

TRANSPORT (ROAD PASSENGER SERVICES) BILL 2018
TRANSPORT (ROAD PASSENGER SERVICES) AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Standing Orders Suspension — Motion

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [11.03 am]: I move —

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as is necessary to allow the Transport (Road Passenger Services) Bill 2018 and the Transport (Road Passenger Services) Amendment Bill 2018 to proceed through all remaining stages without delay between the stages.

In moving that, I acknowledge and thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for her support and understanding with regard to the urgency of these bills reaching the other place. There is a requirement for these bills to be read into the other place before the closure of business of that house this afternoon; hence the endeavour is to ensure that we get these bills through this place by, at the latest, 4.30 this afternoon in order for them to be read into the upper house. I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for her understanding on this, and seek to get on with the taxi bills as soon as possible.

MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [11.04 am]: I will not labour the point, but I would like to put on the record the Liberal opposition's annoyance at the government's management of this legislation. The Transport (Road Passenger Services) Bill 2018 has 344 clauses. We could have debated it last week, except it was not listed. So we went home last Tuesday at 7.30 pm because we had nothing to debate, and we could have debated this legislation then had it been listed as government business. The government then said last week that we would be sitting late on Wednesday night, and we were prepared for that, but we did not sit late on Wednesday night. Also, we left slightly early last Thursday. We were told we would be sitting late on Wednesday—yesterday—but yesterday that motion was not moved so we went home. We could stay back for only one hour last night to debate this legislation. The opposition is now in a position in which the government is saying that it wants to get this legislation through by 4.30 pm today. We had agreement last night in that the leader of government business said that there would be a couple of committee reports that would take only 30 minutes, but they have taken longer than that. We feel that we have not been given sufficient opportunity to scrutinise this legislation, and we know that if we do not agree with the government in trying to get this through, the legislation will be delayed a further two weeks. That will then delay the opportunity for taxi plate owners to get access to their funds, which the government is hoping to achieve in January.

The opposition has agreed to get this legislation through, but in doing so we will not be able to scrutinise every one of those 344 clauses. We will have to miss big chunks of it. It needs to be noted that this legislation provides for a completely new regulatory system for the on-demand transport industry. There will be new enforcement powers, a levy on consumers and a buyback scheme for taxi plate owners, and that needs to be scrutinised appropriately. We are very annoyed—very annoyed—with this. One can only hope that our colleagues in the Legislative Council can scrutinise the clauses that we will not have sufficient time to scrutinise in the Assembly today.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [11.07 am] — in reply: Once again, I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. For clarification, I highlight that the bills would have to have been declared urgent last week, on Tuesday night, and that was made clear to the leader of opposition business—he is not here at this point. It was available for debate only from last Wednesday, and there was debate on the taxi bills late last week, as the member is aware. But I appreciate the support, and let us get on with the taxi bills.

Question put and passed.