



Speech By
Hon. Yvette D'Ath

MEMBER FOR REDCLIFFE

Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2023

MOTION

Business Program



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.16 am): I move—

1. That, in accordance with standing order 172, the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Records Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, as follows:
 - (a) second reading debate, with separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
 - (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
 - (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.
2. Notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders:
 - (a) the time limits and order for moving the second readings in 1. shall be: Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, 30 minutes; followed by the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts, 30 minutes; followed by the Leader of the Opposition or nominees, 30 minutes each bill; and
 - (b) the time limits and order for reply to the second readings debate in 1. shall be: Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, 20 minutes; followed by the Minister for Treaty, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Minister for Communities and Minister for the Arts, 20 minutes.
3. That the following business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum time as specified:
 - (a) the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill;
 - (b) the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Records Bill, cognate debate, maximum 3 hours and 30 minutes; and
 - (c) the Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, to be completed by 5.15 pm on Thursday, 30 November 2023.
4. The following time limits for the bills listed in 3. apply:
 - (a) the ministers to be called on in reply:
 - (i) for the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Records Bill, cognate debate—30 minutes before expiry of maximum time; and
 - (ii) for the Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, by 4.55 pm on Thursday, 30 November 2023.
5. If all stages of the bills listed in 3. have not been completed by the specified times in 4. respectively, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration;
 - (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's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. This year has certainly been a big year for all Queenslanders, and the parliament is no exception. The motion before us today outlines four bills which the House will consider: the Emblems of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which had

considerable debate last sitting and will finish today; the cognate debate of the Information Privacy and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Public Records Bill, which have been allocated a total of three hours and 30 minutes for debate; and the Victims of Crime Assistance and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which has been allocated the remainder of the week, until 5.15 pm on Thursday.

As we all know, during the last sitting week of any calendar year we conclude the week by all coming together in this chamber to reflect on the year's successes ahead of the Christmas period. As this is the last sitting week, I would like to reflect on the year that was. This House has sat for 37 days so far, and not all in this chamber. We have taken the parliament, the people's house, to the people of Far North Queensland in Cairns in what was an historic sitting. We saw a few bills introduced and an important piece of legislation debated and passed, the Path to Treaty Bill, which I know those opposite have now sadly walked away from.

I am advised by a brief look at the parliament website that during this year, excluding this week: 28 government bills have been introduced; five non-government bills have been introduced, with only one from the LNP for the entire term; 32 bills have been referred to committee; 604 questions have been asked during question time; 1,380 questions have been asked on notice; 457 important ministerial statements have been made; 200 private members' statements have been made; and there have been many more speeches.

I could spend a while listing off statistics, but I will not. We all know that a lot of work occurs in this chamber on behalf of the people of Queensland each sitting week, but it is equally important to acknowledge the work that occurs outside of this chamber, in particular when it comes to legislation and preparing for sitting weeks. I take this opportunity to thank the hardworking and dedicated public servants of the Queensland public sector for their work each and every day. While we regularly acknowledge the front line, we should equally acknowledge and thank those in the back offices—the policy officers, the legal officers, the drafters, everyone who is part of the policy generation cycle. It is these people the Palaszczuk government thanks for their work in assisting the government develop policy and draft legislation which ultimately is debated in this chamber on behalf of the people of Queensland.

On behalf of the government, I wish to thank Tony Keyes, the Parliamentary Counsel, and deputy parliamentary counsels Sandra Lawson, Katy Le Roy and Ian Larwill and their entire team for their dedication and work they do. Drafting legislation is not easy. The Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel takes the policy that executive government wishes to enact on behalf of the people of Queensland and drafts it into law. This is a highly technical skill—one which should not be underestimated. As the first law officer of this state and Leader of the House, I thank them on behalf of the people of Queensland for their service.

It would be remiss of me not to thank my own department, the mighty Department of Justice and Attorney-General, for their continued work each and every day, noting we are responsible for 213 pieces of legislation, and including our strategic policy and legal services, the legal policy powerhouse of the government.

In my role as Leader of the House, I would like to thank the staff of the cabinet office, in particular Linda for her work in coordinating the legislative agenda across government and managing the various departments before and during each sitting week.

Last, but not least, I want to thank Darren Cann for his knowledge and expertise of the procedures of this House and his support for myself in the role of Leader of the House. I even managed to last one week without him and parliament continued. It is a challenging job at times, and I know that the office of the Premier and my staff and I are very grateful.

As we all know, we are merely custodians of our seats for a period of time, but it is the people of this parliament who are generally still here when we leave. As such, I take this opportunity to thank the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, and his staff for their dedication and efforts this year and every year in ensuring the people's House works like clockwork. I particularly would like to thank them for their amazing efforts in supporting the regional sittings of parliament in Cairns—something I know firsthand is not an easy thing to do, but something that is truly enriching for Queenslanders.

I also acknowledge the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the panel of deputy speakers. While I note that we are still in November and the House is not sitting on Christmas Eve, like it was in 1909 when it adjourned at 9.15 pm on 24 December, I do wish to take this opportunity in the last debate on the business program motion as we head into the Christmas period to wish everyone who works in this building or is associated with this building a safe and happy Christmas period. With those words, I commend the business motion to the House.