




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2021

MOTION

Coronavirus, Palaszczuk Labor Government Modelling

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (5.17 pm): I rise to speak against this motion because it is patently absurd. It is absurd to call for the release of confidential national cabinet modelling. It is not even ours to release. It is the Prime Minister's to release. If the LNP want to see it, why do they not give him a call. He does not hold a hose but he holds the modelling.

The question is: why do they want to see the modelling? It is not for transparency. It is that they do not believe it. They are thinking the Prime Minister and the premiers made it up. They want it released so they can undermine it for their own political purposes. The heart of this is that many of those in the LNP do not believe the science. Too many of those opposite think that COVID-19 is an overhyped flu, it is just an excuse to take away our civil rights and that the vaccines are a mass experiment.

What evidence is there for this? They have said actions countering COVID-19 are akin to hiding under a doona. They have called for the opening of the border not 64 times but 65 times now. We have just had the latest call over there—tear down this wall. That is very Reaganesque or Trumpesque, and that suits them. It shows that they just do not get it. The member for Scenic Rim has called Queenslanders in Queensland Health protecting other Queenslanders the dead hand or cold hand of bureaucracy. What an insult to all those Queenslanders who are protecting other Queenslanders.

It is very clear that many members of the LNP do not accept the science of climate change. It is very clear that many of them do not accept the science behind COVID-19 and the vaccinations. Let us again look at the evidence. I contest that they are not pushing for vaccinations. They are silent on it. Vaccinations are one of the most crucial actions Queenslanders can take to get us out of the pandemic and they are not saying anything about it. If you have a look at the Facebook pages of many of their Gold Coast or Sunshine Coast MPs for the last month, you will see that they are saying nothing about vaccinations.

Look at the member for Surfers Paradise—nothing; the member for Burleigh—nothing; the member for Currumbin—one on a clinic location; the member for Mermaid Beach—one of him getting a vaccine; the member for Southport—nothing; the member for Kawana—nothing; the member for Maroochydore—one on a clinic location; the member for Glass House—one on a clinic location. The member for Glass House said last March that the worst is over and the border needed to be opened! Most telling, the member for Mudgeeraba, the opposition spokesperson for health—nothing. If she is in favour of vaccination, she needs to show it, not just get up here and say it. She needs to show it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Through the chair, please.

Mr WHITING: There was not one post urging or pushing their residents to get vaccinated.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WHITING: Mr Deputy Speaker, not one—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not called you yet, member. I know the member is being provocative, but the level of interjection is far too high. I will start warning members.

Mr WHITING: There was not one post I could find where they are urging or pushing their residents to get vaccinated. We are facing the biggest public health challenge of our lifetime, and they are effectively ignoring it. They have more posts about dogs than they have about vaccinations. It is not enough to say, 'I've been vaccinated.' President Trump said the same thing.

They are not only climate change deniers but also vaccine sceptics. They see no value in pushing Queenslanders to get vaccinated, and that is incredibly hypocritical because each of their questions yesterday called on the government to reveal the pathway out of the pandemic. We know that vaccinations are the pathway out of border restrictions and lockdowns. Why are they calling on people to reveal pathways, modelling and plans when they are not calling for more people to be vaccinated?

(Time expired)