




Speech By
Peter Russo

MEMBER FOR TOOHEY

Record of Proceedings, 20 February 2020

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Toohey Electorate, Coronavirus

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.34 pm): As we are aware, the coronavirus has had a huge impact on the Australian economy, especially impacting on the Queensland economy and in particular in my electorate of Toohey. On 19 February 2020 the *Courier-Mail's* Queensland Taste contained an article titled 'Use your noodle' regarding the economic impact on local restaurants. The article spoke about the mistaken belief by people that there is a health risk in dining at Chinese restaurants and, as a result, people are avoiding Chinese restaurants, especially in the electorate of Toohey and in the vibrant suburb of Sunnybank where my electorate office is on Mains Road. The article sent out a message to the people of Brisbane to return to their favourite restaurants and that there is no health risk from dining in Chinese restaurants.

Tony Ching runs a successful tour company at Sunnybank taking people from all over Brisbane to restaurants and also taking them to specialist Chinese grocery stores, helping them find that hard-to-find ingredient that they want to use in their own cooking. In the article Landmark was recognised as a Brisbane institution, serving the best yum cha in Brisbane and a place where my community has many of its functions. The Premier also recently visited this restaurant to show her support for my community and enjoyed yum cha, and I thank the Premier for attending my electorate. The article also stated—and I agree—that Landmark has the best egg custard tarts in Brisbane. The restaurant also has yum cha trolleys where you can grab dim sims, steamed pork buns and chicken legs. I want to take this opportunity to also acknowledge the manager of Landmark restaurant, Norman Wu, and his hardworking staff who, as I can vouch for, are always friendly and efficient.

As outlined by the Premier at the beginning of the sitting week and as I highlighted at the opening of my private member's statement, the coronavirus outbreak has the potential to impose a wide range of direct and indirect costs on the Queensland economy. I thank the leadership of the Palaszczuk Labor government, especially the Premier for her leadership on this matter. The government has acted quickly following advice from industry on how tough business has been after the coronavirus struck in January. That immediately led to the industry recovery package valued at \$27.25 million.