, hold the stage and have everyone look at him. He was in a quandary, because how does he get that stage time if he does not oppose the motion? He solved it brilliantly by going into the hypothetical world.

This sitting is early in this term of government. There are five bills on the *Notice Paper*. His imagination is fertile—I will give him that—that somehow there is a lack of commitment from the government. It is early in the term. This would be the same for any term. He successfully concocted an argument so that he could have his amateur thespian stage time. This is when he is not opposing the motion. It was a clever piece of theatrics—amateur, admittedly.

What we have is over 1,000 election commitments. We have a very strong agenda. We will be delivering every single election commitment, just as we did for the first two terms. We look forward to it, with our bigger party room and our very strong agenda. We are seeing unemployment come down, according to the figures last week. Our COVID response is world leading.

Those opposite ask questions about health. How much ramping is going on in London right now? How much ramping is going on in Paris, where they are overwhelmed with COVID cases and deaths? The opposition can come in here and play politics and raise issues that are tenuous at best, but the two bills to be debated are important bills. I acknowledge that the opposition does not dispute that they should be debated. We still have the address-in-reply debate to complete. We still have 51 members to give their speeches on the address-in-reply. There will be plenty of time for that.

The fact is that there is flexibility contained in this business program motion, depending on the number of speakers we want on either bill. The flexibility shows that we are working with the opposition and crossbench to ensure there is adequate debate. I acknowledge that this is probably the first business motion in many a year moved by the Leader of House that has bipartisan support. I congratulate the member for Kawana for using the full time allotted to him while not opposing the motion.

There will come a point when those opposite realise what a poor Manager of Opposition Business the member is. They will realise that they have a better—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I think the member for Chatsworth is putting his hand up for the position of leader of the opposition. The member for Chatsworth is getting in there for the next spill that will happen on the other side. We have to love it. He is in 51 club, like so many others on the other side. They held on to their seats by a fingernail at the last election. Those in the 51 club are the members for Coomera, Clayfield, Chatsworth and Glass House. They are all clinging on with their fingernails. The member for Currumbin is not even in the 51 club. She is the only member of the 50 club.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in terms of relevance to the motion. Like the government has run out of legislative agenda, the minister has run out of things to say in terms of this motion. I would ask that he be called back to address the motion.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Minister, I will ask that you come back to the question before the chair.

Mr BAILEY: The member for Kawana had to get a little bit more stage time in there—bless him. It may be the only business motion this term with bipartisan support so let us enjoy it while we can. In an odd way, we all enjoy the amateur thespian routine of the member for Kawana.