



Speech By
Charis Mullen

MEMBER FOR JORDAN

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2021

MOTION

Coronavirus, Palaszczuk Labor Government Modelling

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (5.49 pm): ‘And the Oscar goes to...’ Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to oppose the member for Mudgeeraba’s motion. There is a fantastic proverb: ‘He who asks a question is a fool for five minutes; he who does not ask a question remains a fool forever.’ Our Premier has quite correctly asked some very important questions about the initial government modelling and the subsequent New South Wales and Victorian—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms Grace: Where’s your anger about people dying in New South Wales? Sorry.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I appreciate your penitence, member for McConnel, and I hope you keep that up for the remainder of the debate. Members, the level of interjections has climbed far too high. I will start warning people.

Mrs MULLEN: Questions about the subsequent New South Wales and Victorian outbreaks with more than 100,000 cases from one cluster, questions about our increased hospital demand and lack of federal funding or, frankly, any interest in health care, aged care or disability care, and questions about vaccinating children are what a responsible government asks. It questions, interrogates and does more than throw out inane slogans like, ‘Open up’, ‘Stick to the national plan’, ‘Can’t keep Australia under the doona.’ If those opposite cared so much about the plans for reopening our Queensland economy, they would support our government’s calls and actions to see as many people vaccinated as soon as possible. Seriously, say something.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, I am placing you on a warning. Your interjections have been loud and repeated and are interrupting the debate.

Mrs MULLEN: If those opposite cared so much about the plans for reopening our Queensland economy they would not be joining anti-vaxxer organisations, especially when they hope to be the health minister one day. If those opposite cared so much about the plans for reopening our Queensland economy they would perhaps take a moment to actually know what is happening with the Queensland economy.

No-one denies that lockdowns and border closures, both domestic and internationally, do not have an impact on businesses and economies, but here are some facts—and, member for Buderim, this is for you—Queensland’s economic growth in the June quarter was faster than the rest of Australia. In fact, Queensland’s economy grew by two per cent faster than Australia’s domestic demand of 1.7 per cent and far outstripped Australia’s GDP growth of 0.7 per cent. Household consumption in Queensland was 3.2 per cent higher than in March last year, further above its pre-COVID level than any other state or territory. Private investment in Queensland grew by 5.7 per cent in the June quarter, faster than any other state and almost three times faster than the national average growth in investment. State and

local government investment in Queensland grew by 5.1 per cent over the past 12 months. Queensland has added more jobs than any other state or territory since March. Some 67,000 more Queenslanders are in jobs today than pre COVID. Our unemployment rate in Queensland has dropped to 5.3 per cent from its COVID peak of 8.8 per cent in July 2020. And there is more.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The member for Bundaberg and member for Burleigh are both on warnings.

Mrs MULLEN: In the past 12 months, household lending grew 52 per cent faster than the national average. Dwelling approvals are up 32 per cent faster than the national average. Residential housing starts are 52 per cent higher than they were before COVID, higher than the national increase. Retail sales in Queensland are up 10.5 per cent on pre-COVID numbers, the strongest growth of any east coast state and almost twice the national average. We know that Queensland is attracting more interstate migrants than any other jurisdiction, with more than 31,000 people moving to Queensland in 2020. Wait, one more—the value of Queensland's exports is \$62.5 billion, 26 per cent higher than gold standard New South Wales.

If our economy continues to grow as a result of our strong health response, what is this motion really about? Let us be very clear—the LNP in Queensland want to destroy everything we have fought hard to protect. Let us be very clear—the LNP in Queensland wants the delta variant to rip through our state so they can blame our government when, sadly, inevitable deaths will occur. Let us be very clear—the LNP in Queensland is doing all of this for its mates in Canberra. We know that a federal election is imminent. There will be no visits to Glasgow this year. There is no way the Prime Minister wants Queenslanders to feel safe and protected under a Labor government. They certainly do not want a repeat of the Queensland state election results—a six per cent primary swing against them in Everton; a 6.1 per cent primary swing against them in Buderim; a 7.4 per cent primary swing against them in Morayfield; an 11 per cent primary swing against them in Hervey Bay—because that would not be good for federal seats like Dickson, Fairfax, Longman or Wide Bay. No, that would not be good at all.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Jordan, resume your seat. The member for Gregory is on a warning. I ask you to leave the chamber. It is not an invitation to comment, members.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 5.54 pm.

Mrs MULLEN: Really, as has been stated, if the Queensland LNP wants the confidential national cabinet modelling commissioned by the Prime Minister, why not call him and ask for it? Understanding the lack of morals and ethics by the Morrison government, I would not be surprised if they just leaked it to them anyway! That would depend on what the modelling says. Fingers crossed, it is all good like our early vaccine supply and the federal quarantine system. Oh, wait, hang on—let us not fool ourselves that the context of this motion, and in fact the Queensland opposition's entire attack on our government in relation to COVID, is not their political masters in Canberra just telling them what to do. They are absolute puppets. Let us be honest, we know whose hand is up there!