




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2024

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.11 am): The opposition will be opposing this motion. I do not know if members or even the broader public are aware of what is being suggested here, but there is a longstanding rule in the standing orders of the Queensland parliament—and, indeed, in almost all parliaments that I have been able to research since notified of this potential change this morning—that anytime the same question is proposed it has to be considered by the Speaker, as the chair of this House, to determine whether it can be put.

Why are we in this position? Let us give the most recent example. I suspect that it is because last night the LNP moved a motion to establish a select committee to look at not only grocery prices but also electricity and all of the other living expenses that the state government has jurisdiction over. I know that the government want to move their own motion so they have to move a suspension of this standing order, but to suggest that then requires a full suspension of the standing orders for the remainder of this session shows that this government's arrogance has reached new levels. They have trashed their own integrity. They are trashing the integrity of this chamber. They do not want transparency. They do not want anyone to review the same question rule when it comes to legislation, motions or questions within the House. They do not want that kind of scrutiny.

It is not just scrutiny by the parliament. I point out that in Erskine May it says that decisions around the same question rule are finally a matter for the judgement of the chair. Mr Speaker, that is you. As we have seen in every single instance where the same question rule has arisen, that has required your consideration of the same question rule and a determination on a case-by-case basis as to whether that same question rule should be put aside. Do not get me wrong: many of the times when the government has come forward seeking a suspension of the standing orders on a case-by-case basis the opposition have supported it, but to suggest that we will agree to a blanket suspension of standing order 87 for the remainder of this session is disgraceful. Again I say that it is trashing integrity, trashing transparency and trashing accountability, and the LNP will not support it.