



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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Record of Proceedings, 18 June 2020

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Sunshine Coast, Infrastructure; Coronavirus, Bancroft Electorate**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.36 pm): During the last couple of adjournment debates I have been incredibly fortunate to speak after a member from the Sunshine Coast. That allows me to outline some of the things we have delivered for the Sunshine Coast: \$236 million in schools over the last five years—an incredible amount of money. There was Chancellor State College and Brightwater State School—all these schools in the member for Buderim's area. I point out that at Coolumb and Nambour there are new stations and there are new facilities at Mooloolaba. There are more police than ever before. As I said, what luck I have to follow Sunshine Coast members.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Buderim will cease his interjections.

**Mr WHITING:** On the issue of COVID-19, in my area the locals are very appreciative of the achievements and the effort of the Palaszczuk government. It is very clear that they see we do have a plan, the Unite and Recover Plan, and that we are following it. When I talk to ordinary working Queenslanders in my area it is very clear that they have a pretty good picture of what is actually happening. I talk to Denise Daniels from Deception Bay. She is active in her faith communities in the area. She said to me, 'Lives are more important than money could ever be.' I talked to Bob Battaglione from Mango Hill. I think he had been exposed to chemicals during his working life. He said, 'We mightn't be as rich, but if you haven't got your health you aren't much chop.' That I think sums up why we are doing what we are doing here in Queensland.

Working Queenslanders have a very good grasp of who is looking after them during this time. They know that they are the ones at risk. They are the ones in retail, the ones doing the contract cleaning whether or not it is late at night and the ones looking after the kids in child care. They know that they do not have an option to stop working. They know that they do not have holiday homes to isolate in. These working Queenslanders know that there could be long-term health impacts from COVID-19. They know that people are taking a long time to recover and some may never fully recover. Working Queenslanders know what a second wave could cost in terms of their jobs and their community.

It is very clear that working people are very thankful to the Palaszczuk government. Denise wanted me to give my thanks to the Premier and also the Chief Health Officer. What they are saying to me is, 'Tell the Premier not to give in to this pressure to open the borders. Do it when we're all safe,' when working Queenslanders are safe. They are very appreciative of the plan to make Queenslanders safe.

*(Time expired)*