



Speech By  
**Hon. Yvette D'Ath**

**MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE**

Record of Proceedings, 29 November 2022

**MOTION**

**Business Program**



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.19 pm): I move—

1. That the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector Bill be considered as cognate bills for their remaining stages, with:
  - (a) separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
  - (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
  - (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.
2. That the following business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time as specified:
  - (a) the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector Bill, a maximum of eight hours to complete all stages;
  - (b) the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill, to complete all stages by 12 pm on Friday, 2 December 2022.
3. The following time limits for the bills listed in 2. apply:
  - (a) the minister to be called on in reply:
    - (i) for the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Sector Bill, one hour before the expiry of the maximum hours for those bills;
    - (ii) for the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill, by 11.15 am on Friday, 2 December 2022.
4. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified in 3., or by 12 pm on Friday, 2 December 2022, Mr Speaker:
  - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration;
  - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill without further debate;
  - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion;
  - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

Here we are again, on the eve of Christmas, debating the last business program motion of 2022. As members will note, three bills are the subject of the motion before the House today, two of which are cognate. As such, the House will consider the Public Sector Bill and the Integrity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill as a cognate debate for a maximum of eight hours and the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill for the remainder of the week, finishing at around 11.55 am on Friday. The finish time has been selected as the traditional valedictory speeches that occur at the end of each parliamentary year will take place then.

While I note that most likely there will be disagreement from those opposite to this motion, the times that have been set are based on feedback from the Manager of Opposition Business and the member for Noosa at last night's Business Committee meeting, where the view of the non-government members was for more time to be spent on the cognate debate. As such, the motion reflects this.

In respect of the work of the House, the records reflect that 32 government bills have been considered and passed by this House so far this year. I am advised that, of the 32 bills considered, 18 bills were debated without any impact on the time parameters set by the House. I remember a few occasions when the opposition has grandstanded about wanting to stay here all night debating legislation, yet the bills were put before any of the time frames actually set by the House had been reached. I am sure that, as the system matures—as opposed to the opposition maturing—we will continue to see the benefits of the system. I hope we can get to a point where, like the Victorian model, we simply set the bills for the week and the question is put at the end of the week without needing to set allocated times for individual bills. However, that will take maturity. I did suggest that at the Business Committee meeting last sitting week, but the opposition is not supportive of the idea at this stage.

I must state for the record that the idea of time frames for bills and motions is not new. When in government those opposite moved countless motions on debates either setting time frames or moving that a bill be passed during that day's sitting. I have been advised that those types of motions were moved about 17 times when those opposite were in government, although that does not include any motions whereby they shut down the voice of the opposition. I say this to give a comparison and to note for the House that time frames have been used in this parliament, parliaments across the country and parliaments across the globe to manage their business.

In closing, I take this opportunity to thank all of the parliamentary staff for their work and support to keep this place operational during 2022. In particular, I thank the amazing attendants in the chamber, led by Angie, who all do a great job of keeping the people's house running, especially during the very difficult times this year with COVID. We are very grateful for their work.

I say a special thankyou to all of the retiring parliamentary staff for their many years of dedicated service, including Mary-Ann Lloyd, who works upstairs in the office next to mine. Mary-Ann works in Hansard, ensuring that every word is captured for future generations. After 47 years of service to the people of Queensland we say thank you, and we wish you all the very best on your retirement.

With those short words, I commend the motion to the House. I hope that the contributions of those opposite to this motion are both respectful and constructive. I am hoping, seeing it is the final business motion of the year, that they may even support it.