




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2020

MOTION

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.00 pm): Here we go again: the Premier is using this parliament as a little political plaything with no notice of the motion given. I think the motion has only just been emailed which I saw on my phone as I jumped to my feet. We had the business program motion—

Mr Bailey: That is how parliament works.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Minister for Main Roads. I know this is a parliament; I have actually been here a bit longer than him. I will tell honourable members what this is. It is an arrogant parliament led by an arrogant government led by incompetent ministers. That is what we have here: an arrogant government and an arrogant parliament led by this arrogant Premier and this arrogant Treasurer.

They might talk all they wish about the little announcement today, but where have they been? Earlier this year coronavirus—COVID-19—was declared a public emergency. Where has the money for businesses been? Where have the \$10,000 grants been which they increased today? There was an oversubscription weeks ago, not today. That was weeks ago. What about the other business grants they gave? They had to provide more money for the business grants but then told businesses it had been oversubscribed in the first round and they should not worry about reapplying because the additional \$500 million had already been allocated. False hope! That is what this government has given to businesses: false hope. They think they are going to win this election by going around and dropping \$10 million here and \$15 million there.

The arts community, which is included in the motion, were devastated the minute the government shut them down months ago, not today. The government should have started this economic recovery then. This has always been a health and an economic issue, not just a health issue. As we know with the Labor Party, they are always late to the party as far as business goes. We only have to look at the CCIQ website to see where it rates current members of parliament in terms of their support for small business.

The Labor small business minister, who sits on that side of the House, is 'Ms 33 Per Cent'. The chief body for small business says that the Labor minister responsible for the portfolio of small business supported small business on only 33 per cent of occasions. I suspect that the new Treasurer—he has been very quiet lately, I might add, although he was very out of the blocks for a couple of weeks saying, 'Look at me, look at me,'—is probably sitting on 33 per cent as well. Labor do not support small business. Everything they announce or debate should be looked at through the prism of 31 October—nothing more, nothing less. The best thing for Queenslanders to do to recover after this crisis is to elect an LNP government.