



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2020

**MOTION**

**Coronavirus, JobKeeper**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (4.52 pm): We know our small businesses are doing it tough. This pandemic has wreaked havoc on their ability to trade, their customer base and their supply chains. I have met with chambers of commerce in so many Zoom meetings over the past few months, from Cooktown to the Gold Coast, and the message I have heard loud and clear is that they need JobKeeper to continue. I have met with unions and business associations and the message is the same: we need JobKeeper to continue. They need certainty because if there is going to be a cliff in September they need to start planning now.

Sectors like tourism, hospitality and retail are likely to be feeling the impacts of this crisis for years, not months, to come. Queensland businesses absolutely need more certainty and support from the federal government. It is time for the Morrison LNP government to lead and provide businesses with that much needed information about what is going to happen post 27 September.

I am pleased to say that the Palaszczuk government has absolutely stepped up to support our small businesses. We were the first government in the country to announce a stimulus package back in February. We are the only government to provide, in addition to small business grants, \$1 billion in no-interest loans. We need the federal government now to provide certainty to small businesses, to small businesses that are the backbone of our state's economy and create jobs for close to one million Queenslanders. But what have we heard from those opposite? Have they picked up the phone to their federal counterparts, their mates, and said, 'What is going to happen post 27 September?' Have they phoned their mates down in the Canberra bubble to tell them that small businesses are hurting now and they are going to be hurting post September?

**Mr Hart:** Are you jealous that we have mates down there?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Have you picked up the phone to your federal counterparts?

**Mr Hart:** Yes, I have actually.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Well, that is wonderful news. I take that interjection from the member for Burleigh. Apparently he has been lobbying his federal colleagues to support our motion here today. It will be really interesting to see if the member for Burleigh supports this motion given that behind closed doors he is saying that is exactly what he has been telling his federal counterparts. Those opposite would rather spend their time being the mouthpiece for their mates in Canberra than stand up for Queensland businesses calling on their federal counterparts to provide certainty to businesses that need it now.

Last time we were here in parliament the Leader of the Opposition was saying, 'Open the borders. Open the borders'—64 times! How many times has the Leader of the Opposition come into this place and said, 'I've spoken to the Prime Minister about making sure JobKeeper continues'? Zero! She is happy to wax lyrical, criticising the Premier, calling on borders to open. We know with the outbreaks we

have seen in Victoria how devastating a second wave would be for businesses, but she will not pick up the phone, call the Prime Minister and say that we need JobKeeper to continue because Queensland small businesses are hurting. Shame on those opposite.