




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) (9.44 am): Queensland's strong health response to COVID-19 is turbocharging our economic recovery. Yesterday's national accounts revealed that private investment in Queensland grew by 5.7 per cent in the June quarter. That is twice as fast as any other state. Growth in private investment shows that business has confidence in where Queensland is heading. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to working with business to further boost economic confidence, economic growth and Queensland jobs.

It is why I was so pleased to recently open the Wellcamp Regional Trade Distribution Centre. Over a hundred regional food and industrial producers attended the opening with the Wagner family, alongside the Assistant Treasurer, the member for Jordan, and the LNP members for Toowoomba South, Toowoomba North, Lockyer and Condamine, who were all there to cheer on the investment in their community by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr DICK: Thank you, Premier. I take the interjection. That \$17 million temperature controlled facility means we get the best of Queensland's agricultural products to markets around the world on the international flights that arrive and depart Wellcamp every week.

There is more good news for jobs and investment in Central Queensland. Our government has partnered with Alliance Airlines to deliver a new maintenance, repair and overhaul hangar based in Rockhampton. That \$60 million 25-year investment will support almost 100 highly skilled jobs when it opens for business in October next year. This project is a massive win for Rockhampton, particularly the member for Rockhampton and the local economy. I know this investment is supported by other members in Central Queensland—the member for Keppel as well as the Minister for Regional Development, the member for Gladstone. Over the next year, Alliance's fleet is set to grow from 43 to 75 aircraft and in time every single one of them will be maintained in Rockhampton.

Alliance's planes cross the Queensland sky every day because our economy is open. Every day that the uncontrolled New South Wales outbreak creeps closer to our border our economic freedom is put at risk. The border is our front line of defence against an outbreak that has laid waste to lives and businesses in New South Wales and Victoria. Our border is our front line of defence for millions of Queenslanders who are desperately waiting for a vaccine because Prime Minister Scott Morrison cannot supply enough vaccine for our state. Despite this federal failure, our border defences remain under attack.

The Prime Minister will not directly attack our strong border because he knows how important it is to Queenslanders. Instead, he sends out his ministers to demand our border defences come down. The federal Attorney-General yesterday said she would not challenge Western Australia's border, but she gave no guarantees for Queensland. Home affairs minister Karen Andrews—a Queensland in

name only—said that the federal government’s position is that the border should be open. Minister Andrews should be backing the border that protects her community, friends and family on the Gold Coast. Instead, she has joined the ranks of cranks like Clive Palmer and other fake Queenslanders like George Christensen and Matt Canavan—all members of the LNP—demanding we expose vulnerable Queenslanders to the uncontrolled outbreak of New South Wales.

What do they think happens if a vulnerable Queenslander contracts the virus? What price are they willing to make Queenslanders pay for their obsession with tearing down our borders? To Karen Andrews, Michaelia Cash and, most of all, Scott Morrison, Queenslanders have two words: back off. Even if they do not care about the health of Queenslanders, they should support our Queensland border because it is one of the only things keeping our national economy open.