




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2020

MOTION

Coronavirus, JobKeeper

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.12 pm): The arrogance and hubris of the Treasurer at the current time is shown in this motion that we are debating about saving jobs through JobKeeper in the areas of Cairns and Barron River—but certainly not Mulgrave, Mr Speaker; I am sure it is not under threat whatsoever. JobKeeper is a wonderful Morrison initiative that has saved Australia's economic position. We had input from economists that \$263 billion has been put into the economy by this federal government, yet the Treasurer has come in to try to drag a few points out of it late on a Wednesday afternoon when he could have done it in his ministerial statement. He is desperate to get some JobKeeper money to save the seats of Cairns and Barron River at the election in three months time. It is funny that he is calling on the federal government. He is putting out the begging bowl, as Labor always do, for the federal government to save their hides.

Cairns has been affected, but this job denial program did not start with COVID. This job denial program started with Acland mine not getting the approval. Even Labor senators say that the Acland mine provides jobs for Queensland and we would not need JobKeeper. We had Adani and we had to drag them kicking and screaming over Adani because they would not go near it because of the power of the left faction—

Mr CRAWFORD: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: I will be the judge of relevance and I believe that the member is straying and coming back in equal amounts.

Mr STEVENS: I am talking about jobs and I will talk about jobs until I am blue in the face in this House because it is important for Queensland. JobKeeper will keep people in jobs. It has been demonstrated that the government have to rely on JobKeeper coming forward because they have not progressed Adani, as I mentioned before. This would put jobs in the Galilee Basin for Queenslanders. The people in the north know that, and that is why they are complaining about Cairns and Barron River. I assume the member for Barron River will be speaking shortly to try to save his job as well. I am sure he will plead with the federal government and Scott Morrison to save his bacon. Unfortunately, that is all this government know how to do—that is, cry to the federal government for funding—and this is another cry.

Scott Morrison has done a great job supporting our economy. As I said, they have spent \$263 billion to keep us all going along but it does not go on forever. It is my money, it is taxpayers' money, it is your money. At some stage, there will be a dropdown in support. What we see is a federal government responsibly supporting our communities right across Australia, including Queensland. That will continue, but we do not know how long that COVID is going to go for or that JobKeeper will have to keep going.