




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 18 June 2020

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The new ABS figures that have come out today in relation to unemployment are very sobering. The figures reveal that more than 174,000 Queenslanders lost their job in the last three months, which is a tragic figure. We realise that those numbers equate to individuals, which equates to families. There is a lot of pain in our community.

We blame the Labor government for many things. I cannot blame them for the coronavirus, of course, because that is something that was totally out of their control. We know that something as impactful as the coronavirus would have this type of effect on unemployment. What we can blame the government for is the fact that this state was in the most vulnerable position economically before the coronavirus struck. Members have heard me say here many times that over the last 12 months Queensland has had on average the highest unemployment rate, on average the highest number of bankruptcies in the country and the lowest level of business confidence. We were behind the eight ball from the very start so we were always going to feel the impact of this more than other states.

We can also blame the Labor government for not taking the action that is necessary to stop the bleeding. The most obvious action would be to open up the borders. We are losing 173 jobs a day in this state because the borders are closed. Modelling by the Australian Tourism Industry Council shows that the state is losing \$174 million a week in economic activity. There is a way that we can stop the bleed that is happening at the moment, something that costs the government nothing, and that is to open the borders and for the Premier to show some leadership. We have smashed the curve. We understand that we do not have a vaccine which means we are going to have some infections in the future, but they are now traceable. We can isolate people or communities if that is necessary. We have done what has been asked of us. We are asking for some leadership in this area and for somebody to come out and state that, rather than scaring the living daylights out of Queenslanders when at the moment there are four or five active cases of coronavirus in this state, we should open the borders and that will stimulate employment.