



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 February 2020

**MOTION**

**Coronavirus**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.50 am): I note the motion we are debating here today says—

(a) the World Health Organization's declaration that the novel coronavirus is a global health emergency;

We all agree with that. It also states—

(b) that every country across the globe either directly or indirectly has been affected in some way by this global health emergency;

We agree with that too. It further states—

(c) the uncertainty this virus is causing for the community;

We agree with that. We also know that the LNP publicly supported the urgency motion yesterday to debate the bill later this week. The government has our support in relation to the global health crisis. What we do not support is the premise of this motion that the Prime Minister needs to bail out the Labor government yet again. We know the Rudd-Gillard-Rudd government never once, ever, declared a global health emergency and used natural disaster funding under the disaster recovery funding agreement.

Queenslanders are quite simply sick of this dog-ate-my-homework excuse and blaming the federal government. Yesterday we had a briefing from Dr Jeanette Young, which I was appreciative of. All members of this House are concerned, but what people are sick of is the politicking. As I said, we are sick of Labor blaming everybody else. This is a global health emergency and the politicking by the Palaszczuk Labor government is a new low, even for Labor, but we know that is what this government does best.

Last week was an absolute purler, with the Premier caught out jumping to conclusions on *Sunrise* and other early morning media appearances when she did not even have all the facts or she was ignoring them. I think the *Gold Coast Bulletin* did it beautifully in a cartoon, and I will table that.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, depicting cartoon relating to coronavirus [\[181\]](#).

It is a picture of the Premier rotating like a whirligig, whining that she did not get told anything. We know she was told, and we know that because Greg Hunt made a fool of the Premier in a press conference later that day. I have some of the transcript of that press conference and I would like to refresh your memories on it. Minister Hunt was asked the following question—

Minister, the Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has been (inaudible) withholding information on people who could potentially be infected with the virus.

What is the policy around that? Wouldn't it be more beneficial to share that information with the states?

Mr Hunt replied—

Any information that we have, we have shared and we will share.

I would like to confirm that the Tigerair flight manifest, the emails, the contact numbers and other known details, were provided to Queensland at 4PM yesterday.

Just to reaffirm, those details were provided to Queensland at 4PM yesterday.

I would also indicate that in relation to daily engagement with Queensland, Queensland has been part of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee meetings of 20 January, 23 January, 24 January, 25 January, 27 January, 28 January, 29 January, 30 January and I believe there's one scheduled for today ...

Queensland has also been part of and indeed is the chair of the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia committee meetings—

The Premier made a fool of herself on that one.

We are sick of the Palaszczuk Labor government always blaming the federal government for everything. We are absolutely sick of it. Last week as I said the Premier made a fool of herself. Instead of blaming Canberra, she should be doing what the Leader of the Opposition has done. She should be calling on her government to provide an assistance package which could include: interest-free loans for affected businesses; local economic development plans, working with regional tourism organisations; attracting more visitors by ramping up marketing in international markets other than China, including New Zealand, the USA and Europe; and boosting local tourism expenditure by encouraging Queenslanders to holiday at home. I would also like to table the LNP's policy for the benefit of the House. It is our plan to save tourism jobs here in Queensland.

*Tabled paper:* Media release, dated 2 February 2020, from the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, titled 'LNP backs plan to save tourism jobs' [[182](#)].

That is what the tourism industry want. They do not want a political fight. They do not want their tourism jobs being treated like a political football. They want the Palaszczuk government to start working. Queenslanders know Labor is not working and we have seen it with the shark control program when they played politics with tourists and took the drumlines out. Here in Queensland we have not just an international health crisis; we have a public health crisis. We have seen crisis after crisis under Minister Miles, including renaming the Lady Cilento Hospital with a dodgy poll and now using his Facebook page instead of Queensland Health to disseminate information.