




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.30 am): What an extraordinary contribution from the member for Kawana—and probably not for the reasons that he would suggest. Aside from the obvious point—that 99 per cent of the time he opposes our business motions because he likes to grandstand and that this is his little amateur theatre and we know his amateur thespian tendencies—what we have this week is a range of extra measures that we necessarily need to deal with. We have the estimates reports coming out of the estimates process. We do have the unusual and very difficult circumstance of a condolence motion for someone who served in this term, and we obviously need more time than what might be usual in a condolence motion because we all knew Duncan.

Aside from those points, the public health and other legislation amendment bill is largely the same as it has been. It is largely a turnover. There are a couple of variations and a few issues there, but largely it is a known thing. We had the postulations of the member for Kawana—getting his blood going up a bit there to try to look a bit convincing—but this is a known quantity.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at what the minister said and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Kawana has taken offence, Minister. Will you withdraw?

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw—a new level of sensitivity.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Without qualification.

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw without qualification. The member for Kawana has just outlined that there are suicides happening because of this power and that businesses are going broke because of these powers. He talked about anxiety and depression. These are important issues, but they are not due to these powers. They are due to the pandemic. We can compare this state to any other jurisdiction when it comes to dealing with this virus which kills people. These people die long, painful, lonely deaths necessarily because of the contagiousness of the disease. We have tragically lost seven people in Queensland, but if we compare that to New South Wales and any other country, our measures have been highly responsible. That is not to say we do not help people who might be struggling in other ways. Of course we do. We do that absolutely. The contribution from the member for Kawana betrays some of his and the opposition's views of undermining the health response here in Queensland, and we have seen it. They called for the borders to be opened 64 times—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you are on a warning. You are interjecting. You will leave the chamber for one hour. I have made my directions on this matter clear over many months.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 11.33 am.

Mr BAILEY: We have dealt with this pandemic in the best possible way we can, and that is saving lives. These measures are largely a rollover and we will continue our health response. Premiers in most other states, not all, are very clear that the next three or four months are incredible periods of risk. If we look at the states in the US which have higher vaccination rates than Australia—because the Prime Minister was so indolent and incompetent in ordering vaccines and dealing with quarantine—we can see that we are way below a whole lot of US states that are seeing a terrible third wave. In Florida they are seeing more than 200 deaths a day, and their vaccination rate is a lot higher than any state in Australia right now. Let us be really clear and get the politics out of the health response because this is a matter of science and a matter of medicine. We have always said that you have to deal with the health first and foremost, that you must protect lives. We have an incredible period of risk.

I have no tolerance for any person—let alone a member of parliament—who undermines one of the best health responses in the world here in Queensland. There will be ample opportunity in a four-hour debate to debate a bill that is largely a repetition. It is being rolled over with a couple of adjustments. That is pretty much what we are talking about. If members cannot cover the adjustments in a couple of hours of debate, then they are not worth their salt, to be quite frank.

I endorse the business motion. It is a responsible motion. We have to order our business and make priorities. We do not need six hours, eight hours or 10 hours of people giving the same old speech, with the dusty, old key lines and themes of the LNP. We want a genuine debate and it means we have to prioritise. There is ample opportunity for members to raise the issues they are concerned about. That is the way we deal with it. That is the way any responsible parliament deals with it. I endorse the motion moved by the Leader of the House.