



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

2 June 2009

“Carbon debate” a done deal in the dark!!

Government and Opposition agree to rush debate

Possibly one of the most important debates that the Australian Parliament will ever have is to be effectively done in the dark following an amazing piece of “bipartisanship” between the Government and Opposition when they agreed to debate the “Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme” Bills through the night but at the same time try to limit members of Parliament to half their normal speaking time.

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor is dismayed that both the Government and the Opposition have taken this course of action given the importance and impact that the Bills will have both on the environment and the economy and he interjected his concern.

The Leader of Government Business, Anthony Albanese justified cutting the times MPs could speak from twenty minutes to ten minutes on the basis that the staff of the Parliament would have to stay awake all of Wednesday night.

And for the Leader of Opposition Business, Christopher Pyne to suggest that an MP speaking on this critical issue to the globe's future as “delaying the House” is quite incredible.

“With all the trivial political point scoring that takes place in the House, on top of the farce last week in Question Time and we now have a deal done between both sides to keep most of the discussions away from the cold light of day and presumably the media.

“This is one piece of legislation that should not be rushed.

“Australia’s representatives should all be able to make a contribution, not a half baked arrangement in the dark.

“It is almost as though both sides are embarrassed about the legislation for very different reasons so it becomes convenient to rush it through the House of Representatives and hide.

“It is similar to John Howard going to war in Iraq before the debate by the people’s house was even concluded,” Mr Windsor said.