



Speech By  
**Hon. Grace Grace**


**MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 July 2020

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Crime and Corruption Commission, Report; Coronavirus, Queensland Border Closure**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.33 pm): In response to the member for Kawana, we have made substantial announcements in regard to new schools, education, what we are doing out there, our unite and recover plan for Queensland, air conditioning, solar panels, extra teachers, extra teacher aides, extra cleaning in schools due to COVID-19 and a remarkable return to school by our students here in Queensland that led the nation. What do we get from those opposite? Nothing but throwing mud, muckraking and using the CCC as their political plaything. The CCC is not the political plaything of the member for Kawana. The CCC report is a public report—anybody can get it—yet to fill in time the member for Kawana needs to read it into *Hansard*.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Minister, resume your seat. Member for Nicklin, you have been interjecting repeatedly and I have asked you to stop. You are on a warning.

**Ms GRACE:** This absolutely reeks of desperation. It was part of the thinking of those opposite this morning in question time that if they shouted loud enough they would get themselves into government. I tell the House that they are not fit for government. All we hear from them is whingeing, whining, complaining, muckraking, throwing mud and using words like 'dodgy', as the member for Mermaid Beach did. Those opposite think that yelling out these words is going to win them government. I inform them that it will take more than that to win government and to be fit for government.

We see in this place time and time again that those opposite are not fit to occupy this side of the House. At the last sittings the Leader of the Opposition and all members opposite called for the opening of the borders. Haven't they got egg on their faces now! When we talk about it now their heads go down. No-one is talking about border opening anymore. Our COVID-19 plan always had 10 July as the date for the opening of borders and said that the decision would be made at the end of the month. That is exactly what the Premier did. Thank God for our Premier. She has steered Queensland and has kept it safe—in spite of all of the harassment that went on during the last sitting by those opposite about 'opening the borders right now!' Even the motion was about opening the borders. It was relentless.

Look at those opposite now. I tell them all: the humble pie is in the oven and I will deliver it for them to eat. The Premier of New South Wales also needs to have a big slice. As soon as New South Wales was threatened, the first thing she did was to close the borders. Isn't it interesting? There was not a peep from those opposite. I have not heard a peep from them about opening the borders to international travellers. Has anyone in here heard members opposite talk about the economic disadvantage due to international travel restrictions? Have they been putting the hard word on the federal government to open up international travel? I have not heard one thing about it. Have members heard those opposite ask about the national debt due to COVID-19 and the expenditure of the federal government? We have not heard about it.

Opposition members come into this House and talk about economic pain due to COVID-19, but they act as if COVID-19 has not happened in this state. It is absolutely extraordinary to hear them. The Premier and this government, with a nice and steady hand, have been putting Queensland first at every opportunity—not playing politics. All those opposite do is play politics. It is going to come back to bite them, because they have no plans and no policy. We hear nothing but whingeing and whining from those opposite.

Even Karl Stefanovic from *Today* had the good sense to apologise to the Premier. He did the right thing and gave her a bunch of flowers or whatever. I have not heard any apologies from those opposite for the manner in which this government has handled COVID-19—not one. They should be apologising to the Premier because she has done an amazing job, together with government members. What do we hear from them? They say, 'We are going to do this about phonics teaching.' We have the Autism Hub and Reading Centre. It is desperate stuff, dusting off Campbell Newman policy and pretending it is new.

*(Time expired)*