



**Senator Stephen Parry**  
Chief Opposition Whip in the Senate  
Manager of Opposition Business in the Senate  
Liberal, Tasmania

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**Thursday February 25, 2010**

### **Conroy blames Coalition for his own mess**

The Labor Government's mismanagement of its own legislative agenda was again put on display in the Senate today, the Manager of Opposition Business, Senator Stephen Parry, said.

"For reasons apparent to no one but himself, Communications Minister Stephen Conroy tried, without warning, to bring on a bill for less than 15 minutes of debate," Senator Parry said.

"When the Coalition refused to rearrange the previously agreed business of the day Senator Conroy suggested we had 'filibustered' on other legislation.

"In fact, an hour and 15 minutes was allotted, and the debate finished 15 minutes early, with every speaker – bar possibly one – using less than their allowed time.

"In November last year, Senator Conroy could have brought on the bill he wanted to debate today, but instead he was on a week-long trip to Egypt.

"Now, all of a sudden, on the last sitting day of a week, he wanted to bring it on for 15 minutes – and for what? To blame the Coalition for his chaotic approach to managing his portfolio?"

Senator Parry said Senator Conroy's silly games were further evidence of Labor's failure to manage its own legislative agenda.

"We have warned the Labor Government time and time again to allow more sitting weeks in the schedule," he said.

"But, no, the entire sitting schedule is worked around Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's extensive overseas travel itineraries, which does not leave sufficient time to debate legislation.

"It's just not good enough."

**Ends**

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