




Speech By
Trevor Watts

MEMBER FOR TOWOOMBA NORTH

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MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (11.23 am): We talk about incompetence and embarrassment. This is a government that has brought into this House bills that it has refused to debate. It cuts debate, denying people the opportunity to talk, then gazettes the bill and puts it out into the public space, only to have to come running back into this place to burn more time because it could not get the numbering right. The numbering of the bill was incorrect. How is the law going to work? There was no consideration in detail.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This motion is about the parliamentary business for this week. The member has clearly strayed off the topic and gone into ancient history.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! I will hear the point of order in silence.

Mr BAILEY: He is not addressing the motion, which is about the parliamentary business for this week.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. I find that the member is making a broad and general point that is relevant to the overall tenor of the debate.

Mr WATTS: It is interesting that I am not supposed to talk about what has happened in the past in this place, according to the minister, who takes great offence at being part of an incompetent government, yet he was talking about what happened in this place last week. If we are not supposed to talk about what has happened in the past, what was the minister going on with in his contribution? Clearly, he needs to concentrate more on being in this place and less on tweeting.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member, I do not believe it was your intention, but I think you were going close to reflecting on the chair. I ask you to come back to the motion.

Mr WATTS: I think this House has a very serious responsibility to the people of Queensland. When pieces of legislation are brought in that outline the rules that will govern their lives—govern the way they operate, govern the way that businesses operate, govern the way that we will manage and spend their hard-earned taxpayer dollars that have been collected by this incompetent government—I think the people of Queensland, who elect each and every one of us here, expect us to have the opportunity to speak on a bill if we so choose. Whilst the government is busy trying to manage perception, it is critical that silly errors are not made, such as in the numbering of legislation that has to be corrected, wasting more time in this place. It is critical that legislation gets full analysis. Not all bills will be spoken on by all people, but all people in this place have been elected to serve and represent their communities and they should have their voices heard.

In addition to that, the bills this government tries to suppress and hide are the ones they do not really want people to talk about. They do not want people to have the opportunity, representing the people who elected them, to discuss certain bills. I note that the minister will often take their time in the

discussion. If time is so critical and not required, why doesn't the minister sit down and let the members representing their people speak? The minister clearly knows what is in the bill. They have tabled the explanatory notes. They have received submissions. They have had lots of opportunities to have input. For members of this House, this is the place where bills should be debated.

Mr Harper: Why don't you table one?

Mr WATTS: I can answer that question. The people of Queensland elected this rabble to represent Queensland. They elected this incompetent government to bring bills into this place. I think it is only fair that members are given time to show just how incompetent this government is. Let me assure the people of Queensland: after nearly two years it is glaringly obvious how incompetent this government is. It cannot even get bill numbering right!

They want to talk about coming into this place and having our voices heard, having this debate and controlling the narrative. They took away various other opportunities for people to speak in this place and changed the sessional orders. If they really want to make sure we have more time to debate things why don't they cut down ministerial statements? They do not want to do that because it is all about power and control. It is not about the people of Queensland and it is not about the people of Queensland's money: it is all about Labor and how it looks. It is not how it is: it is all about how it looks. They play with this place for their own manipulative advantage rather than letting the people's voice be heard.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, you did use some unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr WATTS: I withdraw and apologise, Mr Deputy Chair.