




Speech By
Hon. Mark Ryan

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Record of Proceedings, 11 August 2020

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Coronavirus, Queensland Border Checks

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.31 pm): In relation to a question asked of the Premier this morning, the Queensland Police Service has provided the following advice. Every train from New South Wales is met by police in Queensland. All passengers—I repeat: all passengers—are questioned by police. I am advised that the two individuals who were arrested in Noosa were subject to this check. However, they were not truthful with officers when questioned. This is reckless behaviour.

Anyone who attempts to enter Queensland under false pretences should be warned that the police will take action. In this case, police took swift action to locate the two individuals in question. Unlike those opposite, I will always commend the police for their excellent work—in this case as well. Like every other Queenslanders, I owe a debt of gratitude to the Queensland Police Service for their work on our borders. In short, they are saving lives and preventing the spread of COVID-19. It is not easy work, but it is vital work and it is relentless.

Since March this year, police have intercepted more than half a million vehicles at our borders. More than 7,000 vehicles have been turned around and more than 11,000 people have been directed to quarantine. At domestic airports police have checked the entry details of more than 230,000 passengers. Thousands of airline passengers have been sent into quarantine and 394 of those arrivals have been refused entry.

We have received many letters in my office thanking the police for their efforts. Rob, a proud dad of his daughter, Maddie, who returned from overseas, wrote to congratulate police. Rob's daughter told him—

Dad, when I walked in and saw all of the police at the airport and saw how organised they were and just how nice and helpful they were, I just relaxed and I knew it would be okay.

Then there was Rory, who said—

I have just completed my 14-day quarantine. All the police officers who accompanied me for exercise breaks and other admin duties were extremely polite, courteous and good natured. They are to be commended. They are an asset to Queensland.

Then there was a message from Chris, who wanted me to congratulate the government on its handling of the pandemic. Chris said—

I would also like to note that I have never voted Labor before at a state election, but I will most certainly be doing it this time. The superb job done by the Premier, the health minister and the police deserves to be recognised by another term in government.

Police are not just keeping the community safe; they are also protecting our economy. Queensland is in a much better place than other jurisdictions.

Where would we be under the LNP? In relation to borders, the LNP's approach borders on madness. If they had control of the borders, the LNP would represent a clear and present danger to all Queenslanders. The LNP just do not get it. They think the pandemic is an opportunity for cheap political

pointscoring, and we just heard the contribution of the member for Mudgeeraba which just proves their tactic. It has been demonstrated by their words and their actions that they have no interest in the welfare of Queenslanders. The opposition leader tweets calling for the borders to be opened. The LNP move motions in this parliament about the opening up of the borders. The LNP even put up billboards on the Gold Coast calling for the borders to be opened. The LNP take no notice of the expert advice from the Chief Health Officer and, in fact, attack her. The LNP have demonstrated that nothing is beneath them. The LNP have demonstrated that they will betray the people of Queensland if they think it is in their political interest to do so.

The LNP are not an alternative government. Given the week, I think it is good to draw an analogy with the Ekka. The LNP are like that dodgy dodgem car at the Ekka: a dodgy dodgem car with a dodgy driver spinning out of control, banging and crashing around and going nowhere. The pandemic has exposed, once and for all, the emptiness in the hearts of the LNP for all to see. Their cynicism has no borders, particularly when it comes to the border. They are unfit to govern. Our Premier has done an outstanding job keeping us all safe, backed in by the police keeping the borders secure.