



Speech By  
**Christopher Whiting**


**MEMBER FOR BANCROFT**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2020

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Coronavirus, Economic Recovery; Queensland Border Closure**

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.39 pm): I rise to congratulate the Premier and the Treasurer for the economic recovery plan that they have delivered for Queensland. Through this plan we are protecting our health, creating jobs and working together. As we have fought this pandemic we have responded with a \$7 billion package to support businesses, workers and families. I am particularly proud that we have supported 334,000 Queenslanders in work in terms of helping businesses keep them in jobs through small business grants, which have been very popular, \$950 million in payroll tax relief and almost \$1 billion in loans to 7,000 Queensland businesses.

I also want to congratulate the Premier for standing up to the bullies of the LNP. This morning she said that she would not be bullied by the Prime Minister. As Queenslanders can see, she is standing up to the bullies as they try to prise open Queensland's borders—people at the federal level like ministers Hunt, Birmingham and Dutton and the Premier of New South Wales, who keeps thinking that strong borders equals loopy politics. It is very clear that they are launching coordinated attacks that are aimed at opening our borders. They are not doing it to South Australia or to Tasmania. They are doing it to us and that is despicable.

We know that the Queensland LNP wants to throw open the borders, but what Queenslanders find particularly disgraceful is that those opposite are getting others to do their dirty work for them. I say to the LNP: Queenslanders do not support your hopes to see the borders thrown open. Queenslanders do not respect that you are getting others to do your work for you—Queenslanders do not respect that—and the fact that you will not put your name to it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr WHITING:** As the Premier said this morning, and I say this to the LNP: the people will see through you. I say to Queenslanders that we will not be swayed. We will not be intimidated. We will keep Queenslanders safe through strong borders. As I was told early in the pandemic by a constituent, 'If you haven't got your health, you ain't much chop.' We cannot have an economic recovery if we do not have a health recovery. We on this side stand for health and we stand for jobs, and we know that a strong border means a strong economy.