




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 22 February 2022

MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.22 am): We start the year where we left in 2021 with respect to the Business Committee motion. Nothing has really changed over the Christmas period: what the government wants the government gets; there are no membership changes; I still have the most terrible experience at these Business Committee meetings, hence why I have started doing them by teleconference now.

As I have said, the meetings are such a waste of time for any of the members, including the opposition, and a waste of time for the government, because do members know what? I suspect that if I were a minister I would be wanting to spend more of my time administering business for Queenslanders rather than sitting around talking, as they just talk and talk and talk in the Business Committee meeting.

That said, I am a member of that committee and so will discharge the duties and obligations bestowed upon me by this honourable House. I will continue to do that. That does not mean that it is a committee that achieves anything, because basically what happens is Ms Bolton, the member for Noosa, and I get a text message before the Business Committee meeting which says what the government is going to do for the week, and then they ratify it with their numbers in the Business Committee meeting. I am not sure what sense of cooperation the Leader of the House gets out of it, but for basically five years I have never got any sense of cooperation out of the Business Committee meetings. I just keep getting continually bashed and losing all the votes that we have, including yesterday when I said—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Do not feel sorry for me, Attorney-General. I am a big man; I can handle the Business Committee meeting myself when you have the professional thespian over there, the minister, Mark Bailey, dealing out what he deals out every day.

I thought the five hours was reasonable in terms of the appropriation bill debate and I look forward to the contributions on that this week; however, I think there are other important matters that we should be debating. I sought in a bipartisan manner from the Leader of the House to have half a day this week set aside to debate a separate motion calling for a royal commission into the integrity issues engulfing the state government. Unfortunately, I lost that debate as well. There was a moment of silence where I thought I had convinced the Leader of the House that we should debate a motion about integrity and setting up a royal commission, but unfortunately that did not take place.

The way I wanted the week to work is we have everything today, the private member's motion tomorrow night and then on Thursday—or if we need to stay here later, we can—we debate a good, solid separate motion calling for a royal commission into the integrity issues engulfing the state Palaszczuk Labor government. Unfortunately, that is not the case and we will not see that additional

motion this week for a very important royal commission that no other inquiry, including the Coaldrake inquiry, will get to the bottom of. That is why the opposition and whistleblowers, including the Integrity Commissioner, who yesterday put out an extraordinary statement calling for a royal commission into Palaszczuk Labor government integrity—

Mr BAILEY: I rise to a point of order. The member is clearly straying from discussing the actual business agenda here. He is straying into matters that are extraneous. I ask that he come back to the matter at hand.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Thank you, Minister. Member for Kawana, I was listening to your alternative suggestion in terms of the order of business for the week. Please resume speaking about that and refrain from going into extraneous matters.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I take your guidance. I was putting the proposition afforded to us in terms of the opposite proposition to this motion. The fact is that I am only saying what happened in the meeting. I wanted this on the agenda for debate. In terms of the importance of a royal commission, the government does not seem to want to give the opposition or crossbench the additional time as requested. We will not be opposing—

Mrs D'Ath: I knew that was a trick.

Mr BLEIJIE: Sorry? I will take the interjection if you say it again. I just did not hear.

Mrs D'Ath: I knew it was a stunt.

Mr BLEIJIE: A stunt? It was not a stunt. A royal commission into integrity is in search of the truth. It is not a stunt. Is the Leader of the House in making that interjection—and I thank her for repeating the interjection because I did not actually hear it the first time, but I thank her now because I can take it—seriously suggesting that the media statement issued by the chief integrity officer yesterday was merely a stunt? Is that what the Leader of the House is saying—that Dr Stepanov did a stunt yesterday?

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order. The member is verballing me. I did not make that allegation and he should withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mrs D'ATH: He should withdraw. I take personal offence and he should withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. Member for Kawana, the Leader of the House has taken offence. Will you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I intended to speak only briefly on this subject matter today and support the government's motion for the five hours of appropriation debate, but all of the interruptions and the interjections have forced me to wind down the clock, which I do not like doing in this place because we do want to get on to the important matters of business. That is why we want more time this week to talk about the integrity matters today. Mr Deputy Speaker, this morning you saw the Premier just basically wiping all of this off—'Oh, it's subject to the CCC', 'It's before a committee', 'It's before everything', 'It's before the Coaldrake review'. Nothing will stop these issues in this government until we have a proper royal commission.

(Time expired)