




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 12 August 2020

MOTION

Liberal National Party, Commitments

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.56 pm): In a press conference on 25 June, the Leader of the Opposition said, ‘Once again I want to start talking about the borders and the need for Annastacia Palaszczuk to get the borders opened.’ The Leader of the Opposition also said, ‘It is safe to open the borders.’ That same day, Victoria recorded 33 new cases. The next day it was 30.

Mr Mander: The day that you announced the opening of the borders. It was 10 July, wasn’t it?

Mr BAILEY: I will take that interjection. It was ‘open the borders’—plural, to every state. That was LNP policy that threatened this state. You cannot talk about the economy in Queensland without talking about the pandemic and managing the pandemic. This government has managed the pandemic well. It is a day-by-day proposition, but it has managed it well because we have a Premier and a Chief Health Officer who listen to the health advice, who put Queenslanders first; a Premier who stands up to the big gang-up that was going on for a month, where the Leader of the Opposition, the Prime Minister, Clive Palmer, Pauline Hanson and a certain media empire all ganged up and tried to bully and intimidate our Premier and our state into opening all of our borders. What would have happened? We would have seen a dire health situation. It is the foresight and the strength of the Premier that has saved our economy.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Those shrill voices on the other side of the chamber need to start thinking about what good policy and good leadership are about. It is about trust. This election will be about trust, I can assure you of that. Queenslanders will trust this government because we got the big calls right when people needed it the most, when people’s lives were at stake. We do not sit here squawking and interjecting; we make the right decisions. That is what leadership is about. That is what saving our economy is about. That is what getting people into jobs is about.

To be lectured to by those opposite when their record is 43 per cent power price increases, growth that dropped to 0.7 per cent, unemployment that surged to 7.1 per cent—no pandemic, just sacking 14,000 people—the ordering of trains from overseas that were not disability compliant and the cutting of the Cross River Rail project, the Sumners Road project and other road projects all over the state. They did build 1 William Street for themselves while telling everyone to tighten their belts. They cut train drivers by 48. They did not get a single renewable energy project going in three years.

No wonder they lost the biggest majority in political history in only three years. They are incompetent. They are lazy and indolent. What we see in this motion is a good example of that. Let us look at their energy policy. Their energy policy is going to increase prices again. Forty-three per cent was not enough in the three years under the LNP. They want to pick the eyes out of the profitable parts of a huge network and give that to the private sector so others pay more.

Forget about the M1. Not a single dollar was spent on the M1 in three years under the LNP. Four upgrades have been fully funded by this government. Two are complete and two much bigger ones are underway. With dams it is minus one for the Newman government and two for this government. Actions speak louder than words. A second M1 was blocked and stopped from being proceeded with by the LNP when in government. We have gazetted the corridor. We have done the consultation. We have the business case going. When it comes to trust, infrastructure, investment and jobs, this government is what Queenslanders will trust at the election this year.

We have a billion dollar stimulus program for roads on top of four out of five record infrastructure spends. Another billion dollars is fully funded and identified—and not by those opposite. They have made \$23 billion worth of promises already, and ticking. This is the Newman model—promise the world to everybody, get into government and then implement the real motion—(a), (b), (c). The LNP's actual economic plan is very simple—(a) is cut, (b) is sack and (c) is sell. That is what they want to do.

Who can forget the member for Burleigh's billboard—'Open the borders'. No doubt that was backed by the Leader of the Opposition. We all know that billboard.

Mr SPEAKER: That is not to be waved around, Minister.

Mr BAILEY: The economic incompetency of those opposite put Queenslanders in peril. Fortunately we have had a government that has listened to the health advice and led this state at a time when people's lives were genuinely at risk. We did not want to see a second wave in this state. That is what we are working to prevent. We will keep having strong leadership with this Premier, with this Chief Health Officer and with a government that understands what real leadership is about.