




Speech By
Melissa McMahon

MEMBER FOR MACALISTER

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ADJOURNMENT

Macalister Electorate, Coronavirus

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.03 pm): Well may we live in interesting times. Many things are being attributed to China at the moment but, just as an aside, that phrase is not one of them. Notwithstanding this, I must admit that this is probably not the first term that I envisaged that I would have and for most people this will not be the 2020 that they envisaged at the beginning of the year. In my professional experience, such times do not tend to announce their impending arrival and it is incumbent upon committed and dedicated systems and governments to do and prepare and plan and carry on in such times when they do arrive at our door.

I am thankful—and so should everyone in Queensland be—that we as a state have been preparing for this threat since the beginning of the year, and I want to publicly thank the efforts of the Premier and the health minister in being on the front foot, even when they were being publicly accused of being alarmists and grandstanding. The level of preparedness we have now in Queensland is attributed to this leadership and foresight and we are better placed than many other jurisdictions here in Australia and abroad because of this.

This is not the speech I was planning on giving today. I had in fact planned to exhort members to attend the planned Logan food fair that was scheduled for tonight. Unfortunately but for obvious reasons, sampling some of Logan's unique produce is not exactly appropriate in the current climate, but the intention of the evening was—as was my speech, and it remains—to support our local small businesses. Although members will not be able to try our delicious Logan fare tonight, we can all support our local businesses. Whether it is Poppy's Chocolate in Beenleigh, which is manufacturing its Easter bunnies on site in Beenleigh, or the Beenleigh Rum Distillery—Australia's oldest continuing rum distillery—people can still support these businesses in the coming months and order online.

While I acknowledge the initiatives being undertaken by the major grocery chains in providing shopping times for our vulnerable community members, I would like to remind our community about the role that our small traders and independent grocers play. While the larger chains have capacity and size on their side, our family owned stores do not and they need your support. Visit your grocer, your butcher and your local baker. I want to acknowledge my local Cottage Bakery on Bryants Road. The owners there are supreme masters of the art of the upsell—I have yet to walk out of there with what I only intended to buy—but I hope the community can support our small businesses now because they are absolutely vital in providing the part-time jobs and the first jobs for our young community members. I would encourage people to support them now, because if we support them now we will continue to be able to support them in the future.