



Speech By  
**Charis Mullen**


**MEMBER FOR JORDAN**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 May 2020

**WORKING WITH CHILDREN LEGISLATION (INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES)  
AMENDMENT BILL**

**Jordan Electorate, Coronavirus**

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.21 pm): I wish to begin by thanking the people of the Jordan electorate who have shown such incredible resilience and strength in the face of COVID-19. This pandemic has had an incredible impact on so many in our community. Like many members in this House, over the last few months my office and I have dealt with the full gamut of issues as we have and continue to provide individual support to our community members and particularly our local businesses. I am very proud of how our locals have particularly responded to the health advice. This was the most important contribution that our Jordan community could make—to keep themselves, their families and our communities safe and well. I believe this has been reflected in the relatively low numbers of COVID-19 cases we have seen in the Ipswich and Logan regions. It is also a reflection of the amazing preparation and work being undertaken by our health and hospital services and I wish to acknowledge the work of West Moreton Health and Metro South Health and all of the incredibly dedicated frontline health staff who have been absolutely outstanding in all of this.

As we now begin a gradual easing of restrictions, it is important that we reward the efforts of our community by ensuring that we continue to support those individuals, families and businesses who need ongoing financial assistance. I do wish to thank our local community services that have been absolutely phenomenal. It is our community centres and service providers that are truly the backbone to our immediate recovery. Whether it is with food hampers, emergency funds or financial counselling, I cannot thank them enough for all they are doing to support our most vulnerable people and those who have now found themselves facing difficult times. I will continue to be a champion and a support for those organisations. They are a true measure of what our community can and should be, and I could not be prouder and more appreciative of their work.

For many of our local businesses, times continue to be tough and I have worked closely with a number of businesses to offer advice and support. Commercial lease arrangements continue to be a big issue for many businesses in the Jordan electorate, and I am pleased that our government is establishing the Small Business Commissioner who will deal with such leasing disputes. The Small Business Adaption Grants announced today are also a wonderful way to support local businesses to get back on their feet.

Importantly for the Jordan electorate, we need to push forward in our economic recovery with key infrastructure projects that will not only create jobs but provide certainty for when life resumes to something closely resembling normal. Last week I announced that our \$44.5 million Springfield Central park-and-ride is on track and we are looking for contractors to build this important project which not only will deliver around 1,100 car parks in the station precinct but also will create 44 jobs for our economy.

Today there is even better news that the Centenary Highway-Logan Motorway interchange will be upgraded with \$15 million in funding that will create 15 jobs. This has already been very warmly welcomed in the Jordan electorate—as was the announcement of \$37.5 million for a jointly funded

upgrade to extend the four-lane section of the Mount Lindesay Highway from Stoney Camp Road to Chambers Flat Road, supporting 80 jobs, as Queensland and our local communities continue their economic recovery from coronavirus.