




Speech By
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MOTION

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.25 pm): What we see today is just simply chaos and confusion from the Labor government. This morning we had the theatre of the business motion where the government lays out what the parliament will do for the week. We were told that there was only two hours to debate very important bills and that time is very restricted, yet we are now debating a motion that was not even circulated to members and we have to stand up and speak immediately because the Premier wants the parliament to be her plaything where she can simply come in here and lay out a bunch of different ideas. I do not know whether they were thought up earlier this morning after the business motion or whether they have been thought up this afternoon over lunch, but quite simply the government has put this motion forward. It is just a marketing exercise so it can get out there and mislead the people of Queensland.

We know for sure that the Treasurer does not know how much debt Queensland is in and we know for sure that we are not going to get a budget before the election. These are a bunch of numbers on a piece of paper with no facts, no figures and no backup. After a quick bit of maths, there is \$100 million for the housing construction Works for Tradies that will support 240 jobs. That is \$416,000 per job. The government is going to spend \$100 million to support 240 jobs? It seems like an awful lot of money to support that number of jobs.

I would suggest that the government needs to partner with small business and make sure that the grants are available rather than closed for two weeks when people are still diligently trying to get their applications together so that the money is available to the small businesses in my area that need to apply. There were people who were working with their accountants getting the information together so that they could put a competent application in only to be told, 'No, it's first in, best dressed.' That was never one of the criteria that was disclosed in the application process. If people had known it had been first in, best dressed, I am sure they would have applied much quicker.

Unfortunately, people do not run their businesses like this government wants to run the budget. People want to go to their accountant to get the information so they can apply in a proper manner for grants that are no longer available. This government is just making up numbers as it walks into the chamber with the latest thought bubble about how it is going to approach it. I am sure that the people of Queensland will not be hoodwinked again by this Premier, who said that we only needed 14 ministers. Does anybody remember that one? That disappeared pretty quickly. There will be a lot of things said before this election. The question will be: will the Labor Party follow through, because we know it cannot be trusted with the money? The Treasurer does not even know the debt.