




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2023

MOTION: BUSINESS PROGRAM; COGNATE DEBATE

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.27 am): Once again, another whingeing, whining effort from an opposition with no policies and no plan, trying to confect something that is not factual. What we are doing here is the ordinary ordering of business for this week, similar to any other chamber in this country and any other democracy wherever else beyond Australia. There will be ample time for everybody to have their say. People will need to be disciplined in what they have to say. We need to see less repetitive speeches from the opposition using the same old key lines and themes, reading out the same old stuff and repeating what each other has said. What we need is original contributions from those opposite, hopefully respectful ones that do not involve sledging female members of this parliament, as the Leader of the Opposition did on Sunday and as the member for Everton doubled down on and would only withdraw when he was made to withdraw.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Resume your seat please, Minister. What is your point of order?

Mr POWELL: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege as I raised previously in relation to the members for Redlands and Waterford. I will also be writing to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, regarding the comments just made by the member for Miller.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, that is not a point of order.

Mr MANDER: I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that comment and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw?

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. What we need in the business of this week—

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr MANDER: I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the interjection—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no need for gesticulation.

Mr MANDER: I cannot remember which electorate she represents—the member for Lytton—and I ask her to withdraw.

Ms PEASE: I withdraw and I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I just rule on that? Thank you for the withdrawal. Yes, member for Lytton, what is your point of order?

Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I take personal offence at the member for Everton pointing to me and his comments towards me, and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence, member for Everton, and I ask you to withdraw. Will you withdraw?

Mr MANDER: Can I seek a point of clarification please, Mr Deputy Speaker? How can you be offended by a withdrawal request?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice. Resume your seat.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not need any assistance thanks. Member, while you did withdraw, you also used some other language around that withdrawal. The convention is that if a member—

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bonney, I am giving a ruling here and I do not appreciate your gestures and attitude while I am giving this ruling. The convention is, member for Everton, that if a member takes personal offence the member has a right to ask—

Mr MANDER: I withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: What we see here is some kind of confected argument from the opposition about their alleged defence of democracy and yet we saw the rowdiest and most disrespectful behaviour from those opposite for the entire question time. Then they flipped the switch suddenly and said, 'Oh my God, this is a matter of democracy.' Everybody can see through it; it is a nonsense.

What we need to see is an outbreak of respect in this place in the way people behave. If people have said inappropriate things that are crystal clear, like the Leader of the Opposition did on Sunday, they should apologise and actually have the integrity to say they got it wrong.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. On a matter of relevance, what does this issue that the main roads minister is referring to have to do with the business program motion before the House?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before you respond, member for Miller, I will make a ruling. I will just take some advice. Thank you, member for Everton. While the minister's commentary is not necessarily relevant to the motion, the member is responding to lines of argument that have been put forward by previous speakers. I would ask the minister to come back to the motion.

Mr BAILEY: Certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I thank you for your guidance. What we are seeing here in this discussion is a wave of people trying to defend their flailing leader, who has embarrassed himself. Here we are back to the same old debate wasting the time of this chamber when we need it for debate. It is an orderly, normal business program motion being put forward by the Leader of the House. It ought to be supported.

We see respect on this side for the normal conventions of democracy. We support family friendly hours; let me make it clear. The discussion earlier was to some degree about women in this parliament. If members want family friendly hours we need to have a business order that respects—

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat. Member for Whitsunday, you were on a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Whitsunday withdrew from the chamber at 11.33 am.

Mr BAILEY: This government supports the modern conventions that are genuinely inclusive of all kinds of people—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr BAILEY: There is an interjection from the member for Burleigh. We heard the sorts of comments mentioned by the Attorney-General about what he said—not exactly contemporary standards or values I might say, and I am being generous.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at what the minister is saying. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, personal offence has been taken. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BAILEY: In relation to what?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No—

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw. The member for Burleigh is well known for saying that public transport is obsolete.

Mr BROWN: I rise to a point of order.

Mr HART: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will deal with the member for Capalaba's point of order first.

Mr BROWN: It is my understanding that the member for Bonney is on a warning and continues to interject during the contribution of the member for Miller.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your understanding is not correct. Member for Burleigh?

Mr HART: I take personal offence at what the minister is saying. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, personal offence has been taken.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I withdraw. This motion ought to be supported. It is an orderly, run-of-the-mill business program motion. There is ample time for members to speak. They need to talk to their respective whips and get on the speaking list. I urge the members of the opposition to not just repeat ad nauseam the key lines and themes they are handed by the office of the former member for Thuringowa.