

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Statement by Minister for Finance

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Finance) [8.02 pm]: Just as Mr Deputy President would be about to call on the next order of the day, the Local Government Amendment (Regional Subsidiaries) Bill 2010, it might help if I indicate my thoughts about how we might progress this evening, if the house is willing. If we spend adequate but not excessive time on the second reading debate on this bill, which, if it is successfully concluded and the second reading stage passed by, say, nine o'clock, I would then seek to move, as foreshadowed in discussions behind the Chair, that the bill be dealt with in another way. I will move a motion for it to be referred to a standing committee, if we get to that stage. The other benefit about dealing with that matter in that time frame or earlier is that we can proceed to other business. It would be my intention to call on the first order of the day, which is a disallowance motion, the question of which has to be resolved during today's sitting. We would like to spend at least 45 minutes or so debating that if we possibly can. Therefore, members might like to consider the length of their contributions to this bill. I do not suggest that people should constrain what they say, but perhaps we can keep an eye on the clock.

Hon Robin Chapple: I seek a clarification. If, as we propose, the bill is referred to a committee, do we need to deal with the second reading debate now rather than just refer the bill to the committee and deal with the second reading when it comes back from the committee?

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: It is my intention to move a motion to refer the bill to a committee after the second reading debate has concluded.

Hon Robin Chapple: Again by way of clarification, I would personally like, if the bill is to be referred to a committee, for the bill to go to the committee and, once it comes back from the committee, to be able to discuss the committee report in the terms of the second reading debate.

Hon Sue Ellery: That is what we agreed to.

Hon SIMON O'BRIEN: No, the intention was to have a second reading debate; that is what has been decided and accorded to.