




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2020

MOTION

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (3.19 pm): I also rise to speak on this motion. Rather than have a piecemeal approach to economic recovery, as this motion details, why does the government not have a bit of vision? Why does the government not think about the next 10 years, not the next 10 months?

The LNP has a plan that will get Queensland working again. We will invest for growth. We will supercharge the regions and we will secure our children's future, and we will do that by being bold and brassy. Rather than having this piecemeal approach, why does the government not back the big, bold plans of the LNP with the New Bradfield Scheme or the Queensland Dam Co. to build the dams that this state is crying out for to give us water security, or open up the Galilee Basin with all of the royalties going to the Queensland infrastructure fund so that we can fund infrastructure for generation after generation after generation? What about offering cheaper electricity for those people in the regions in both the commercial sector and residential sector? What about giving some sort of assurance and confidence to business by having a no new tax policy like the LNP has?

Another way that the state could save a lot of taxpayers' money is by opening the borders. Reopen the borders because it is safe. The Prime Minister has said time and time again that it is safe to open the borders. The Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer has told us that it is safe to open the borders. Rather than running a scare campaign throughout the state by saying that the whole place has to shut down again when there is one infection out of five million people, what about showing some leadership and explaining to people that we have flattened the curve and that until we get a vaccine there will still be more infections but we can control them now, we can trace them and we can isolate? That is what Queenslanders have managed to achieve.

This morning the Treasurer came in here and said with regard to the borders that the government will not lift the drawbridge. He said that the government will not lift the drawbridge. Guess what, Treasurer? The drawbridge is already up! The drawbridge is up! We are asking the government to put the drawbridge down. While the drawbridge is up, there are tens of thousands of people dying economically in the moat that is being built around this state. We can save a heck of a lot of taxpayers' money if we get this economy going again by letting private enterprise thrive and by letting our tourism industry, as well as our hospitality industry, get back on their feet. Let us put the drawbridge down.