




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.23 am): It will come as no surprise that the opposition will be opposing this motion put by the Leader of the House regarding how we will be debating legislation in this chamber. Before I go to the substantive motion, let me reflect on some of the comments just made by the Leader of the House. Queenslanders know that the only reason those opposite are calling on the LNP to provide policies and private members' bills is that they are bereft of their own ideas. After eight years, they have an inability to govern without relying on the LNP to provide the solutions.

If members want proof of that, let me reflect on the particular words of the member for Redcliffe where she said we should get some legislation drafted. Well, the opposition did that. It was called breach of bail, and so effective was it that those opposite used it verbatim. They did not change a single word in the bill that the LNP previously introduced into this chamber. The Leader of the House should not come in here and lecture us on providing you with policy, because we know and Queenslanders know that the only reason there is now breach of bail in this state, the only reason those opposite are even pretending to be tough on crime, is that they have adopted lock, stock and barrel the LNP's policy.

Heaven forbid if the Leader of the House, the Minister for Health, actually adopted the LNP's health policy. It might actually solve the health crisis that we are seeing unfold across this state, including in maternity services in rural and regional Queensland. Women in the electorate of Callide—which is the size of Tasmania—cannot give birth in that electorate and need to travel outside their electorate. They tended to go to Gladstone but they cannot go there now. That is why child after child is being born on a hay bale on the side of the highway—to the point where their birth certificate actually says that.

We know that the government desperately want the opposition to put private members' bills in this House because they want to steal our ideas. The people of Queensland have wised up to those opposite. They know that any good idea this government is coming up with is an LNP idea. The government are using the LNP to write their policies because after eight years they are confused, they are in chaos, they are stumbling from crisis to crisis and they are inept.

Let me return to the motion that the Leader of the House moved. I need to again explain to the people of Queensland what occurs here. The Leader of the House might say there is some level of debate, discussion and agreement around how much time is given to each bill and how much time is given to consideration in detail, but the issue is that at the end of the day there are only so many hours in parliament. Let me use the analogy of a pie with so many hours in it.

If we make a suggestion and it is agreed to that we want some extra time for consideration in detail in one bill, then it comes at the expense of another bill. In this instance, we have taken some time from the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to give us more time in consideration in detail on the police powers and responsibilities bills. In doing that, in giving that time, we still shorten the number

of speakers who can speak to the bill. I can guarantee the House, as I have every week, that just about every single one of these bills—if not every one of them—will be guillotined and the speaking list will not be exhausted before the time allocated to it is expired. Sure, some of those who miss out on an opportunity to speak on that list may get an opportunity in consideration in detail, but not all of them will.

The Leader of the House talks about the exhaustive legislative process—where we have departments that consult, committees that give consideration and members of the public who have their say on the legislation. Let us not forget though that ultimately each of us is elected to have our say on legislation and debate it in this chamber on behalf of the electorates that have elected us. If you are a member of the opposition or crossbench, at no other stage have you had any input into the development of this legislation. It is all well and good for the Leader of the House to talk about how long it takes them to come up with a policy idea and turn it into legislation and how they may or may not consult and then put it to the committees. At the end of the day, this is the chamber where we get a say, and every time bills are guillotined it means that members who are elected by their constituents miss out on an opportunity to speak. We will be opposing this motion.