



Speech By
Linus Power

MEMBER FOR LOGAN

Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2020

MOTION

Queensland Border Closure

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.16 pm): It seems like the opposition is setting up something of a false equation. They somehow think that if you remove all restrictions then you can increase business with no danger, but we know that in 18 states of the United States the number of cases is going up again. We know that if we are not careful, if we are not judicious and cautious, we will see a second wave. The health minister this morning spoke about the dangers of this and how we must be ever vigilant. The Bolsonaros and the Trumps over there would open us up in a way that is so dangerous that ultimately they would damage the very businesses they pretend and claim to support. They say this could happen 'if' but would take all care and no responsibility.

The Leader of the Opposition taunted us and said in plaintive tones, 'Listen to Queenslanders.' There are no greater Queenslanders than those who read the *Jimboomba Times*. They had a poll. They asked readers of the *Jimboomba Times* if they wanted the border open. Sue said, 'No, no, no.' Andrew said, 'I am happy with the closed borders but allow Queenslanders to travel within the state.' We have done that. We have been able to do that because it is safe. Jean said, 'No, don't open borders until all states have zero cases. My husband and I are both type 1 diabetics'. Marj said, 'I think we should be able to move about Queensland first,' and we have been able to do that.

Debbie said, 'Keep the borders closed for now but open up travel within the state.' Shelley said, 'Keep it shut until the southern states are not getting any cases.' Jo said, '... Nooooo'—there is a bad word there which I will not repeat. Donna said, 'No.' Dianne said, 'No!!!' Glenny said, 'No!' Toni said, 'No.' Sandil said, 'Yes,' but I do know that Sandil is a branch member of the LNP. John said, 'No.' Deb said, 'No.' Tammy said, 'No.' Michelle said, 'No.' Anne said, 'No.' Jan said, 'Nope.' Linda said 'No.' Adrianna said, 'No.' Mick said, 'Yes.' There is finally a yes. I do not know Mick. Jayne said, 'Not until every state has no new cases for 28 days'. Jenny said, 'Keep the interstate borders closed'. Finally, Bernie says, 'Keep them shut!' JT says, 'Keep them shut but lift restriction in Queensland.' Wendy says, 'Big flat no'. I have another one which I cannot find but it says, 'No, let's secede now. We're better than the other states.'

I want to clearly state that I oppose secession. I think it is very important, but I want the opening to happen in a way that is safe. I want it to be in a way that backs business because we do not want to see a second wave. I want it to be in a way that backs Queenslanders.

One of the things I do not want to see is us bullied into changing our policy. We will not be bullied. We will not be bullied by those who have the interests of Victoria and New South Wales first and Queensland last. We will not be bullied by the Premier of New South Wales, we will not be bullied by the Prime Minister, who is also representing New South Wales in this case, and we will not be bullied by that person who represents the southern states first and Queensland last—that is, the Leader of the Opposition. We know what she is about. It is really important that we do not get bullied by those on the other side who are New South Wales first and Queensland last. We need to keep our state safe.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr POWER: As I said, we know that there are 18 states in the United States where cases are increasing. We know that this infection does not just happen a single time and that if you are not careful—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth, you are warned under the standing orders. I have just asked people to come to order and you have continued interjecting.

Mr POWER: We know that Queenslanders have done an extraordinarily great job. They have listened to advice. They have trusted. We know that in the future we are not immune. We saw that a single case at a party in Noosa spread to I think 35 cases. We saw the same with a wedding, and you guys know very much about the wedding.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Logan, you will put your comments through the chair and you will address people by their correct parliamentary titles.

Mr POWER: The Leader of the Opposition knows about the wedding in New South Wales because there were so many LNP people there. That wedding created 28 cases. We know this can spread very quickly. We have to represent the interests of Queenslanders and keep Queenslanders safe.