




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 14 October 2022

MOTION

Days and Hours of Sitting and Order of Business

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.27 pm): Let me start with trying to be very reasonable about what we are considering here this afternoon.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr POWELL: I will take that interjection from my colleague the deputy leader. I know it is not necessary, but as the Leader of the House explained, there is a reason we are sitting on Fridays; that is that there was a postponement of a week of sitting due to the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and, to be blunt, sitting on a Friday rather than convening an extra sitting week between now and Christmas makes a lot of sense.

I also acknowledge that finally the Labor government have adopted the longstanding LNP principle that we are happy to sit late on a Tuesday night, late on a Wednesday night, and late on a Thursday night. The so-called family-friendly hours that we constantly get told about by those opposite are not very family-friendly for me. It does not make a difference if we finish at 7.30 at night or 9.30 at night or 11.30 at night; I am not seeing my family. I know there are members on this side of the chamber, as well as members on the government side of the chamber, who simply do not get that family-friendly option, regardless of what time you pull up on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights.

Fantastic! Extra time on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will hopefully allow us to not guillotine debate. Members will be able to speak on whichever piece of legislation they should choose. The government would likely still bring in their crazy political motions and that would not eat into time of government business. We could have more and more time for what we are elected to do and that is attend this chamber.

What do we take offence to, however, within this motion? It is that the government wants to pull up stumps at 1pm on Friday.

Mr Crisafulli: After setting the hours a few weeks ago.

Mr POWELL: Exactly. They will pull up stumps on a Friday afternoon at one o'clock probably to head off and have some Friday drinks. What is more likely is that somewhere around this great state of Queensland there is going to be a red carpet. There will be a red carpet somewhere—the Gold Coast maybe, the Sunshine Coast perhaps or maybe in the Whitsundays—and pulling up at one o'clock means the Premier can get to that red carpet. I suspect this is not about being family friendly. I suspect this is about being Premier friendly.

I can tell honourable members that whether we pull up at one o'clock or five o'clock, as I proposed to the Leader of the House, it is not going to make a difference to what time I get home. If I try to hit the Bruce Highway at one o'clock on a Friday afternoon, I will get home at exactly the same time as if I hit it at 5 pm. Clearly, this is another example of a checked out government, a checked out Premier, one

who is more fixated on red carpets than on being in this chamber and debating the important things. I will also point out that the proposal put forward by the Leader of the House regarding the private member's motion is not to have an additional private member's motion; it is to add 20 minutes to the three remaining private member's motion debates, so the opposition and the crossbench lose out again.

I know a number of other colleagues on this side of the House want to contribute to this debate, so I will end my comments there. Again, while there is a lot in there that is sensible, there is a lot that we cannot support. The opposition will not be supporting this motion.