




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 5 February 2020

MOTION

Coronavirus

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (11.29 am): I, too, rise to address the motion. In doing so, I start, as the member for Glass House did, by clearly and squarely saying that this is indeed a global health emergency. First and foremost, we must address our comments in that prism. First and foremost, we must acknowledge that there are families who have lost loved ones. There has been a great degree of uncertainty and social unrest, and all of our comments should be viewed in that prism.

It is essential though that, as a state that relies so heavily on particularly tourism, we have to reflect on the importance of the Chinese tourism market to our economy and indeed the importance of tourism as a whole. It is there that I will make my contribution on the minister's paragraph (f)—that is, the impacts on tourism.

Contrary to the member for South Brisbane who stood up and, in a very loud and animated fashion that was missing yesterday, said that we will stay quiet on this, I am not staying quiet on this. I want Canberra to come forth and assist us. The mechanism by which that happens is a matter for Canberra. Of course we want to see assistance, but do you know what I want to see right now, Madam Deputy Speaker? I want to see something for those industries and those operators who are on their knees.

Today there is a round table here in Brisbane, and that is an excellent initiative if it delivers something other than a political punch-on. If it is used as nothing more than a stalking horse to start this ridiculous notion that the only way that Canberra can fund something is through disaster recovery and the only way the state can give some form of contribution is if it comes through Canberra, all it will see are businesses going to the wall. There are operators at the moment in places like the Gold Coast and in the far north, and in centres in between, who are holding on by their fingertips. There are people who work for those businesses who rely on that casual shift to put food on the table for their families and they are holding on by their fingertips. They do not want a debate today about whether or not disaster funding has to be triggered or whether or not some sort of political games will unfold. They want support.

Oppositions always get accused of not putting forward positive solutions. Madam Deputy Speaker, let me give you three that could happen today. If these three happen today, you would have businesses staying alive and you would have towns with faith. Then we can argue with Canberra about how much they pay. No. 1: how about looking at a way that we can ensure that the airlines that currently fly into those centres continue to do so and indeed looking for new opportunities from markets not impacted by coronavirus to come into these markets and fill the void? No. 2: what about fee relief for those operators who have to pay their taxes? It might free up a few bucks to keep a casual employee on. No. 3: what about destination-specific marketing immediately to allow these regions to promote their point of difference in real money and strong money so that each of these industries can go forth? Yesterday the CEO of Destination Gold Coast was brave when she called out the pittance that was coming from this place. I commend the views of Annaliese Battista in doing so and indeed people like Mark Olsen in the Far North who are standing up to be counted in their hour of need.

How much does this mean for tourism places? In Cairns—and I see the member for Cairns will be making a contribution and I look forward to it—\$10 million has been lost already for that community. They were already knocking on death's door. They were already saying they were the worst conditions since the pilots' strike. Businesses were holding on by their fingertips, and this will compound it. Today is not a day for arguing with Canberra about how this funding occurs. We need to fight really hard to get it, but in the meantime this parliament must deliver something in the hour of need for Queensland tourism.

(Time expired)