




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 21 February 2023

MOTION : BUSINESS PROGRAM

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.30 am): Talk about throwing your leader under the bus. I say 'bus'. I would ordinarily say 'trains', but he forgot to order them. He has thrown his Premier under the bus.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find that personally offensive, not to mention inaccurate, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. I reflect on the contribution the minister has just made. I agree with him about consultation and I agree with him about the committee process. The difference is and the difficulty he has with his argument is that it was the Premier, his leader, who said two weeks ago the laws are going to be introduced on Tuesday, debated and finished this week. It is his leader that gave that commitment.

We know he spends a lot of time on social media. The Premier broadcast that press conference on social media. That is where I saw it. I watched the Premier announce on Twitter that the laws were going to be introduced. They were so important. She had listened to the Queensland community about crime and safety and she was going to go straight into parliament, introduce laws, debate them and have them voted on this week. Not only did the Premier say that, she challenged the opposition to support the laws going through this week. We said, 'Absolutely, but we will do one better, Premier. Recall parliament and we will get the laws through quicker.' That is what should have happened. We should be debating these bills today because parliament should have sat weeks ago, but we could not. Why? Because the Premier was in France, drinking champagne. She was on a superyacht drinking Aperol—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Resume your seat. Pause the clock. The House will come to order. What is your point of order, member for Miller?

Mr BAILEY: The member for Kawana is clearly abusing standing orders. It has nothing to do with the business motion. I ask that he be brought back to the motion that is before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I have given some latitude. I would ask you to come back to the substance of the motion before the House.

Mr BLEIJIE: The commitment was given by the Labor Premier that these laws would be introduced and debated this week. That is why the Manager of Opposition Business sets out why we cannot support the motion. We cannot support it because it is not what is in the motion; it is what is not in the motion. The youth justice laws that are about to be introduced by the police minister should be on for debate this week because that is what the Premier promised. What has changed? What has changed since that announcement? One thing has changed: the 10-point plan six weeks ago is now an

11-point plan. They talk about breach of bail and it needs to go off to committee. The Minister for Main Roads is misleading this parliament and misleading you, Mr Deputy Speaker, because the LNP policy on breach of bail was clear. It was an amendment to the Bail Act in 2021—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, member for Kawana. Member for Miller, I will make a ruling before I take your point of order. Member for Kawana, you now seem to be straying into debating specific points in relation to matters that you are raising. I ask you to come back to the substance of the debate.

Mr BLEIJIE: Both the Leader of the House and the minister—the minister, particularly—spent considerable time on a particular element—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat, please, member for Kawana.

Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I take your point of order, member, I ask you to resume your seat. Member for Kawana, I listened very carefully to the member for Miller's contribution and he was responding to points raised by the previous speaker and doing so in a manner that related to the substance of the motion. You are straying into territory where you are debating specific issues and points, and I ask you to come back to the substance. Before you rise to your feet, member for Lytton, do you have a point of order?

Ms PEASE: I do, thank you. I would like to comment that the member for Kawana is reflecting upon the chair and your statement and questioning your ruling.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: The motion clearly sets out the laws to be debated this week. Under the sessional orders and the standing orders, the opposition and the crossbench are not able to move amendments to this business program motion. The point we are making is through the committee meeting yesterday, as I understand it from the Manager of Opposition Business, the youth crime bill debate came up. The Manager of Opposition Business asked at that meeting why we are not debating those juvenile justice laws this week—he advised me what took place in the meeting—and it was discussed and hence we are debating it today.

I table for the record of the House amendments that were moved in 2021 with respect to juvenile justice laws setting it out quite clearly.

Tabled paper: Amendments moved by the member for Burdekin, Mr Dale Last MP, to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 and extract, dated 20 April 2021, from the *Record of Proceedings*, Queensland Parliament, pages 989 to 993 [163](#).

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I take the member for Miller's point of order, I want to reflect on something that the member for Kawana was contributing there. I want you to assure the House that you are not offending standing order 211 by discussing matters that occurred in a committee of the parliament.

Mr BLEIJIE: If I may give a fulsome response, there have been many occasions on both sides where the Leader of the House and I, when I was Manager of Opposition Business, did, through the Business Committee, discuss what was happening at those meetings yesterday to give a full reflection on the motion we are debating and put both the positive and the negative of that, and that has occurred in most of the Business Committee motions in the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take that into consideration.

Mrs D'ATH: Can I comment on that point of order?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have a point of order?

Mrs D'ATH: I would like to comment on that point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask you to resume your seat while I take some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! While I am taking advice, I would ask the House to come to order, and that is all members.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the House, resume your seat. I ask all members to come to order while I am taking advice. I will hear the member for Miller's point of order first.

Mr BAILEY: Once again, the member for Kawana is straying into history relating to a matter that is not part of this Business Committee's motion.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member. Resume your seat. I have already dealt with that and I am managing that aspect. Leader of the House, I am not going to engage in a debate across the chamber around this matter. If there is a new point of order you wish to rise to, I will hear that; otherwise I call the member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: The LNP place community safety of utmost importance. Only a few weeks ago in my own electorate I held a crime forum and, based on the Premier's promise that we would be debating these laws this week, I said at that crime forum the government has announced that we will be debating youth justice laws to help solve the issues of youth crime in this sitting week. That is why I am so distressed and angry that we are not going to be debating these laws.

I accept the point the minister makes about committees and consultation, but that was not the commitment the Premier gave. The Premier promised Queenslanders that these laws were so urgent they would be introduced and they would be passed this week. I simply say to the Leader of the House: why are the youth justice reforms not in this motion for debate today? We would amend the motion if we could to include it, but under the sessional orders we are not able to amend this business program motion. If it was so important for Queenslanders a few short weeks ago that the Premier advised that, why are we not debating the youth crime laws this week? That was the promise made; that is the promise that should be kept. That was the commitment the Labor Premier gave. If she is now not committing to delivering on that promise, it shows they have no interest in solving the issues of youth crime in this state.