



Speech By  
**Laura Gerber**


**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 31 August 2021

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Coronavirus, Queensland Border Restrictions**

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.17 pm): My Currumbin community are shouldering the burden of the state border closure for the rest of Queensland and they feel abandoned by the Palaszczuk Labor government. There is no targeted financial support for border businesses that are currently on their knees and falling through the cracks because the current state lockdown package does not cover the impact of rolling border closures. Instead of trying to help my community, instead of trying to find a way to deliver targeted support, instead of trying to find a way to reinstate the previously successful and safe border bubble, the Palaszczuk Labor government is playing politics with the border, fighting with New South Wales over checkpoints.

To add insult to injury, today we learn that the Premier is opening our state border to NRL families from Sydney while our constituents are locked out of their homes. Two days ago, a Currumbin Valley constituent who was in New South Wales for work was denied entry back into Queensland to be at her dying father's bedside. Yesterday he passed away. So while the Palaszczuk Labor government was making plans to allow NRL families to come to Queensland, my constituent missed out on saying a final goodbye to her father, and we are still trying to get her home—not so she can say goodbye now but so she can be at his funeral. If NRL families can have a league bubble, then the border community can have their border bubble back, and maybe my Tallebudgera Valley constituent could have said goodbye to her dad.

I wish the Premier would accept my invitation to come to Coolangatta because my community desperately needs the state government to support them. If the Premier were to come to Coolangatta these are just some of the stories she would hear. Graham is a doctor in Coolangatta. His Queensland surgery runs a COVID vaccination clinic. His cross-border medical support workers are not considered essential. He writes—

We are unable to operate or give vaccinations without these support workers. This is sheer insanity.

Harriet, a Currumbin Valley local writes—

We run a business in the Tweed. 70% of our staff live in Queensland. We employ 64 staff. Our Queensland staff are not able to come to work. The Premier has caused much confusion and anxiety for Queenslanders who live on the Gold Coast, with no roadmap and little detail on how we move forward from this point.

Kayte, who owns Kirra Beauty Collective, writes—

I haven't been able to pay my rent this month ...

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** You all should care about this.

**Mr Power:** We do.

**Mrs GERBER:** She goes on—

I have no clients—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** Stop interjecting and listen. She goes on—

My business needs help! The same thing is happening to businesses all throughout the town.

Currumbin constituents cannot continue to bear the brunt of this border closure without support. Institute the border bubble again. Currumbin needs it desperately.

**Honourable members** interjected.

*(Time expired)*