

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — SITTING HOURS

Standing Orders Suspension — Motion

HON SUE ELLERY (South Metropolitan — Leader of the House) [2.05 pm] — without notice: I move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended to enable the Council to sit beyond 9.45 pm on this day's sitting and to take members' statements at a time ordered by the house.

By way of explanation, it is most unlikely that we are going to need to do that at all, but I have moved the motion out of an abundance of caution. There has been discussion behind the chair about how we might deal with a bill that is coming to us from the Legislative Assembly. I appreciate the spirit within which those discussions behind the chair have been conducted. As I say, it is highly unlikely that we are going to need to sit late, but, out of an abundance of caution, I think this is always a sensible thing to do.

HON DR STEVE THOMAS (South West — Leader of the Opposition) [2.06 pm]: I can confirm the conversations that have occurred behind the chair. The opposition has been briefed on a piece of urgent legislation that will arrive. Obviously, there are always concerns when something arrives so quickly, but we will go into the circumstances that the government has outlined when the bill gets here. It is the commitment of the opposition that we will give this bill a moderate and relatively quick passage. We have fully committed to make sure that it is done in a timely manner today. I also agree that it is highly unlikely that we will need to sit late for the express purpose of dealing with this bill.

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.