




Speech By
Stephen Andrew

MEMBER FOR MIRANI

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ADJOURNMENT

Coronavirus, Economic Response; Mount Morgan Mine

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (7.18 pm): In the past three months whole industries have stalled, people have lost their jobs and the state has been plunged into further debt. In those months I have outlined a kickstart Queensland strategy that maps out a path back to prosperity, and I will touch on some of the points listed in the kickstart Queensland website that I have launched.

The recovery government must get out of the way and let Queensland shine like it used to. Environmental safeguards are important, but the default position needs to change from asking, 'How do we stop this?' to asking, 'How do we make this happen?' The government needs to stop paying external consultants to do the government's job and apply some accountability and transparency to the NGOs that suck up more taxpayers' dollars than the Parliamentary Library is able to count.

A recovery government will quit wasting millions of dollars on photo opportunities like the 2032 Olympics bid and redirect support to the industry and local manufacturing to boost the economy now and to keep jobs in Queensland. Both the Labor Party and the LNP need to withdraw the billion-plus dollars they are throwing at the dodgy reef science to point the finger at farmers and actually back those farmers to produce better outcomes for the reef, for farming communities and for the state economy. If the next government does not repeal the vegetation laws—because we know this one will not—the entire agriculture sector will be decimated as farmers simply walk away.

Queensland will flourish when its government focuses on their interests instead of funding and pandering to political correctness, China, the United Nations, UNESCO and other unelected global influencers. Allowing foreign entities, especially the Chinese Communist Party, to buy land, water and agribusiness without expanding and creating industries is not foreign investment; it is a foreign purchase. We would do well to ban foreign purchases. Until Queensland has a government committed to building dams and infrastructure to deliver affordable and reliable water and energy, industry and prosperity, we will continue to spiral out of control. Our economy cannot move forward if our biggest industries are going backwards.

I finish by highlighting a specific action the government could take to boost the economy and save the environment. The Mount Morgan mine, which is very close to my heart, in my electorate was instrumental in Australia's financial foundation. The current government has invested millions into an evaporation method of cleaning up the environmental problem left by the early mine but, unfortunately, this has not reduced the poison from oozing out of the mine; it is just concentrating it, and it will be released in the next big weather event. If the government were truly committed to the environment, it would stump up half of the \$500 million outlined by the Central Queensland University to assist the new Heritage Minerals site and to rehabilitate and create jobs in Mount Morgan.