




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2023

MOTION: BUSINESS PROGRAM; COGNATE DEBATE

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.25 am): I rise to address the business program motion for this coming week. I am sorry to disappoint the Leader of the House, but we will not be supporting it. Despite the fact that discussions during the committee meeting may be collegiate, it does not imply that there is a standing level of support from this side of the chamber when it comes to what is conducted in the House during this sitting week.

An outsider might look at the business program and suggest there is an equitable distribution of time for the legislation that we will be debating this week, but all you need do is look at the speaking list for the first bill and realise that there is no way possible for that speaking list to work its way through to completion in the time allocated for the Housing Legislation Amendment Bill. Equally, as I advised the Leader of the House in the meeting last night, the LNP will have a similar number of speakers on the other two/three bills, given we are cognating two of them, and therefore I can guarantee you that in each of those instances we will see a guillotining of the debate.

We have offered solutions as to how we can ensure opposition members, indeed government members—I believe it was their own members who were guillotined during the debate last week—and the crossbench as well are guaranteed an opportunity to address legislation that they want to speak on. We have said it before, we will say it again: that is what we are elected to do. That is why we come into this chamber each and every sitting week, to speak on behalf of the constituents that we represent on legislation that matters to them. Therefore, we will be opposing this motion. We do not believe the government is genuine in trying to ensure that all members have that opportunity. We will sit later on each and every night if necessary, to ensure that that is possible. However, those offers are rejected, and what we see is a shortening of the time that members have to speak. The opposition will be opposing this motion.