




Speech By
Hon. Dr Steven Miles
MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Queensland Border

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.41 am): Today is a great day—the day we have been waiting for, the day that our borders open to all of New South Wales and Victoria. Queensland's economic recovery is taking off today, and with that will come more jobs for Queenslanders.

Today over 6,000 people are expected to travel through Brisbane Airport. On Easter Sunday this year there were just 31 arrivals at Brisbane Airport—not 31 flights but 31 people. For a while now we have had Queensland all to ourselves. Now we are ready to welcome our southern neighbours who have done a fantastic job also suppressing the virus in their states. Queensland is good to go for summer.

Virgin has said that they will have over 38,000 seats from Victoria and 65,000 seats from New South Wales by Christmas. Qantas and Jetstar will add more than 1,200 extra return flights into Queensland from New South Wales and Victoria in the lead-up to Christmas. Some travel agents are reporting that bookings for Queensland holidays are up by 300 per cent. Accommodation providers in some parts of Queensland have seen inquiries go through the roof. One Gold Coast hotel has reportedly diverted 30 staff from their usual duties just to answer the phones.

Family and friends visiting from New South Wales and Victoria are expected to inject billions of dollars into the Queensland economy—more businesses open and more people in work all thanks to our fantastic health response. Today truly is a momentous day for Queensland. Our border barriers are down. Let us hope we never have to see them again.