




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2024

MOTION

Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.20 pm): Just when you think this government cannot get any lower, it comes out with this motion that the Leader of the House has just moved. Over the last couple of months those opposite have tried to show that they are different from when they were under the Palaszczuk government. These people are no different whatsoever. In fact, in the words of the Manager of Opposition Business yesterday, they are worse. I should not give insight to some of our behind-the-scenes conversations, but I am going to this time and I hope that the Manager of Opposition Business does not mind, because he was quite encouraged yesterday when he had his first interaction with the Leader of the House. He said, 'I think things are going to be different. We've actually been given an early indication of what the bills might be.' He then went to the five o'clock meeting and he came back to the party room looking very downcast and he was sort of admonishing himself for being so silly for daring to hope that things would be different. He said, 'It's not the same. It's worse!'—it is worse—and that proved that the Leader of the House is not controlling anything.

At some stage during the day he got his orders that this is the way we are going to operate and, like a puppet, goes into that Business Committee meeting and does not have a discussion, as the Manager of Opposition Business has already said. He does not have a discussion but tells the non-government members what will be happening this week. The irony of that particular meeting I believe—of course we have seen the results of it—was that the government looked at the allocation of time for debate this week and allocated so many hours to the transport bill.

An opposition member: Summary offences and transport.

Mr MANDER: Yes, the summary offences bill is a very important one. The transport bill is an important one as well, but I would not call it top of the pops when the integrity bill is allocated a lousy two or three hours, or whatever it may be. It is the one that we are going to have the least debate on. I can understand how those opposite do not want any focus on integrity. I can understand that, because what has happened over the last couple of months with the new Miles government—which is the old government with a new name, because the previous government was the Palaszczuk-Miles government and now it is the Miles-Dick government—is that it is no different. It is trying to make out it is different, but it is no different. In fact, it is worse.

We want to talk about the very democratic principles of this House in that there should be open debate. Every single member should be able to speak on every single bill that enters this House, and if that means staying here until two o'clock in the morning then that is what you do. But, no, those opposite have truncated that debate and now they are truncating the debate about truncating the debate. That is what they are doing so we cannot have that anymore because they have decided that they are going to be generous and allow us not to debate bills. Those opposite might as well chuck out everything.

They might as well just have an hour debate on every bill. In fact, they may as well just have the minister speak and then vote. That is what should happen—have the minister speak and then vote because that would save time.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MANDER: Have I given them an idea? If it were not so serious it would be funny, but it is serious and to try to portray this as being something positive for the House is insulting to every member here, particularly the non-government members, because we have come here to debate those things that are important to Queenslanders, and I will tell members what the most important thing at the moment is—integrity. Can they trust the government? This motion shows once again that this government cannot be trusted, and that is why you have to show Labor the door in '24.