




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2022

MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.21 am): I, too, rise on the business program motion as the first opportunity to speak in my new capacity as the Manager of Opposition Business. I want to put on the record my thanks to the members for Broadwater and Kawana for affording me this privilege of serving the LNP team, the opposition, in this important role. I do also want to acknowledge my predecessor who, for over 1,000 days, served in the role of manager of opposition business, the member for Kawana. There was an exhaustive handover as we discussed what the requirements of this position include and most of it was centred around the Monday evening business program of the Business Committee. There are a couple of key attributes which I will continue, one of which is that we here in the opposition reserve the right for every member of the opposition to speak on every bill for the maximum amount allotted time as possible.

There were a number of these negotiation tactics that the member for Kawana shared with me, but I am kind of bemused because to date I have not had to enlist any of them at all. On that basis, I do want to acknowledge the member for Sandgate in that the last sitting we did not even have a business program motion at all. It was very old-school. There was a lot of personal crowing on my behalf that I had instantaneous success where the member for Kawana had failed for over 1,000 days to negotiate such an outcome with the members of the Labor government. Then, to follow that up, last night we succeeded in pretty much getting everything we sought as well. I am two from two! I do not know what the member for Kawana was doing all that time!

An opposition member interjected.

Mr POWELL: Maybe a slightly more conciliatory and diplomatic approach does have benefits, but I do reserve the right to enliven the better personality traits of my colleague, the member for Kawana, and his combative debating style should it be required in the future.

Having said that, I acknowledge that, whilst there are only two bills to complete this week, my understanding is that both have extensive speaking lists. The Small Business Commissioner Bill still has an outstanding list of a lot of government members in particular, and I know just about every member, certainly on this side of the chamber, will want to address the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill. I do hope that will be able to be completed by the 5 pm deadline on Thursday afternoon.

Again, I acknowledge the Leader of the House's motion that includes an element for us to be able to have a proper consideration in detail, potentially only half an hour, but that is an improvement on what we have had in the past, and I hope again that that allows those who choose to move amendments to speak to those amendments during consideration of detail.

I understand there are a number of other matters that will be addressed in a subsequent motion, so I do not want to speak too much of those, but again it goes to the extent of the success that I have had to date in negotiating changes to sessional orders in that if we are rising early on Wednesday

evening then we sit later tonight. That again ensures that speakers on this side of the chamber will get the most opportunity to speak particularly to the Public Health and Other Legislation (Extension of Expiring Provisions) Amendment Bill.

It is exciting times for me as the new Manager of Opposition Business. I hope I can continue to achieve such outstanding outcomes for members of the opposition. I suspect it will not last. I am waiting for the first time that I get stabbed in the back by the Leader of the House.

Mrs D'Ath: Oh!

Mr POWELL: It will come. If not the Leader of the House, then the member for Miller will do the job, and I am sure we will be back here having a very combative business program motion debate in the future.