




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 10 March 2021

MOTION

Tourism Industry, Support

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (4.04 pm): I am very pleased to rise this afternoon to support the motion moved by the Premier. After that effort, I have one thing to say: bring back Deb. At least the Deputy Leader of the Opposition turned up and had a go. I will say that much. We are still looking for the member for Broadwater. He is out there doing the crib notes and trying to work out how he can also get up and say how good the federal coalition government is. I will say this much: you do not need notice. No-one on this side of the House needs notice to back Queensland because we do that every single day. That is exactly what we did with our economic recovery plan.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Treasurer, I remind you of the convention of not mentioning the absence of members during a debate.

Mr DICK: If there is one thing that the deputy leader could do, it is that he could read the New South Wales budget papers because they are the gold standard. If people love the Liberal Party read their budget papers. At page 5-4 of the New South Wales budget papers we see \$11.8 billion of COVID support and New South Wales GSP, \$625 billion. That is 1.9 per cent. That is lower than Queensland.

That is the dishonesty in the contribution by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Economic growth in Queensland was the best in the nation in 2020 at 2.4 per cent. They are not my numbers. They are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics—the federal government's ABS. We had the highest economic growth in the country. Queensland is going forward and New South Wales and Victoria are going backwards. We had the strongest growth in retail turnover, housing loan commitments and dwelling approvals over the past year. We are the best and we know we are the best because we back Queensland.

State and local governments ramped up investment. What did the ABS data tell us? The Morrison government's investment in Queensland contracted in 2020. That is what they think about this state. The Premier was right to declare a public health emergency for COVID. The Premier was of course right to put in the first economic stimulus package. She was right to lead the nation on protecting her community by keeping the borders strong. Every single step of the way she has led the nation and Scott Morrison has followed her.

Why did Josh Frydenberg go to Cairns? It was because the Premier said, 'Come to Cairns. See the communities that are impacted by your failure.' Still we have no answer to JobKeeper. As the Premier has made clear, as every member of the cabinet has made clear and as every member of our government has made clear, we will put Queensland first. Now is the time for the federal government to support these communities that are struggling, to support the Far North of the state and to put in the money for JobKeeper as we approach that cliff at the end of March. That is the very least those communities deserve. We are backing them, and the federal government needs to back them too.

(Time expired)