



Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Bundamba Electorate, Jobs

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (7.17 pm): It is a great pleasure to speak in this place just a few days ahead of the one-year anniversary of the Bundamba by-election held on 28 March 2020, when I was given the great privilege of becoming the member for Bundamba. I am incredibly proud to be part of such a vibrant, determined, supportive and resilient local community and equally proud to be their representative.

It has also been one year since our nation went into lockdown in response to the global COVID pandemic, and it is our state that is leading the country's economic and employment recovery. Queensland really is the place to be. Data released last week by the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed more than 53,000 Queenslanders found full-time work during the month of February. Queensland generated six times as many full-time jobs as New South Wales and four times as many as Victoria. This represented the biggest unemployment drop in Australia, and Queensland was responsible for more than 60 per cent of all full-time jobs created across the country.

We continue to be committed to a safe and strong recovery, delivering the skills and training Queenslanders need to gain rewarding, secure employment now and into the future. Locally, that means delivering record numbers of new health workers. Already this year we have welcomed 33 new intern doctors at Ipswich Hospital, and an intake of graduate nurses will soon join them. We are also committed to record numbers of teachers and more workers to support our frontline police, and our ongoing investment in world-class education is backing jobs for local tradies. That includes recently completed works at Riverview, Kruger, Goodna Special and Collingwood Park state schools, and it also includes the current stage 2 developments of the Ripley Valley State Secondary College and Ripley Valley State School.

We are also supporting our young people into trades with free TAFE and apprenticeships. While we continue to back Queensland workers, the Morrison federal government is ready to rip about \$22 million a week from our local Ipswich economy, scrapping JobKeeper and impacting more than 29,000 of our workers. JobKeeper continues to be a lifeline for many people across our local community who still need critical support. Stopping this support on 28 March—this week—as the Morrison federal government plans to do will impact about 7,700 Ipswich businesses and organisations. It is not only an issue for Ipswich. Scrapping JobKeeper will have a huge impact on communities all over the state because it is supporting more than 160,000 Queensland businesses and about 608,000 workers.

Here in Queensland at a state level we have done the heavy lifting and are leading the nation in our recovery, but prematurely cutting JobKeeper will put our safe and strong recovery at risk. The pandemic is not over and JobKeeper is essential during these unprecedented times.