



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH (DECLARED PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES) AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Declared Urgent**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.03 pm): I rise on behalf of the LNP in relation to this urgency motion. The LNP understands the vital importance of the need to detect and contain the novel coronavirus as quickly as possible and to protect the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders first and foremost. We appreciate that this is an international public health emergency and action needs to be taken to prevent the spread of this new disease. Given that it is a new disease, in many respects we are dealing with the unknown and that is why prevention is so important. State and national health agencies have been working together with other agencies to protect the health and wellbeing of all Australians. In Queensland we have two cases of the disease, both being treated at the Gold Coast University Hospital.

We appreciate the opportunity to be briefed on the legislation and the need for its urgency and we will not be opposing the need for urgent passage of this legislation. Patient care, indeed the health of all Queenslanders, should always come before politics and there seems no reason why this legislation should not be debated this week. While the committee process is important and fundamental to the democracy of our state, these are the reasons why urgent legislation is allowed and why these types of motions are rarely used.