



Speech By  
**Sandy Bolton**


**MEMBER FOR NOOSA**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

**MOTION**

**Business Program**

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.27 am): What can I say? I am almost speechless. I am going to read what I wrote. Having sat on the Business Committee last term and again this term, initially I supported the business program motion as a method for us as legislators to be more efficient. Time lines are part of that and what our communities expect of us, as it is their taxes that pay for us to sit in this chamber. However, I saw the unintentional consequences of this support, including my missing out on getting to speak on a bill important to my community when the allocated time ran out.

As an Independent, I prepare a speech for every bill. I do not know how many in this House do that. I seek a spot to speak if my contribution has content not already covered by other speakers or is highly relevant to Noosa. Particularly frustrating with the Business Committee process is when requests are put forward to sit extended hours to accommodate contentious and complex bills so we can all have the opportunity to speak for the 10-minute maximum if needed. When this was not granted, I could not support the motion for that sitting.

This sitting, and the last, there has been a trial of not allocating times and instead nominating which bills needed to be completed by end of week. This appears to be working. However, we have yet to see what domino effect this will have including on our productivity overall. I look forward to analysis midyear. Let's face it: what is said in this chamber during debate does not change how someone will vote on either side of the House, although on the crossbench it may. However, it provides the rationale for how we are voting and an opportunity to introduce a related or, as we often see, unrelated concern. This is vital for the crossbench when we do not have alternate speaking allocation such as in adjournment, PMS or MPI debates that sitting week.

We live in a time of innovation and everyone in this chamber should support efforts for greater efficiency. Regardless of my support for the business motion today, I will continue to advocate for a review of our committee system including the Business Committee, the estimates process and its gremlins, and the need to repurpose this current half hour wasted every sitting debating this motion. To finish, we can say what we need to within three minutes, as I am demonstrating now. It is definitely not easy for me—just ask my committee chair. Thank you to my fellow committee members. It is great to see progress in this space. I support today's motion, although that is no guarantee for next sitting.