



Speech By  
**Julianne Gilbert**


**MEMBER FOR MACKAY**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 March 2021

**MOTION**

**Tourism Industry, Support**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.29 pm): It is a pleasure to support the Premier's motion. My family have lived across the Mackay-Whitsunday region for generations and it is a privilege to live in the best place in Queensland. I am very proud of everything across the Mackay-Whitsunday region. We are the envy of the world. We have the perfect beaches in Mackay and the Whitsundays, and we have rainforests up in the Pioneer Valley. It is truly the place to be.

When COVID-19 hit, we knew it was going to be tough and we knew it was going to be a challenge for our local tourism operators, but we knew that as a region we always pull together. We know how to pull together because we have endured cyclones, floods and bushfires. In typical regional fashion, we have pulled together in tough times. I am proud to be a part of the Palaszczuk government, the government that moved very quickly to support tourism operators when COVID hit.

I am a bit dismayed about the Morrison government. They are thumbing their nose at tourism operators. It is 17 days until they turn the tap off and cancel JobKeeper. In 17 days, we know that jobs will go across the Mackay and Whitsunday region all because the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, and the LNP are too busy trying to protect their jobs in the upcoming federal election. They are selling out the regions because they are too busy thinking about themselves. The member for Whitsunday gets up in the media and says she is standing up for jobs, which is great, but it is time to do the real work now. Is she going to start banging on the doors of her LNP colleagues in Canberra and make sure that she says we need to have—

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Whitsunday, you will use correct titles in this chamber.

**Mrs GILBERT:** I invite her to go down and bang on those doors and say to her colleagues in Canberra, 'We need to have JobKeeper for our tourism operators.' I do not often agree with the federal member for Dawson, but he is calling for an extension of JobKeeper. He is lobbying his own government and he is petitioning his own government. Unfortunately, the Prime Minister does not often come to Mackay because he does not seem to want to be associated with the member for Dawson and he only sends his deputy, but I call on both of them to get the federal LNP government to extend JobKeeper.