




Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2023

**MOTION: BUSINESS PROGRAM; COGNATE DEBATE**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (11.38 am): I rise to contribute to this debate because it is important that our voices in opposition are heard. I cannot sit here and listen to the Minister for Transport's contribution and let it go unargued. Seriously! This is a government that in its first term took pride in being elected on openness, transparency and accountability. Where is that openness, where is that accountability and where is that transparency when members of the opposition and the crossbench cannot even contribute to a debate in this House? They are saying we will be guillotined. They say, 'Get on the list.' We do get on the list.

Those opposite need to understand that we on this side of the chamber represent the good people of Queensland in the same manner that they do. It is unacceptable that we have to sit in this chamber and be diminished as women on this side time and time again—every single time. Just because I am a female on this side of the House does not mean I do not understand and it does not mean that I do not represent my community just like anyone else in the chamber.

We have a voice and we are here to use it, not be guillotined. The crossbenchers do not always get a say because the government guillotine them; the opposition do not always get a say on behalf of their constituents because we get guillotined. I would like to speak on the housing bill, on the environment bill and on Jack's Law, which is before this chamber, but so would everyone else in this House. How in heaven does the government genuinely believe that four hours is enough time for all of the members in this chamber to have their say? How is it enough time for the voices of our constituents to be heard? It beggars belief that the Minister for Transport has the hide to stand up and talk about family friendly hours. Goodness me! The member for Hinchinbrook said it. I do not get to go home at night and have dinner with my family, like Brisbane members do. On taxpayers' money, we have to travel down here and be away from our families, week after week.

We knew what we were getting into when we were elected to this place. My three daughters knew exactly what would happen to their childhood if I was elected. We have to work through it, and that is exactly what we on this side of the House try to do. We are here in this House and we want to debate those three important bills—the environment bill, the housing bill and Jack's Law, a criminal law bill—but this House will guillotine us because the Palaszczuk government is so determined to keep us quiet that it is not funny.

It is completely unacceptable that the former attorney-general, the health minister and the transport minister think it is fine to stand up and use their time not only to completely diminish the comments by the Leader of the Opposition that were taken completely out of context but also to talk about women on this side of the House. The minister has no clue.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the member for Nanango's comments personally offensive and inaccurate and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. I have only a minute and 28 seconds left, so I really do not want to waste it on the Minister for Transport.

This debate is about allowing every member in this chamber to have their voice heard. It is important. There are important bills before this House. I have here the speaking list for the housing bill. The Palaszczuk government are so desperate to keep us quiet that they have given us only four hours for debate. If you look at the list you will see that there are many of us who would like to speak. I think nearly every one of us is facing housing desperation, but the Palaszczuk government are desperate to keep us quiet. This government was supposedly elected on openness, transparency and accountability, but there is none. There is no time for us on this side of the House to have our constituents' voices heard on those extremely important topics, yet the Palaszczuk government is going to guillotine not one debate and not two debates but three debates this week.

**Mr Powell:** Four debates.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Four debates. I take the interjection from the Manager of Opposition Business. The Palaszczuk government this week will guillotine four debates, not allowing the voices of over half of Queensland to be heard. It is a shame.