

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS**

*Standing Orders Suspension — Motion*

**MR J.H.D. DAY (Kalamunda — Leader of the House)** [1.24 pm]: I move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended so far as is necessary to enable private members' business to have priority later today between 4.00 pm and 6.00 pm.

The reason for this motion is essentially to allow the house to sit later tonight past 7.00 pm and my expectation, as explained yesterday, is that there will be a break between 6.00 pm and 7.00 pm. Sitting tonight effectively replaces the time that we would have been sitting tomorrow. As I also explained yesterday, the intention is to commence sitting at 12 noon tomorrow to allow members who have requested to do so to attend Anzac Day commemorations at schools in their electorates. It will allow for more time for debate, in particular on the Taxation Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, for which I understand there are still a number of opposition speakers who wish to participate in the debate. The government has sought, and the opposition has given a commitment, that that will be passed by 4.00 pm tomorrow and I appreciate the agreement and commitment of the opposition in that respect.

One effect of this motion is that it will reduce the amount available for private members' time today from three hours down to two hours. That might not be welcomed by the opposition, but I believe it is a reasonable change in all the circumstances and, as I said, I appreciate the commitment given by the opposition to pass the bill I referred to by 4.00 pm tomorrow.

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah)** [1.26 pm]: First of all, I want to raise the issue of tomorrow morning. I think it is important to note that the attendance of a number of members from regional areas at school events occurring at their electorates in the regions is not able to be accommodated, so they are not able to be back in time for midday. That is something that I think needs to be considered and perhaps should have been considered in the lead-up to the scheduling of this week's Parliament. I am not sheeting home any blame to the Leader of the House on that, but we need to be mindful that regional members are not like metropolitan members who have the capacity to be back in Parliament by 12 noon for Parliament to resume.

Referring to the Taxation Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, yes, there is an intention to debate that bill, but of course the opposition can give no guarantee that the debate will be concluded by tomorrow. Certainly, the addition of the Wednesday evening scheduling will accommodate speakers, but as is very clear in this place, all members of Parliament have an opportunity speak on the bill, so we are not in a position to guarantee passage of that by 4.00 pm. We recognise the government's wish for that to occur, but no-one in this place can control the capacity of people to be able to speak, as is their right, in this place. Importantly, the motion we debated today has taken us to 1.30 pm and with a reduction in time for private members' business I need to remind the government that we cannot guarantee that the 4.00 pm deadline the Leader of the House alluded to earlier is necessarily achievable, because I understand that shortly another bill related to the finances of the state will be introduced in this house, which, as the government is well aware, the opposition wishes to pursue. With that, we do not oppose the motion moved by the Leader of the House, but I need to caution him with regard to any guarantee of times.

Question put and passed.