

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS**

*Extension of Reporting Time — Motion*

Resumed from 22 October on the following motion moved by Hon Tjorn Sibma —

That the reporting date for the committee inquiry into the government's Local Projects, Local Jobs program be extended from 19 November 2019 to 21 May 2020.

**HON TJORN SIBMA (North Metropolitan)** [11.31 am]: I will take this opportunity to continue remarks that I made on Tuesday. This concerns the humble request, on behalf of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations and the special inquiry into the Local Projects, Local Jobs program and the establishment of a parliamentary budget office, to seek an extension of time for the final report.

As I outlined to the house on Tuesday, effectively, the committee has been charged by the house to run two reasonably substantial inquiries, which are definitely related in the sense of transparency and accountability, but are two deep dives into two pretty detailed issues. To discharge those responsibilities appropriately, frankly, the committee needs more time to finish its work. As to the actual date, I draw members' attention to the fact that we will not sit in April next year. We come back for four weeks in February and March and then we are off for five weeks at the end of March and April, which, as a new member, I found quite odd, but there being an election in the year following, perhaps there is some other business to attend to. We took a prudent step as a committee to establish a date that we would not require a further extension beyond; I know that has the tendency to wear out one's welcome in the house, a fair degree of committee work is underway already and other committees have sought extensions for their responsibilities as well. To some degree, we are shamefacedly having to join that group, but, hopefully, will not have to extend it much before that. We humbly seek the house's concurrence with that request.

Question put and passed.