

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS, PRIORITY**

*Standing Orders Suspension*

**MR KOBELKE** (Nollamara - Leader of the House) [12.14 pm]: I move -

That so much of standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable private members' business to take precedence on Wednesday, 22 May from 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

I thank the Opposition, which I understand is generously willing to cooperate in this matter. It became standard practice during the term of the previous Government, and was continued by this Government last year, to conclude the second reading debate on the Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No 1) in a week and debate the detail during the Estimates Committees. That will provide time for supplementary answers before the third reading stage. That will enable the House to appropriately manage the Bill. However, it will put pressure on members to conclude their speeches in the second reading debate this week. The second reading stage enables members to discuss any matter. The Opposition will have an opportunity to speak during private members' business today, to debate a matter of public interest and to express their grievances on Thursday. The curtailment of private members' business to two hours will provide an opportunity to complete the second reading debate on the budget Bill. The Government appreciates the Opposition's cooperation on this matter. It should therefore not be necessary for the House to sit on Thursday night to conclude the second reading debate.

**MR JOHNSON** (Hillarys) [12.15 pm]: As always, we are a very generous and willing Opposition! We are more than happy to help the Government deal with the appropriation Bill efficiently. We will certainly conclude our speeches this week in the second reading debate. We look forward to debating the detail in the Estimates Committees next week.

Mr Barnett: I am sure Labor Party members will enjoy their speeches on Thursday night!

Mr JOHNSON: When a member opposite was interjecting incessantly yesterday I told him that he would have a chance to make his speech on Friday! It may be the Government's wish to be here on Friday, but it is not the Opposition's wish. We will certainly conclude our speeches expediently in cooperation with the Leader of the House and the Government. As opposition leader of the House, I am always very happy to cooperate whenever possible for the good conduct of business in this Chamber and I will continue to do so.