

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — PRECEDENCE OF PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

Motion

MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda — Leader of the House) [12.12 pm]: I move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable private members' business to have priority on Wednesday, 25 June 2014 between 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm.

This is a fairly modest change to the routine sitting hours of the house. It has the effect of reducing private members' time from three hours to two hours. It is often the practice at this stage in a period of sitting to enable greater progress to be made on legislation than would otherwise be the case. As I said, it is quite a modest change, and I do not think there should be any major debate about it.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [12.13 pm]: There will not be major debate, but there will be a contribution by the opposition. Clearly, the motion proposes to reduce private members' business by an hour. Although that may be seen as a modest change by the Leader of the House, the fact is that we will be breaking after this week for the winter break. With the cooperation of the opposition, we have also acceded to allow the member for Murray–Wellington in private members' business time this afternoon to second read his bill—namely, the Taking of Property on Just Terms Bill 2014. Although the Leader of the House may be of the view that it is a modest change, we take private members' business very seriously. Indeed, the amount of time allocated is three hours per week of a sitting week. Given that we will rise this Thursday and not convene again for some six weeks or so, I want to put on record that the two hours we get this afternoon will in fact not be a full two hours of opposition time because we have acceded to allow the member for Murray–Wellington to second read his bill. I hope it is not a long second reading. I would be disturbed if it went on for a long time, because we will not have a full two-hour session to debate two important matters, which include the member for Gosnells second reading a very important bill with regard to the Peel–Harvey estuary, and then a debate in this place on the cost of living for seniors and pensioners. During that debate, I hope that the Leader of the House's side of Parliament may perhaps refrain from taking up too much private members' business time on that motion, because a number of members of the opposition will be highlighting in this place the savage attack that this government has had on seniors in Western Australia. I can assure the Leader of the House that although there will be less than two hours in which to do that, a number of members of the opposition will be highlighting the savage attack on seniors in Western Australia.

Question put and passed.