



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**LNP Opposition**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.34 pm): This week we have seen the hypocrisy and chaos of the LNP on display for all of Queensland to see. Last night and today they have been calling for interstate borders to open now. Their own plan and road map—which I will table—calls for borders to open mid-July.

*Tabled paper.* Document, undated, titled 'LNP's Roadmap to recovery' [964](#).

Clearly they did not hear about the 21 cases in Victoria two days ago or the 18 confirmed cases yesterday. Victoria has community transmission. The LNP would place all Queenslanders at serious risk with their short-term thinking. Do they really care about the health of Queenslanders? I remind those on the other side of the chamber that this is a global pandemic. Borders are closed across the world for very good reason.

This week has been another display of a desperate LNP searching for relevance, stuck in the weeds and pretending to care about people. In Queensland we would not have had the outstanding health response to COVID-19 if our Labor government had not restored the thousands of health jobs that the LNP shamefully cut during their time in government. Some 4,400 health workers were sacked under the LNP. We restored those jobs. That is what a Labor government does. The LNP does this because they are ideologically hardwired to cut, sack and sell.

This week we have seen the actions of the member for Broadwater—perhaps better known as the shark from Broadwater. He travelled up the Queensland coast with the *Jaws* theme music pumping away—da-dum da-dum da-dum—off to take a bite at the LNP leadership, throwing out the burley to get some followers, not the member for Burleigh, but he failed to sink his teeth into getting the numbers. No doubt the backroom bullyboys of the LNP-Palmer alliance threw the cast net wide in an attempt to get the artful dodger, the shark of Broadwater, that coveted leadership role.

The member has a history of taking out fellow MPs with his insatiable desire to be leader. This time he failed to get a hook-up. We all remember the former member for Broadwater, Verity Barton—another victim of this member who was taken from the Broadwater. This time all the member did was manage to drag all the rubbish of the LNP up onto the shore, leaving it there, flapping around in the hot sand, gasping for air.

I warn the opposition leader to not feel safe. She has held off the challenger once, but we all know he will not give up. I have little doubt the numbers are still being counted. How can the LNP in this state be taken seriously when they have their own paid staff working for Clive Palmer? It took Peter Dutton, the federal minister, to announce today that the LNP state president has resigned his employ of the real man seemingly running the LNP, Clive Palmer. Other people remain on the Clive Palmer payroll. How can the LNP ever govern Queensland when they cannot govern themselves?