




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Record of Proceedings, 10 March 2021

MOTION

Tourism Industry, Support

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.52 pm): The only reason the Labor state government wants answers from the federal government is that it has no plans. Members opposite would have no idea what to do if they woke up tomorrow with no JobKeeper. They were dragged kicking and screaming to do anything before JobKeeper. I remember when governments across the country were shutting down businesses. This state government was the last to act. Once the Morrison government brought in JobKeeper, this mob said, 'Thank God. They've saved us. We will now do a little bit of payroll tax tinkering.' It was not real support, because all they said is, 'We will delay your tax. You will still have to pay it. Obviously you will have to pay double because you will pay what is deferred.' That is all members opposite did. Then they came up with the small business grants, which were completely oversubscribed. On one street, one small business received a grant but a business that applied five minutes later did not. Where was the transparency in that? The federal government basically said, 'JobKeeper needs to apply to every struggling business in Australia.' That is what happened. JobKeeper saved the country's economy.

The reason the Labor mob in this House are so worried about the end of JobKeeper is that they will be found out, because they are propping up job numbers based on JobKeeper. The only reason the employment numbers are what they are is that the Scott Morrison government managed to keep people employed and tied into their businesses.

Where is the state government in all of this? It is not good enough for the minister who just spoke. He said, 'Even if we don't have JobKeeper, let's have something else.' I suspect that the minister knows, like we do, that something is coming. Tomorrow the minister will act all surprised: 'We called for this yesterday. Funny about that! We had a motion about this in the House.' Members opposite will get up tomorrow and say, 'I am glad that Scott Morrison listened to the Queensland parliament's motion last night.'

I was recently in Airlie Beach, in the wonderful electorate of Whitsunday, visiting charter boat operators. I just listened with dismay to the member for Mackay making disparaging comments about the member for Whitsunday. I can tell the member for Mackay what those charter boat operators were talking about. There is more respect in the Whitsunday region for the member for Whitsunday than there is for the member for Mackay—if you could even meet anyone who has ever met or knows the member for Mackay! She was even the assistant treasurer of the state. The member for Whitsunday is listening to her Airlie Beach community, which is calling on the government to give more support.

A government member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for Whitsunday grows people like you in her backyard. She has a big wet lettuce leaf vegie patch reserved for people like the member for Mackay, whom the community do not even respect or know. People go to the member for Whitsunday, not the member for Mackay, because they know that they will get the advocacy they deserve.

(Time expired)