




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.51 am): As I told the House yesterday, our government will not run up the white flag when it comes to protecting the health of Queenslanders. As the budget makes clear, protecting the health of Queenslanders is not a health strategy, it is the bedrock of our economic strategy. Our economic recovery plan is delivering results for our state. Yesterday the Australian Bureau of Statistics released data on building approvals for the month of July. In every state and territory dwelling approvals went backwards—every state except one: Queensland. In Queensland dwelling approvals rose, up nine per cent for the month and up 37.4 per cent since May 2020. That means more construction jobs for Queenslanders, but also more housing supply, helping to reduce the pressure in our housing market.

Our \$70 million Build-to-Rent program is also underway. Last week I announced the start of the construction of our first Build-to-Rent project developed by Mirvac in Newstead. Thanks to our government, almost 100 of the 395 apartments in this project will be set aside for affordable housing and work will soon get underway on the second Build-to-Rent project on Brunswick Street in the Valley. Between them, these two projects will support 440 construction jobs—more great news for Queensland workers and their families.

More jobs and more homes are just a few of the benefits that we are getting from living in an open economy, living in freedom as we do in Queensland. The only reason we have that freedom is because of our tough border controls that are keeping the virus out. Our government will not subject Queenslanders to an uncontrolled outbreak of the virus and the needless illness and suffering that follows. That is because a health disaster becomes an economic disaster. But not everyone agrees with us. Today we hear the federal Attorney-General, Michaelia Cash, egging on cranks like Clive Palmer to attack our border controls in the High Court. Everybody knows the Morrison government does not believe in border controls. That is why they backed Clive Palmer's challenge the first time—all the way to the High Court—and we can see it happening again.

I say to the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, Queenslanders are not hiding under the doona, Queenslanders are not living in caves; we are protecting jobs and lives and businesses our way—the Queensland way. Queenslanders are living in freedom and growing our economy, not despite our border controls but precisely because of them. My message to Scott Morrison and the LNP is stop conspiring with Clive Palmer and stop tolerating cranks like George Christensen and Matt Canavan, Queenslanders who would let the virus in and let the virus rip.

The strength of our health response continues to underpin Queensland's economic recovery plan. Our borders are the front line of defence for our health and our jobs. All Queenslanders should back these controls and the health advice that supports them, and that includes the Leader of the Opposition.