




Speech By
Hon. Glenn Butcher

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.11 am): Under the guidance of the Premier and the Chief Health Officer, Queenslanders have done an amazing job at keeping each other safe and the state open. It is through their hard work and following health directions that Queensland has avoided the lengthy lockdowns we have seen in other jurisdictions around the country. In particular, I know that regional Queenslanders appreciate the work our government has done to keep them safe. I know this because mayors, councillors and businesses owners right across the state have said this to me.

While we have all done well so far, we now have a new challenge to tackle as a state. Last week the Premier released Queensland's road map to open our borders to interstate and international travellers, to commence 17 December. As the vaccination rate increases, it is absolutely the right thing to do as we continue to deliver Queensland's plan to build back from the major interruption this pandemic has caused.

To do that in the safest possible way we need every single eligible Queenslander to get vaccinated. That is the message I have been talking to regional Queenslanders about for many months as I have travelled throughout the state. Over the past few weeks I have visited Longreach, Ilfracombe, the northern peninsula area, Toowoomba, Goondiwindi, Charters Towers, Townsville, Ingham, Tully and of course my hometown of Gladstone. My message to each of these communities has been the same: don't wait—get vaccinated. Book an appointment now to protect yourself, your family and your community, or in most cases now you can just walk in. Now that we have a date to work to, it is more important than ever. In fact, it is urgent.

If you have not had your first vaccination by Melbourne Cup Day this year, 2 November, you will not have time to be fully vaccinated before the borders open. I encourage every Queensland, wherever they live, to get vaccinated now. Book an appointment at a vaccination clinic, with your GP or at your local pharmacy or get yourself to a local pop-up clinic and just walk in. It does not matter how you get it done; what matters is that you are protecting yourself and you are protecting your loved ones from the delta strain.