



Speech By  
**Jarrold Bleijie**


**MEMBER FOR KAWANA**

---

Record of Proceedings, 29 March 2022

**MOTION**

**Business Program**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.27 am): I was not intending to speak to the Business Committee motion; however, one is so concerned about this new level of collegiality and friendship that I must put some things on the record so as not to let the Manager of Opposition Business know that he can get away with this newfound friendship that he seems to have with the Labor Party.

I congratulate the member for Glass House on his appointment. It is going to be great to see him in that role. I had not counted the days that I was in that role. Suffice it to say, I knew it was about five years. I look in the mirror every morning and see the grey hair and I knew it was a long time that I was in that role because it is a substantial role in the parliament and, dealing with the issues of the House and members and personalities, it is quite time-consuming, as the member and the Leader of the House will no doubt know.

I thank the Leader of the House for the time that she has served as Leader of the House. When I was manager of opposition business working with the leader and through the CLA, I think we achieved some great things. However, the combative nature—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I was very quick; I got that out, didn't I? The combative nature of the parliament must continue, and I can assure the member for Kawana—the member for Glass House—I am talking to myself.

**An honourable member:** You are a survivor of COVID.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am a survivor of COVID. My head is a little muddled, okay! I can assure the member for Glass House that what he thinks has transpired in the last Business Committee—the only one he has attended, I might add—will not last long, because the minute the government will want to get through this House what they want to get through, he will soon learn how the Business Committee actually operates.

Can I say that I am profoundly happy that I am not on the Business Committee anymore. It was a committee that I said I never particularly was pleased to attend, particularly when the member for Miller was appointed to that committee, and I tried everything I could—

**An honourable member:** He was nice.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** He was nice, but I am not returning the favour because I know what he really thinks of me.

The Business Committee is a waste of space. I wish the member for Glass House all the best in achieving what he wants to achieve in the Business Committee. I heard the Leader of the House say earlier that when the member for Sandgate was Acting Leader of the House last week they worked so well with the new Manager of Opposition Business that they did not need to have a business program

motion. That was only because the Labor Party cannot trust the member for Sandgate to deliver anything in this parliament and they could not trust him to deliver a business program motion. That is why it was back to the old days. How good were the old days? Parliament just worked the way it should have worked. If only we had the midnight sittings once again then I would be completely happy.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Member for Logan, cease your interjections.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It may come as a surprise to honourable members, particularly on this side of the House, that I do not intend to speak on many of these business program motions. I will speak when the need arises and when the new Manager of Opposition Business perhaps needs a little help to get on the right course in terms of life in parliament to ensure that our members are able to say what they want to say. Our constituents are all the better for it with the contributions that our members make.

I wish the new committee all the very best and I wish the new Manager of Opposition Business all the very best in his role. I know, as all honourable members on this side of the House know, he will undertake those roles diligently and professionally and he will go in to bat for us when we need him to. Congratulations.

As I said—and I will end on this note—I am particularly pleased to not be on that committee anymore. Yesterday at 5.30 pm I was reflecting and commiserating with the member for Glass House while I was at a family dinner for my young boy's birthday. Incidentally, Jasper is 12 today and we had an early birthday for him last night because parliament is sitting this week. I was reflecting that, as I was celebrating my young boy's 12th birthday, the member for Glass House was sitting in a Business Committee meeting with the Leader of the House and the member for Miller. I was more than happy to be with my young boy on his birthday, who incidentally does not want to come to Parliament House; they are having KFC tonight, which I will miss unfortunately. I wish all the best to the new Manager of Opposition Business.