




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2021

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.36 pm): I was not going to speak on this motion but I was amazed by the contribution from the member for Toowoomba South who must live in a parallel universe. My experience of the committee process was that the chair, the member for Kurwongbah, was always scrupulously fair in ensuring that during the committee hearing everybody got a fair go. He bent over backwards to do so. It is true that government members do not wear stuffed toys on their shoulders in parliament.

I say to the opposition that if they are unhappy then they should ask better questions. Do not run out of questions. Do not be like the member for Callide who sat mute like a church mouse for four hours of estimates. He is paid an extra \$24,000 to be on the committee, but he did not ask me a single question in four hours. The opposition is lecturing us about the committee process when their own members sit mute for four hours—for half a day—and do not say a word or ask a question. They have the hide to come in here and lecture us? It is ridiculous!

I endorse the comments of the health minister. At the committee meeting we often saw lots of interrupting and lots of theatrics. The member for Maroochydore was in there huffing and puffing and interrupting and carrying on like a badly behaved adolescent, to be quite frank. It is amazing that someone who has been in this place for so long would carry on with such amateur theatrics. Obviously she is getting a little bit of the amateur thespian disease from the member for Kawana. The proceedings are televised. The public can look at them. I say to the opposition: do some work; do some research; ask better questions. If you want to be a government, you have to have the discipline to do that.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I note the rising level of interjections. I think we have hit a nerve. Maybe the member for Callide did not get a question in because the member for Chatsworth would not let him.

Maybe the member for Callide was too scared to ask a question because the member for Chatsworth was taking all of his time and bandwidth in not being a team player in terms of giving everybody a fair go. At least the other committee members had one or two questions, but the member for Callide, who is in the chamber, did not say a word. I look forward to him saying a word, because I did not hear any contributions from him during estimates.

In the committee process we need hard work, research, a bit of acumen from the opposition—that would be a change—rather than whinging in here about how hard they get it. In my observation, committees have been chaired extremely well and extremely fairly. There is a responsibility actually to behave well and not to be hectoring directors-general and CEOs. They can hector me in a committee meeting, that is fine and I am not too worried about that; but treat people with a bit of respect, ask good questions, do some research and do your job. Who knows? You might actually get somewhere.