




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

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MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.28 am): Here we are with the predictable paradox—where the opposition say that debating time is so valuable but then waste 15 or 20 minutes in here debating a procedural motion which is just normal parliamentary business in any chamber across the country.

Ms Pease: Where are they all?

Mr BAILEY: I will take that interjection from the member for Lytton—very few opposition members are interested in this and attending this debate on the business motion. The reality is that this is normal management of parliamentary business using family-friendly hours. That is a modern parliament. Those opposite want to go back to the old days when we sat to two or three o'clock in the morning. What happened then? We had half the LNP turn up in various states of undress—actually, there were a lot of them, including the then member for Hervey Bay—as well as a whole lot of them who did not turn up because they were asleep. We are actually saving this parliament the embarrassment of those sorts of scenes because of the incompetence of the LNP.

This is a modern parliament. It should have modern sitting times, and to be suggesting we should be debating bills until midnight and 2 am as the opposition is suggesting in this time is ridiculous. There should be family-friendly hours and support of members from all kinds of backgrounds and responsibilities. They talk about wanting more women in parliament, but then when it comes to actually supporting a workplace that is more conducive to people from all backgrounds they always oppose it. The contradiction and the hypocrisy is very clear and very obvious.

We see a lazy opposition. That is the truth here. Some of the crossbench parties—the Katter party and other parties—have done some work to put private members' bills together. I might not agree with them, but good on them for doing the work. They are a crossbench with small numbers of people and here we have an opposition with, what, 34 members and not one private member's bill in nearly 2½ years in this chamber. They are a lazy opposition who are not interested. They did better under the member for Nanango. When she was opposition leader, they actually did private members' bills; they did a little bit more work than they do now under the member for Broadwater.

Let's have some integrity from the opposition rather than this silly debate. I see the member for Glass House but I actually hear the member for Kawana on this. To suggest that somehow the government and the opposition have the same policy agenda is a farce. Cross River Rail, the M1, second M1, our energy assets kept in public hands—they would have been sold off by those opposite. They sacked 14,000 staff members, including thousands of nurses. They cut the health staff. They cut deeply into health, which we restored. You can imagine what would have happened in the pandemic. If they had been in power, there would have been a disaster in this state with the inept leadership,

including the Leader of the Opposition who was suggesting that our response to the pandemic was like putting a doona over your head. That was the sophistication of a leader who does not have anything other than a very good blaggarding technique, who does not have any content underneath there.

They say they have changed, but they have billions in cuts coming. The member for Chatsworth was very clear about that only two weeks ago. They have already made decisions about savings—that means cuts—billions in savings. The Leader of the Opposition was exposed by the member for Chatsworth, my shadow minister, that they have already made decisions to make billions in cuts. So what are they? Tell us what they are. Tell us what the cuts are, because these are the words of the LNP themselves—not my words—the words of the shadow minister for transport and main roads and member for Chatsworth, in a moment of honesty, told us about the cuts that are coming by those opposite. Tell us what those cuts are. Share it with the people of Queensland. Do not keep it hidden like you have been doing on other things. Tell us where the cuts will be.

In terms of this business motion, it is ordinary parliamentary process. The parliament does not need a long list of members repeating the same key lines and themes handed out at the LNP partyroom. That is not a contribution to debate. That is not original. They need to prioritise their speaking list just as the government does and the crossbench does.