




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR PINE RIVERS

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MOTION

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.50 pm): Just over 100 days ago, our state—indeed, our nation and the world as we know it—changed in a way none of us dared imagine. Queensland has been inspiring in our response to the virus—our dedicated health professionals, most especially—but every single Queenslander has played their part. These 100-odd days have been dramatic and sudden, and now our state needs a swift and comprehensive rebuild. Our government will deliver this.

Let us not lose sight of the fact that initial modelling showed our death toll could have been more than 30 times greater than the total number of cases we have seen. Let us also not lose sight of the economic impact of this virus. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, we have seen five successive surpluses and strong economic growth. Let us not forget as well that we were one of the first states to act. We have weathered this storm because we do what Queensland does best in times of crisis: we pull together.

We have a plan to come through this crisis, and in health alone that is a \$1.2 billion COVID-19 health investment. Our social distancing measures have allowed us to flatten the curve and to reduce the number of people who are sick and need care in our hospitals at any one time, but at the same time we are lifting the line—investing in our health and hospital system to increase the number of Queenslanders we can care for at any one time. We are doubling intensive care capacity and tripling emergency department capacity. We have: 105 more paramedics; more ambulance services; more acute care services; expanded fever clinics; deployed new infrastructure and better utilised our existing hospitals; expanded community screening; contact tracing and 13HEALTH services; resource backfilling of health staff who are unwell; continued non-elective surgery in the private sector; more support for regional services; and more aeromedical services for regional and remote communities.

Let us never forget the LNP's record in government. The LNP could not manage a public health emergency of this magnitude. Never forget that under the LNP the Chief Health Officer had many of her responsibilities torn away and they sacked many of her specialist staff. Never forget the nurse sackings. Never forget those sacked by those opposite—a decision for which they have never apologised. There has been no lesson learned there. There was never an apology. Never forget that the LNP sacked 69 pathologists—clinicians we are now relying on to find and diagnose this virus. It has taken the Palaszczuk government five years to rebuild the frontline services cut by the member for Nanango and her former ministerial colleagues. Those opposite do not have what it takes to govern us back.

(Time expired)