




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 18 November 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.48 am): Throughout the pandemic Queenslanders' willingness to follow the health advice has put our state in a world-leading position. The Palaszczuk Labor government's plan has protected the lives and livelihoods of Queenslanders and today all Queenslanders are reaping the benefit of that determination. Through the pandemic, on all major economic indicators, Queensland comes out on top. Whether it is jobs growth, economic growth, retail spending, household lending, dwelling investment, business investment, interstate migration or labour force participation, Queensland has either grown faster than the national average or we are the best performing state in the nation. Now, as we prepare to open our borders, there will be more rewards for those who have followed the health advice and are fully vaccinated.

In consultation with business our government is delivering a plan that will allow them to operate free of restrictions for fully vaccinated patrons and customers, but there is considerable resistance to that health advice. At a state and federal level, we see constant attempts to undermine the vaccine mandates recommended by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee. We saw that opposition outside this House just yesterday. Now our health strategy is being directly undermined by the Prime Minister of Australia. Today Scott Morrison said, 'People should be able to get a cup of coffee in Brisbane regardless of whether you have had a vaccine or not.' The man who seeks to benefit from the strong health plans delivered by states, including Queensland, is now undermining those plans for his own political benefits.

Scott Morrison is willing to put the lives of Queenslanders at risk for a handful of votes. Scott Morrison may not hold a hose but he is willing to pour fuel on anti vaccination flames. Today the Prime Minister also said, 'We are not in favour of mandatory vaccines imposed by government.' This is a Prime Minister who withholds the childcare rebate from the parents of unvaccinated children because of his government's mandate. This is a Prime Minister who just returned from Glasgow. If he had paused for a moment from fighting with France, he would have noticed that the National Health Service in the United Kingdom is at breaking point. The lack of COVID rules in the United Kingdom sees the UK heading into yet another bleak and deadly winter.

If Scott Morrison wants to be a prime minister for all Australians, he should stop undermining Queensland's vaccination plans, stop undermining Queensland's strong health response and should stop undermining Queensland's economic recovery. Scott Morrison should back the Queensland government's strong health response and stop undermining Queensland today.