

*Motion Resumed*

**HON TJORN SIBMA (North Metropolitan)** [6.16 pm]: I am grateful for an opportunity to attend at last to the substantive motion. I will make a very quick contribution in the five minutes that I might have, if it is indeed five minutes. The ominous welcome movement of the President to the chair suggests that I should keep this quick. I will not revisit the remarks that I made extensively yesterday by way of the two motions, other than to say that if the government is to do this thing, do not do it in this way. There is an inflection point with every government. I have been an adviser; I have been an observer of political life, as many people in this chamber have been. I suggest that this is the moment in which the government has overreached in a way that breaks the accord with tradition, consensus and with the practices and traditions of this house. It is absolutely and completely unnecessary. If the government wants this urgent bills measure, there is a way to refine that process and to do so in a manner that achieves some kind of consensus. I cannot for the life of me appreciate why it is doing this, other than the fact that it can do it. I think that sums up the attitude of the McGowan government in this forty-first Parliament absolutely perfectly. If it can do something, it will do it.

We will speak tomorrow about the native forest industry. It was just told that the government wants to pack up the saw mills, because the McGowan government does not like it, and with no notice. I find that absolutely amazing but absolutely consistent with the practices that it establishes in this chamber. My learned friend Hon Peter Collier has often remarked that the seeds of a government's destruction are often sown by the way that it conducts itself in this chamber. This is the beginning of the end. Members opposite will laugh and be risible, but this is the beginning of the end for their government, because this is absolute peak arrogance. Unfortunately, they have placed me in a position in which I cannot endorse some of the very good recommendations in the majority report, because the government needs to have everything and everything now. That is completely appalling and it should not be tolerated. I am glad to speak against this motion.

**HON DONNA FARAGHER (East Metropolitan)** [6.19 pm]: President, I will obviously rise again when we come back tomorrow and will have some more substantive comments to make, but I indicate first off that around three months ago, the Leader of the House chose to refer to Hon Norman Moore to support her position that the review of the standing orders should be done in an urgent manner. That was just three months ago. If we go back to the speech that Hon Norman Moore made on 15 September 2009, he indeed did say the following —

... I really hope that we can regard this as being something that has a degree of urgency if we want this house to have a set of standing orders that delivers not just what the government wants, but indeed what the opposition wants and, even more important than that, what individual members want.

The Leader of the House was correct in saying that Hon Norman Moore did reflect on urgency. But he also said some other things in that same speech—things that conveniently were not included in the contribution made by the Leader of the House earlier this year. He said in part—I will probably have to read this again tomorrow —

Let me just say this: A review of the standing orders will work only if members go into this with an open mind. If a government member goes into this type of committee with the sole intention of maximising the government's advantage, it will be a waste of time. Similarly, it will be a waste of time if an opposition member goes into this with the intention of maximising the opposition's position. Members on both sides of the house must recognise the demands placed on both sides and recognise the opportunities that both sides require. We will then get reasonably balanced standing orders regarding what the government needs and what the opposition wants. I hope that members go into this committee with an open mind and will not seek to obtain an advantage for their current situation.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.