



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2021

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Coronavirus, Economy**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.45 am): Queensland's economy continues to outperform our interstate peers in holding back the economic destruction wrought by the delta strain. We know the delta virus will come to Queensland. It is not a matter of if but when.

Every day that our borders keep the virus out is another day of economic activity for Queensland businesses. It is another day of vaccinating to protect our population. Our approach to the pandemic shows one thing quite clearly: a strong health response drives a stronger economic recovery.

To date, Queensland's strong health response has allowed us to avoid the extended lockdowns we have seen in New South Wales and Victoria. Short, sharp lockdowns have an impact on economic activity, but mobility and household spending data reveal that the impact is temporary with sharp rebounds soon after lockdowns are lifted.

Queensland Treasury has analysed the latest available spending data from major banks. After a lockdown-driven fall of 9.9 per cent in the week ending 6 August, consumer spending in Queensland has rebounded 9.5 per cent over the subsequent three weeks.

The short, sharp lockdowns in South-East Queensland and the Far North mean we have avoided billions of dollars in additional burden being imposed on the Queensland economy. By keeping Queenslanders safe, we will continue to maintain the consumer and business confidence needed to support the state's ongoing strong economic recovery and minimise the costs of COVID-19.

We want to lift all pandemic restrictions as soon as we can, and we would be lifting them already if Scott Morrison had not botched the vaccine rollout. As was revealed last week, the federal health minister Greg Hunt could not be bothered showing up for a meeting with Pfizer way back in June 2020. The Morrison government had one job: to secure as many vaccines as possible for our nation as quickly as humanly possible, and they failed. So for all those Queenslanders who are impacted by the border or southern state lockdowns, remember this: this is Scott Morrison's fault because he botched the vaccine rollout.

This month we are finally starting to see the vaccine supply that Queensland needed showing up from the Morrison government. I urge all Queenslanders, now that we are finally starting to receive the supply we need, to take the opportunity to get vaccinated. Do not let the Morrison government's delay and excuses become a personal delay or excuse because delta is coming to your door. The only way to be safe and to be ready is to get vaccinated and, no matter your age, this weekend is the perfect time to walk in and do that.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Clayfield!

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! If members to my right would cease interjecting, I am about to warn the member for Clayfield under the standing orders.