




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2020

MOTION

Queensland Border Closure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.47 pm): They call this debate ‘the six o’clock scream’—

An honourable member: It’s five o’clock actually.

Mr BAILEY: Alright. There you go.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members!

Mr BAILEY: Some 446,000 deaths—that is what we have worldwide from this virus. Anybody who wants to underplay the threat that represents is being highly irresponsible. Some 446,000 deaths is nearly half the population of Brisbane—dead. This is a very serious matter. This state has been the best performing state in the nation and Australia has been one of the best performing nations in the world—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Those opposite yell and scream across the chamber, but what they are in this debate is petty, petulant, nit-picking, pedestrian and absolutely partisan on this—

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Currumbin, you are on a warning.

Mr BAILEY: Not once in the last two months when it became clear that Queensland has smashed the curve and been one of the best performing states has the opposition said—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr BAILEY: The leadership of the Premier and the health minister has been outstanding. Not once has that been acknowledged by any member of the opposition—not once. They can yell—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Pause the clock. Member for Southport, you will need to be in a seat if you want to engage in the debate. Members for Gregory and Theodore, I am placing you both on a warning; you have continued to interject when I have asked you not to.

Mr BAILEY: Not once have those opposite had the generosity or accuracy to acknowledge the leadership of the Premier and the health minister in what has been the greatest health crisis this state has faced in 100 years—not once. When it comes to performance, the leadership has been outstanding and we will not risk the lives of Queenslanders by listening to those opposite with their petulant motions and their short-sightedness.

The Premier has always said that this is a dynamic situation, and it has been. It has been constantly evolving and we have been very up-front in saying that this will change and move as we negotiate our way through it. If this was a citizenship education assignment, it would be an abject fail from the opposition. For it to point out that she said this then and they said this then is just so pathetically petty when we are dealing with a global pandemic and the threat to Queenslanders. It is hard to understand how myopic this motion is. It is absolutely tiny.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you can leave the chamber for an hour. You have been warned.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 5.51 pm.

Mr BAILEY: A second wave is what we need to avoid. A second wave will do the greatest economic damage to this state. That is what has happened in Beijing in that it has had to restrict the city again after a very strong performance. The risk is there for us. The risk is there for everybody. Is it just Queensland? If one listened to the opposition, one would think that it was just Queensland holding out.

Let us look at the other states and territories. South Australia with a Liberal Premier and Tasmania with a Liberal Premier—smarter Liberals than those on the opposite side in Queensland, that is for sure—Western Australia and the Northern Territory with Liberal and Labor premiers are all united with Queensland. We do not want to deal with New South Wales and Victoria inadvertently spreading the virus in our state. That is what leadership is. Those opposite should pull on the Blues jersey or the Victorian jersey and come out and be honest about it, because they are not barracking for Queensland and they are not thinking about Queenslanders' health.

Other states are in lock step with Queensland that until community transmission gets under control in Victoria and New South Wales we do not want that inadvertently coming to Queensland and shutting us down again. That is the worst economic outcome we could come up with. That is the irresponsible policy of those opposite. There is no leadership from those on the other side. It is short-term thinking. They are happy to put profit before people, and that is a shameful situation. They are condemning a Premier who has delivered the best health outcome of any state in this country. That is what is in this motion. It is absolutely shameful.

The member for Burleigh says that there is no-one in Port Douglas. There is virtually nobody travelling worldwide at the moment because there is a global pandemic. The Canadian border is shut too, so the member for Burleigh cannot be going on his overseas trips and skipping parliament for a week because there are restrictions all around the world as there is a health pandemic. This is a pathetic, petulant, petty motion by a myopic opposition that is not going anywhere, that is being controlled by Clive Palmer, and whose members are brawling amongst themselves instead of dealing with the things that matter to Queenslanders—that is, their health and their jobs.