



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 August 2022

## MOTION

### Business Program

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.17 am): I was almost set to jump up and talk about how wonderful it is to see the bipartisanship continuing when it comes to the business program motion until that little gibe at the end by the Leader of the House.

I will comment on the last few words of the Leader of the House. Just because the opposition chose not to use the full hour and a half does not mean that we would not have or could not have given the opportunity. We will continue to request 'as long as necessary'. It is the democratic right of every member of this House to come into this chamber to represent their community and have their say. We will continue to say that.

What I will say about the business program motion this week is that, yes, it appears a level of bipartisan negotiation continues. Yes, true, it is following the committee reports on the appropriation bills, and that is a fairly set standard agenda for this first week following budget week. I also acknowledge and thank the Leader of the House for accommodating the maiden speech of the new member for Callide, and we on this side certainly look forward to being in the chamber this afternoon at 10 past five to hear that contribution from that fine young gentleman.

I also note that we are returning to a more traditional sitting week: tonight there will be private members' bills debated, there will be committee reports on Thursday, and it looks like there will be at least one bill completed this week. I also acknowledge that our request for additional time for consideration in detail on the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was agreed to, and we on this side thank the Leader of the House for that accommodation.

In wrapping up my remarks this morning I will say that, whilst these allocations of time will continue to be debated and whilst there will continue to be guillotines, one of the frustrations of the opposition is that whilst these are guillotined we often find government members moving motions without notice. These are often politically motivated motions. Occasionally there are multiple motions each week which chew up one or two extra hours of time that could be spent debating legislation and could remove the guillotines we are seeing on these debates, therefore not necessitating these kinds of debates in the first place. I want to note that, whilst there are guillotines and the government continues to move political notices of motion and motions throughout the week, that is time that could be better spent on legislative debate. That time would be better spent on committee reports when they have to make way. It could be better spent on doing the general business of the parliament. I conclude where I started: we on this side will always defend the right of each member—whether they choose to or not—to speak on any piece of legislation and consideration in detail.