




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 14 September 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.47 am): We know delta is coming to Queensland. It is not a matter of if but when. Every day that our border keeps the virus out of Queensland is another day of open, unrestricted economic activity for Queensland businesses and another day to further vaccinate and protect our population.

Queensland Treasury analysis indicates that an extended New South Wales-style lockdown could reduce economic activity in our state by over \$3 billion per month. Put another way, our strong health response is saving Queensland businesses \$100 million each day every day. Unfortunately, as the Premier has said, some Queensland businesses have shouldered a heavier burden. The burden has not come from any lockdown imposed by the Queensland government. On the contrary, for each of our short, sharp, timely lockdowns, Queensland Treasury analysis of bank data shows that overall consumer spending has fully rebounded. Unfortunately, it is not true for everyone.

Some businesses along our border have suffered because of the actions and inactions of the New South Wales government, resulting in outbreak, lockdown and the border restrictions that necessarily follow to protect Queenslanders.

Tourism businesses across Queensland have also suffered, as southern state residents have been confined to their homes by orders of their state governments. That is why our government is pleased to announce new enhancements to our \$600 million business support package that we have agreed with the federal government.

For businesses in border communities, eligibility for the business support package will be extended to align with the New South Wales lockdown rather than the Queensland lockdown period. This will mean more businesses in our border communities can access our business support grants of up to \$30,000.

The state will also be investing directly. We will be supporting the Gold Coast city council's voucher scheme with an additional \$1 million, a further \$50,000 in marketing support for the southern Gold Coast and up to \$700,000 to provide mental health support for those border businesses. Impacted tourism businesses outside of the border zone will also be able to access enhanced support. Eligible businesses in the tourism and hospitality sector that have experienced a 70 per cent decline in turnover will be eligible for a further grant of \$15,000, \$25,000 and \$50,000 depending on their business size. These tourism hardship grants are on top of the existing business support package, meaning some businesses will be eligible for \$80,000 in support.

I know this will be welcome news to all members of the House, particularly regional members such as the member for Cairns, the Assistant Minister for Tourism, who has been a relentless advocate for tourism businesses in this state, and in particular in the Far North of Queensland. When it comes to COVID-19, our government is protecting Queensland lives and protecting Queensland livelihoods.