




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2020

MOTION

Coronavirus, JobKeeper

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.03 pm): I rise to support the motion put forward by the Treasurer. COVID ripped through all of our communities and businesses and we are a long way from recovery. Communities like mine up and down the Queensland coast are relying on the Queensland Palaszczuk government's unite and recover packages and plans. They are also calling on federal government support to get us all post COVID in reasonable economic shape.

Yesterday, the Mackay *Daily Mercury* reported on data from the Australian Treasury and ATO that reflected on the cessation of JobKeeper and the effect that would have on the 4740 postcode. This includes the electorate of Mackay and surrounding suburbs. The eye-watering data shows that 6,426 locals may be forced into unemployment; up to 1,691 businesses may be forced to close; and a staggering \$9,638,700 could be lost from the local economy each fortnight.

In my region, locals want to be in work. We want our businesses to open up, stay open and survive and thrive. Like all other Queenslanders, locals in my region want to have the dignity of supporting themselves and contributing to their community through work. I have spoken to many businesses in my community, and they are relying on JobKeeper to keep their doors open and their well-trained staff employed. To source new staff once they get back up and running will be an additional financial burden on their business. Staff who are trained and understand the business are a value to any business.

Darren Smith, general manager of the Magpies Sporting Club in Mackay, supports many affiliated junior and senior teams across various sports. He manages their events, bistro and restaurants. The club supports 66 staff to run club facilities. This equates to 66 local families in work, including mums, dads, young people with their first start in life and retired people. They are working as cleaners, waitstaff, cooks, security, front desk and all the jobs that keep their club functioning. The club opened when there were only 10 patrons. They were losing money, but they know how important the emotional networking their club provides is. They have continued to keep their club in operation. They have lost over \$1 million because of COVID. The club is relying on \$48,000 each week in JobKeeper payments to support their staff, and this supports all of those individuals.

Scott and Casey Cronin, owners of Fiesta Rentals, a party hire equipment service in Mackay, rely on JobKeeper to keep their three staff going. They lost their casuals. They need to keep their staff because, when it comes to putting up marquees, they want to make sure they stay up. They need to make sure that these payments stay in place—

(Time expired)