




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2024

**QUEENSLAND FOOD FARMERS' COMMISSIONER BILL; CROSS-BORDER
COMMISSIONER BILL; NIGHT-LIFE ECONOMY COMMISSIONER BILL**

Declared Urgent; Cognate Debate; Allocation of Time Limit Order

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.39 am): The LNP opposition will not be supporting this motion. However, Madam Deputy Speaker, please do not in any way interpret that as meaning that we do not support the explicit legislation that it applies to. We would have accepted urgency on these bills. What we cannot accept is that we will debate three bills in 40 minutes. That is ridiculous.

Let us go to the matter of urgency and look at the role of a cross-border commissioner. Suddenly this government has determined that this is a priority. Why? As we have known for this entire term, they only act if they get adverse press. What occurred in the past 24 to 48 hours? Adverse press in Goondiwindi!

Mr de BRENNI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise on a point of order in relation to the commentary of the manager of opposition business. He is going to the substance of the bill and not the substance of the urgency motion.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I am listening to the contribution. I am prepared to allow some latitude on the scope but I will ask that you come back to the actual motion, member.

Mr POWELL: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. On urgency, I know that the member for Southern Downs has been calling for this legislation for at least half a decade if not an entire decade. I know that during the COVID pandemic the member for Currumbin was raising the issue of the need for a cross-border commissioner. As to the Queensland Food Farmers' Commissioner, in his contribution on this debate the Leader of the House himself referred to the supermarket pricing inquiry, which finished three months ago. How many sittings have we had since then when they could have introduced this?

We have had this dumped on us and been given 24 hours to consider and 40 minutes to debate three important pieces of legislation. That is the part that the opposition cannot agree to. Those opposite have trashed parliament. They are treating it like a plaything. Enough is enough.