




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2021

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.21 am): Welcome to the 'look at me' member for Kawana time we have every Tuesday. He talks about people not having the opportunity to speak, but he is the one who hogs the limelight every Tuesday. He takes up the time his members could be using to debate. He uses up the procedural time. He undermines his own argument every single Tuesday. That is what he does in this place. It is amateur thespian time with the member for Kawana. We know that that is his routine.

What we are looking at this week is a significant piece of legislation that will, I believe, be history making. What we have is three whole days of debate and the extension of hours well into the night on Tuesday night and Wednesday night. We have worked with other members of parliament to ensure that there is ample time for every member to speak on this bill. That is a fact. There is ample time in this business program for every MP to let us know their views and to participate in the debate.

It is a merciful position taken by us that we do not go late. Remember what happened in our first term when we were sitting at 2.45 in the morning? We saw a division called by the opposition and half of their members came barrelling into the chamber in all states of dress. It was highly irregular. Some of them missed the vote altogether. We see their behaviour late at night. They are not at their best. We are helping them in this regard.

There is ample time for everybody to speak. What we see is an extension of the sitting hours on Tuesday and Wednesday and debate continue through what would have been the dinner break. We would think that these are things the opposition would be happy about. Would they not be happy about that? No, we get the same old speech from the member for Kawana who is sledging on in this place. It is pretty pathetic. One of these days members of the opposition will work him out and he will not be in this position anymore, which will be a bit of a shame in some ways as he is so incompetent.

This is a reasonable business program. We need about 15 hours for every member to speak on a bill. There is more than ample time allocated. We are looking at about 20 hours of debate. There is more than ample time for us not just to debate the bill but to deal with the amendments as well. We do not even know what the amendments are at this point. It is Tuesday and the sitting has started and we do not even know what the amendments are. Instead of leaving it to the last moment, they might like to share those with members so that members know what amendments are to be moved. To some degree, it shows their disdain for the process that they have not put the amendments out for members to look at and scrutinise.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: For over three minutes we have had constant interjections from those opposite because they are not really interested in contributing here—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Miller, resume your seat. Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business, you will cease your quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr BAILEY: This is a profoundly important bill for the human rights of Queenslanders. There is ample opportunity for everybody to have their say. To suggest that we should be sitting into the early hours of the morning is antiquated. What we want to see is an ordered debate. We have seen the proposal for the extension of hours and debate to continue through what would be the dinner break.

We are doing things about which one would think a reasonable opposition would say, 'We support that. That is a good thing. We endorse it. We thank you for working with us and ensuring that there will be a good debate.' Instead, they are wasting more time by debating this business program motion. They are basically taking up the time that could be used to debate the bill with this routine that we get from the Manager of Opposition Business, the member for Kawana. He really should know better. We know his routine. It has no integrity and never has any substance. It is always posturing over substance. That is what we get from the member for Kawana.

We remember his performance as the attorney-general of this state. He was one of the most embarrassing attorneys-general we have ever seen in Queensland. For some reason the opposition seem to keep putting him into positions of responsibility. Good luck with that.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Miller, please resume your seat. Member for Kawana I have warned you repeatedly, I place you on a warning.

Mr BAILEY: This is a normal, ordinary business program with extended hours to allow for full debate. There will be a full debate. I look forward to it. I endorse the motion. This is normal management of a parliament's business.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next speaker, I remind members of those members currently on a warning: the members for Mermaid Beach, Maryborough, Chatsworth, Buderim, Gregory and Kawana. I also remind members that you have to have a mask on at all times in the chamber. You can take it off just as you are rising to speak.