




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2020

MOTION

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.46 pm): It might surprise the member for Warrego to know that the South Australian border is the responsibility of the South Australian government and the Northern Territory border is the responsibility of the Northern territory government, and they are both closed. I turn to this motion. Like my colleagues on this side of the House, I support Queensland's plan to get businesses back up and running and to get Queenslanders back into good jobs. Today we announced the next phase of the economic recovery plan to back Queensland jobs, businesses and industries.

The COVID-19 virus continues to sweep the globe. It has destroyed lives and livelihoods. We are not alone in this crisis, but we are ahead of the rest of the world when it comes to recovery. It is only because we took decisive action early that we have been able to contain the virus. We cannot afford a second wave. As I mentioned this morning, for 15 consecutive days Beijing did not have a new case, but in just one week they have spiked to 100 cases. The virus is highly contagious, it spreads quickly and it can be lethal. Anyone who says that there is a choice between our health and our economy is drawing a false choice. Jurisdictions that thought they could choose their economies over the health of their people have suffered the same economic struggles—in fact, even greater economic hardship—than the governments that put their people first. Sweden has now admitted that it got it wrong. Sweden has counted over 4,500 deaths and over 40,000 infections in a population of 10 million. Sweden's neighbours imposed lockdowns and have seen between 200 and 500 deaths each in Denmark, Norway and Finland.

We have a long road ahead of us. Queensland will be feeling the effects of this pandemic long after the health threat is over. That is why this plan for recovery is so important. Today we announced more investment in our key sectors of agriculture, tourism, construction, resources and energy, arts and culture, and small business. We have committed more than \$6 billion in support packages for Queensland farmers, tour operators, tradies, musicians, students, seniors and many others, and there is more to come. We will stand with Queenslanders—with workers, businesses and industries—on this long road to recovery. The next steps in our economic recovery strategy will create jobs and help to rebuild a stronger and more resilient Queensland economy, and I am very proud to support them.