



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

---

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2024

**MOTION**

**Business Program**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.17 am): Unlike the Leader of the House, I rise to address the business program motion. It is interesting: in the five-minute contribution of the new Leader of the House we had 3½ minutes of his inauguration speech. It really did sound like he was accepting the nomination for a presidential candidacy rather than addressing the business program motion. I would like to think that with a change in leader of the House there might have been a change in how we consider the business of the House.

**Mr Janetzki:** Was there? What has the change been?

**Mr POWELL:** There was a change, member for Toowoomba South. Was it for the better? No. I think the member for Noosa will agree with me that, in our time as representatives of the opposition and the crossbench on the Business Committee, that was the worst meeting that has ever been held. It pains me to say this, but I almost miss the member for Redcliffe as the leader of the House. At least when the member for Redcliffe was the leader of the House there could be some discussion around maybe a half-hour here or a half-hour there, but what we are reading in this motion is exactly as was put to the members of the Business Committee last night—no debate entered into and no consideration given.

No-one is going to dispute that the Summary Offences (Prevention of Knife Crime) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Bill are not important bills. No-one is going to dispute that. Members should have the opportunity to speak on those bills. However, when that is followed by the Integrity and Other legislation Amendment Bill then we know that the other side is trying to limit debate on one of the most important pieces of legislation this House will consider in this session. It is fair to say—I will not speak for the crossbench; I will let the member for Noosa do that—that the members of the opposition were lining up to speak on that piece of legislation. How long are we going to be allocated if we are lucky? Three hours—three hours to hear from 34 members of the opposition plus the crossbench. I doubt that we will even scratch the surface.

The Leader of the House talked about the contributions to the Business Committee last night. Well, there was very little contribution other than from himself to the Business Committee meeting last night. As I said, unlike the member for Redcliffe, there was no debate entered into. There was no discussion, consultation or engagement around what we are considering today. The Leader of the House said that the Premier is putting the people of Queensland first, but they are not letting the people of Queensland's representatives in this House have their say on important legislation.

Don't let it be lost—whilst I understand that this will come up later on when we debate permanent changes to the sessional orders—that the Leader of the House has just said that even this debate will become a thing of the past. We will no longer be able to challenge the business program put forward by the Leader of the House. It will literally just be moved and determined by a vote. Not only have we

had a progressive watering down of the ability of members in this chamber to contribute to debate on legislation that matters to their constituents—and it is not just the opposition and the crossbench who feel that; I imagine that members of the government also feel that they are being guillotined, that they are not having an opportunity to have their say on important pieces of legislation—but we are not even going to get to have a say on how long we get to have a say on those pieces of legislation.

**Ms Simpson:** Double gag!

**Mr POWELL:** I take that interjection from the member for Maroochydore: it is a double gag. We do not just have a single gag; now we have a double gag. Debate will be stifled and guillotined at the whim of the Leader of the House, of the new Premier and of this tired Labor government.

It is on that note that I want to conclude. It is when you start seeing activities like this that you realise the government has stopped listening to the people of Queensland. They no longer care. They are more interested in the survival of their own political livelihoods than caring about the people of Queensland. Those of us here in the opposition will continue to stand up for Queenslanders at every opportunity, albeit limited and fewer. We will speak up about the cost-of-living crisis, the youth crime crisis, the housing crisis and the health crisis. We on this side of the House are determined to ensure that Queenslanders know we will work harder for them because those opposite have certainly given up doing so.