




Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 9 May 2023

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.16 am): In accordance with sessional order 4, I move—

1. That the Path to Treaty Bill will be considered this sitting week and is to complete all stages by 12.55 pm on Thursday, 11 May 2023.
2. If the bill has not been completed by 12.55 pm on Thursday, 11 May 2023, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on the minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement of exceptional circumstances;
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill without further debate;
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

It is wonderful to be here in Far North Queensland. In particular I thank the member for Cairns and all of our wonderful Far North Queensland members of parliament, including yourself, Mr Speaker, for hosting the people's house, the Queensland parliament, in Tropical North Queensland this week.

As members will know, this historic sitting of the Queensland parliament is the sixth of its kind and the second time that it has occurred in Cairns. What do all of these sittings have in common? I am very proud to say they have all occurred under Labor governments. Labor and the Palaszczuk government believe in our democratic system and there is no more important democratic institution than the Queensland parliament, a parliament which has been serving the people of Queensland for over 160 years.

During this week's sitting, Queenslanders in Far North Queensland will have the unique opportunity to come and see their House live in action and get up close and personal with their democratic system. They will see their government getting on with the job of delivering good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle for them. They will see legislation being introduced and debated that will support them directly and indirectly. Importantly, they will have the opportunity to watch the debate of historic legislation during this very historic sitting, as this week we will be debating the Path to Treaty Bill, a bill introduced by our Premier and one which will enable many positive next steps. Members will see that we have allocated the whole week for this important bill and I encourage all members to support this motion.

In addition to debating this legislation, the people of Far North Queensland will be able to witness question time, with an evening question time on Wednesday at 6 pm. I would encourage everyone who is available to fill the public gallery. We will also have legislation being introduced and the usual matters of public interest, private members' statements, the opposition motion—colloquially called 'the scream',

which I am sure anyone visiting will soon witness—and, of course, the adjournment statements. There will also be a motion moved to recognise the coronation of the King which I am sure that certain members, the member for Kawana of course, will be delighted to participate in.

There is so much more occurring this week outside of the chamber. Regional sittings allow members of parliament, in particular government members and ministers, the ability to engage firsthand with Queenslanders to hear the matters and issues that are important to them and hear their ideas. Throughout the week ministers and government members will be attending many events and hold many stakeholders meetings and I look forward to participating in those. I am also advised that over 2,600 school children and staff will be attending from all over Far North Queensland to witness their parliament in action and participate in the parliament's educational program. I did get to meet some of those yesterday, including some students from Weipa, and it was lovely to meet them. Welcome to all of the students in the gallery now.

I am sure all members will demonstrate what it means to be a parliamentarian during this sitting week and during the debate on this legislation. This is a significant sitting, not only for where we are but also the legislation that we are debating. I ask for the support of all members for this motion to recognise the significance of the week ahead. I commend the motion to the House.