




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Tourism Industry, Support

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.49 am): For the last month, Queensland's hardworking tourism operators have had to live in fear—live in fear at what was going to happen when JobKeeper was taken away by the Morrison government. The federal Treasurer, Josh Frydenberg, went to Cairns this week but gave them nothing, forcing them to wait even longer while he did a fundraiser in Brisbane. We welcome the fact that the Prime Minister has finally made his announcement. It was not the wage subsidy that industry had been calling for, instead we got half-price tickets. Our government welcomes any support for tourism, and we welcome support for international operations of our airlines; however, the fact is that these half-priced tickets are simply half-baked.

The biggest problem of all is that Queenslanders are prohibited from holidaying in their own state under this half-baked, half-price ticket scheme. People from Brisbane, Logan, Gold Coast and Caboolture want to support Queensland. They want to travel to Cairns. They want to travel to the Whitsundays. They want to travel all over this state. It is a simple question: why can't they access this scheme? Why do Queenslanders have to travel to Launceston and Merimbula to participate in the scheme? Even if you wanted to go to Merimbula, it is still a mess. If you are a Queenslanders who plans to go to Merimbula through this scheme, you have to drive to the Gold Coast, catch a flight to Avalon near Geelong, hire a car, drive another hour from Avalon to Tullamarine and then catch another flight to Merimbula—by which time it is time to go home.

Why are so many Queensland destinations missing for interstate travellers? Why aren't people from Sydney and Melbourne supported to travel to Townsville? Why aren't they supported to travel to Rockhampton? Why aren't Queenslanders supported to travel to Hervey Bay, to Gladstone and to the great regional city of Bundaberg? There is nothing for Mount Isa, nothing for Toowoomba. The tickets to the 'Mackay region' do not actually include Mackay Airport. Sadly, it seems the federal government do not have a list of airports in Queensland. If they had only asked we could have given them the list, but of course there was no consultation.

The Palaszczuk government has listened to Queensland tourism operators. We know that what is needed is a dedicated focus on supporting those businesses in regional Queensland that have been hit hard by the international border closures—which were imposed by the Morrison government and which the Premier has said we support—through no fault of their own. That is why we developed a scheme for Queenslanders to support Queensland.

I am sure it is purely coincidental that the federal government is supporting destinations in marginal seats. Launceston is in Bass, with a margin of 0.41 per cent. Braddon in Tasmania has a margin of three per cent and gets two supported destinations—Burnie and Devonport. Merimbula in Eden-Monaro has a margin 0.85 per cent. Let us not forget that amazing holiday destination of Kangaroo Island in the seat of Mayo. The Liberal Party will never give up on the Downer family's

ancestral seat. They are very lucky down there in South Australia, because that is the only state in Australia where you get a subsidised intrastate flight. That is the only place in Australia where people can travel within their own state under this scheme.

This is a serious matter, and the livelihoods of tens of thousands of Queenslanders are at stake. They deserved better from the Morrison government, but once again Scott Morrison has missed the mark for Queensland.