



Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.20 am): I move—

That—

1. the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill will be considered during this week's sitting, to complete all stages by 1.00 pm on Thursday, 2 September 2021;
2. the minister be called to reply at 12.10 pm;
3. if the bill listed in 1. has not completed all stages by 1.00 pm on Thursday, 2 September 2021, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bill without further debate
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders;
4. a condolence motion for the former member for Stretton will be considered during this week's sitting, with the following time limits to apply:
 - (a) total time before question put—3 hours
 - (b) the Premier and Minister for Trade—10 minutes
 - (c) the Leader of the Opposition (or nominee)—10 minutes
 - (d) all other members—5 minutes.

I know the opposition has been eagerly awaiting the chance to come back to parliament and have the debate on the business motion. In moving this motion I would like to congratulate James Martin, the new member for Stretton, on his election to the seat and wish him all the best moving forward. James and I got to work together many years ago, and it is wonderful to know that we now get to work together as members of parliament. I know he will do an incredible job. I know that he has big shoes to fill. It is a sad day but a happy day as well. I know that he will do Duncan proud in what he will do for his new community.

Turning to the motion before the House, members will note there is one bill for consideration during this week's sitting, namely, the Public Health and Other Legislation (Further Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill, within the motion. However, in addition to this bill the House will consider eight portfolio committee reports, noting that the Economics and Governance Committee has two reports into the recent estimates hearings, with debate on those reports commencing shortly. This will take just over 7½ hours to complete, and I look forward to hearing and contributing to this constructive debate.

This afternoon the member for Stretton will have the opportunity to deliver his first speech to this chamber—a speech which is certainly one of the highlights of any member of parliament's career—and I am sure that all honourable members will give the occasion the respect we have all been afforded during our first speeches.

Later this week the Premier and Minister for Trade will move a motion of condolence for the former member for Stretton, and I know there are a number of members who wish to contribute to that debate. As such, that condolence motion will be allocated three hours, with up to 10 minutes for the Premier and Minister for Trade and the Leader of the Opposition or nominee and five minutes for other members. This condolence motion is currently scheduled to take place from 3 pm on Thursday, and I have been advised that the former member for Stretton's family will be in attendance for the debate on this motion.

The sitting week after any break is always busy and this week is no different. I thank the members of the Business Committee for meeting last night to discuss the potential business of the House. I also thank the member for Kawana, who informed me via correspondence of the approximate number of members on their side who may contribute to the condolence motion this week and next week's sitting as well, where we will have a further condolence motion.

I know that the opposition and crossbench would prefer to see additional time to debate the public health bill. I know that the broader issue of COVID certainly warrants a lot of debate and discussion in this chamber and out in the broader community, but we must remember what the bill is doing. As much as we would like to talk about the broader consequences of COVID generally, the debate on the bill should be concentrated on the bill and what it seeks to achieve. Consequently, I do believe that the time we have allotted—being four hours for that debate—is adequate time to debate that bill seeing as it is an extension of existing public health bills. I do not say that lightly. I do not say that the extension is a trivial matter because it is not, but I do not think any of us here believe that COVID will be over in September. This is an important bill and it must be debated this week. Of course we have a very important debate to be had next week as well, so it is important this legislation goes through within the allotted time.

I know that the House will manage that time as we have been doing very well in recent times and that members will have the opportunity to speak and contribute to that debate and be mindful of the time allocated for that debate. I do ask that members support this bill. I will always be hopeful that the opposition will support it. I do not think on this occasion I will get that support, but I look forward to listening to the debate on the motion anyway.