




Speech By
Amanda Camm

MEMBER FOR WHITSUNDAY

Record of Proceedings, 25 March 2021

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Whitsunday Electorate, Infrastructure Projects

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.18 pm): I have spoken many times in the House about my local tourism industry and the lack of support provided by the current state government and the previous state government for my marine tourism operators and the Whitsunday electorate as a whole. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the infrastructure projects that are shovel-ready in the electorate of Whitsunday. If this government, the tourism minister and the assistant tourism minister—I note he is in the House—cannot come and meet with my marine operators, the mum-and-dad small businesses that have been doing it extraordinarily tough, operating at 15 per cent capacity versus 90 per cent capacity pre COVID, then the least they can do is advocate for my region and bring forward infrastructure funding to help support projects like the Whitsunday trails—projects that were shovel-ready during the election. I have just written to the Minister for the Environment about the walking trails that were damaged two years ago but for which we are still waiting on funding to repair. In addition, the Lake Proserpine master plan is ready to go. The Whitsunday Regional Council had to use taxpayers' money to fund that. They are more than happy to work with Sunwater in terms of our natural assets.

This morning the state government made a great announcement about financial counselling for tourism operators in the Whitsundays and other parts of Queensland that are doing it tough yet tourism operators have to fund 50 per cent of the financial counselling before they are eligible for a rebate. That is not support. That is not support for businesses that do not even know how they are going to pay their staff.

I put on the record that I have written to the federal government. I have written to the federal Treasurer. I have written to my federal counterparts to advocate for JobKeeper. The LNP has stood up for our tourism operators in our electorates. It is disappointing that the Queensland state government has chosen to pick winners and cherry-pick across the state instead of looking at the industry that has been hit the hardest.

I know that impacts are being felt by marine operators in the electorates of those opposite, but there is silence. I will not be afraid to stand up for my local community. I will go on to tell members about more shovel-ready projects. The coral reef restoration project is ready to go. There are so many opportunities and so many ways in which the government could support the Whitsundays.