



Speech By  
**Daniel Purdie**


**MEMBER FOR NINDERRY**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2021

**MOTION**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Ipsos Polling Data; Order to Table Documents**

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Maroochydore. For a government that won in 2015 on a promise of transparency and accountability, what we have now is a government that is arrogant, deceptive and drunk on power. Eighteen months ago, Queenslanders put their faith in this government. They dutifully gave up their freedoms and liberties, ostensibly to protect the elderly and the most vulnerable from the COVID-19 virus. We did so because we were told the decisions were being based solely on medical advice. We now know that was not necessarily true.

Last Wednesday, at lunchtime, when the Premier was making an announcement to shut the borders with little notice, banning Queenslanders from returning home, a group of Queenslanders were in transit, on their way to or already arrived at Orange Airport. Some of them, via text message or through scuttlebutt, had heard that their border exemptions had been revoked. I spoke to one of them, Steve, earlier today. He sent me a chronology of what he endured. I will read some of it out shortly, because you would not see this in a Spielberg movie. Steve has lived in Queensland for 16 years.

**Mrs Frecklington:** He is a Queensland.

**Mr PURDIE:** He is a Queensland. He has a wife and children on the Gold Coast. He is currently the full-time carer for his mother-in-law here in Queensland. He had flown to a town between Dubbo and Orange for his mother's funeral. I will quote from what he emailed me today. He said—

Upon arrival at Brisbane airport, everyone on the plane was met by QLD Police, and told we could not enter Queensland and would have to return to NSW, after being taken by bus into Brisbane CBD and spending the night in a Quarantine Hotel. Later that evening at approximately 5:32PM, I received via email 'Quarantine Direction for my border pass ...

Among other things, the order stated—

"You are not permitted to enter Queensland. You are to remain at the stated place—  
being the Marriott Hotel—

until your departing flight out of Queensland Destination:Orange Flight Number: Date:unknown Time:unknown"

That was the direction he was given. He spent the next 24 hours frantically ringing and emailing everyone. I have the list: obviously, the health minister, the government, the health department and local members of parliament. I have heard through other sources that our police who were manning this hotel were equally as outraged and confused by this—being directed to tell Queenslanders who had nowhere to go back to that they had to leave. There were no available flights for them to catch. They were given a direction to leave on an unknown flight at an unknown time, and if they did not they would cop a hefty fine—over \$5,000. On Thursday, the following day, about 25 hours later, he received an update, a quarantine direction for his border pass. The direction contained additional information—

"You are not permitted to enter Queensland. You are to remain at the stated place until your departing flight out of Queensland ... NSW Flight Number: TBE Date: 28/08/2021 Time: 0800

The problem is that there were no flights to Orange at that time, so how could he comply with this direction? As I said, I understand police were then trying to advocate for him desperately to get an exemption—and for the other Queenslanders in the hotel—but it all fell on deaf ears.

On Friday he got a call from the police asking if he had secured a flight to leave the state as per his direction. Obviously he could not, because there was nowhere for him to go. He was a Queensland resident returning to his family and there was no flight available for him to board. He was told that if he disobeyed the direction he would get fined. Subsequently, the next morning he received that fine. He received two fines: one of \$4,135 under a public health direction and another of \$1,378 for disobeying a police direction. He received \$5½ thousand in fines for failing to comply with a direction to leave the state of his home and his family to return to New South Wales, where he had nowhere to go.

To rub salt into the wound, I am reliably informed that at 10 o'clock the next morning Kyle Paterson, the 22-year-old from the Cronulla Sharks, waltzed into the Marriott like he was in *Wayne's World* with his VIP pass to red carpet treatment with an exemption from this government to stay. This while Queenslanders and Stephen were being fined after being detained, evacuated and exiled from their own state! It is a shame.

*(Time expired)*