

NON-GOVERNMENT BUSINESS — SCHEDULE

Motion

HON STEPHEN DAWSON (Mining and Pastoral — Minister for Mental Health) [1.06 pm] — without notice:
I move —

That pursuant to standing order 111(4), the schedule for non-government business tabled today by the President be adopted.

Hon Martin Aldridge: We haven't seen it.

The PRESIDENT: Just wait for them to be circulated—the papers that were tabled.

Hon Martin Aldridge: Normally it would be made an order of the day for the next day's sitting.

The PRESIDENT: We will just wait for the papers that were tabled to be circulated to members.

Deputy Leader of the House, while that is being circulated, I notice that you have other motions without notice.

Hon Stephen Dawson: I am not tempted to move them, President, given the reaction to the earlier one.

The PRESIDENT: There are other ones.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: Thanks, President. I move, without notice, that leave be given to Hon Samantha Rowe for eight sitting days due to urgent personal business.

Point of Order

Hon NICK GOIRAN: There is a question before the house at the moment; we cannot have a second question put at the same time.

The PRESIDENT: Quite correct; that is my error, for which I apologise to the house. I was trying to streamline the efficiency of the house, in my defence; it is not known for its efficiency at times. I will give members a few moments.

Debate Resumed

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I am sure the Deputy Leader of the House will make an explanatory statement.

Hon STEPHEN DAWSON: By way of explanation, yesterday we added an extra sitting week to the parliamentary schedule. The Daylight Saving Party is listed on the non-government list as the party that will get to deal with non-government business in that third sitting week. The reason for that is that when the estimates week was declared a number of months ago, a commitment was given to Hon Wilson Tucker, who was due for his non-government business time in that estimates week and was therefore not able to do it then, that should Parliament sit an extra week, the honourable member would get an opportunity to deliver non-government business during the extra week.

HON DR STEVE THOMAS (South West — Leader of the Opposition) [1.09 pm]: I would like to relay the discussions that we had behind the chair on this matter. I understand that, yes, in an attempt to give Hon Wilson Tucker his non-government business time, a deal was struck with the government. The opposition is comfortable with that. Obviously, we would suggest that if business is dragging, perhaps the government might consider forgoing private members' business in the final week. I am not sure that will be necessary, but I guess that will be a decision for the government in the fullness of time. My understanding is that it is likely that the government will not have motions on notice in the final week, given that the apportionment of motions on notice has very much reflected the composition of the Legislative Council. Therefore, to give a single group, from whichever side, an additional motion on notice would unbalance that. Assuming that is the case—I am sure the clerks can advise—that would seem to be a reasonable outcome, from the opposition's perspective. We are comfortable with giving Hon Wilson Tucker that opportunity, and I will be very interested to see what motion he comes up with. But I suggest to the government that if we are dragging legislation out, it might be a good opportunity to forgo private members' business in the final sitting week.

Question put and passed.