



Speech By  
**Laura Gerber**


**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

---

Record of Proceedings, 9 March 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

### Coronavirus, Queensland Border

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.12 pm): I rise in the House tonight to fight for the devastated tourism operators in the border community of my electorate of Currumbin. These businesses need this government's help and targeted industry support. It is no secret that tourism operators have struggled immensely throughout COVID-19, so it was good to see the small win for Cairns tourism this week, but there are other businesses in exactly the same economic position in the border community that also need state relief.

Gold Coast business operators are extremely reliant on international tourism and are desperate for targeted support—and they need it now. It has not been viable for tourism operators such as the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and the TreeTop Challenge to keep their doors open seven days a week. The sad reality is that they can operate only a few days a week because the visitors are not there. Take a local favourite and tourism dependent business, Gold Coast Skydive. A massive 55 per cent of its business relies on international tourism. Monday to Friday it is struggling.

Tourism businesses on the Gold Coast need targeted help from this state government to see them through this crisis. The ripple effects of COVID-19 threaten to wipe out many ailing businesses in my community and, just as disaster relief flows to businesses affected by a natural disaster, COVID-19 is a disaster that has hit this community. It requires the activation of targeted relief to kickstart the recovery of businesses impacted by border closures and COVID-19 restrictions. Do not get me wrong: there are businesses on the border doing really well, thriving in fact. These are businesses whose trade has been based in and filled by the Currumbin community. But there are tourism operators, just as there are in Cairns, who are on their knees that this government must also help.

Quite frankly, part of the reason tourism businesses on the border are bleeding out is their proximity to the border. People are not coming close to the border because of the uncertainty around border closures. Just as Cairns is struggling to attract tourists by air, on the border businesses are also struggling to encourage people to visit. We need the government to step up and support these Gold Coast businesses with targeted relief to encourage the domestic market to explore their brilliant tourism offerings. This government's losing major tourist events such as the WSL Corona Open to New South Wales does not help. This is millions of dollars in lost revenue, and it is the businesses on the border that are bearing the brunt of this, suffering the cost of this choice by this government. This is no fictional television show. Winter is actually coming. These businesses need the state government to step up and support them with targeted relief.