




Speech By
Steve Minnikin

MEMBER FOR CHATSWORTH

Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2020

MOTION

Coronavirus, JobKeeper

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (4.19 pm): We all know the famous saying, ‘Socialism is a wonderful thing until you run out of other people’s money.’ The other one that comes to mind is, ‘Fail to plan; plan to fail.’ I find it quite ironic because we were given a few minutes notice of this particular motion—

An opposition member: Four minutes.

Mr MINNIKIN: Yes, four minutes; I take the interjection. Of course, I am rising to speak against this absurd motion. I will read the first point. It states—

I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes:

- (a) the dramatic impact of COVID-19 on Australia’s economy and the critical role of economic support measures including the federal government’s JobKeeper program;

Let’s have a look at some recent history. We have had Andrew Fraser, Jackie Trad and now the member for Woodridge, Cameron Dick, who have said debt is a tool. We have now had an absolute succession of democratic socialists who would not know their left from their right hand when it comes to economic management. This is a desperate ploy 107 days out from an election to waste an hour of this chamber’s time in going through with a motion that is completely absurd.

Let’s have a look at the pulse of the Queensland economy. I listened with interest to the previous speaker, the member for Thuringowa. If that was not a ‘I’m in desperate, desperate trouble’ speech I do not know what is. He rattled off Cactus Jack’s and a whole range of other businesses that have been affected by the economic conditions.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: I ask the member for Thuringowa: why are they being affected by the economic conditions at the moment? It is not just because of the COVID-19 situation. The economy of Queensland was absolutely in the you-know-what long before this insidious pandemic surfaced.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: Why is it that Queensland is a basket case economically? When you look at what has been done in the last couple of years with new taxes—and, member for Thuringowa, you were part of the government that has supported that including a 17.3 per cent increase in rego—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Your comments must come through the chair, please.

Mr MINNIKIN: There was also a \$1.3 billion rise in the waste tax. There was also \$103 million in new taxes for the grey nomad campervan tax. LNG royalties were up \$476 million. This is why we have a Labor state government that are on their knees economically. They are desperate to try and latch on

to any mechanism that the Morrison federal government can provide to try to yet again bail them out of the economic mess that they have bred themselves over the last 5½ years. This has not happened in the last few months. We had the highest unemployment numbers in the country long before COVID. We have record bankruptcies. This is an absolute joke of a motion.