



Speech By  
**Laura Gerber**


**MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

### Queensland Border Restrictions

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (9.21 pm): From March last year up until just yesterday small and family businesses, their staff and tourism operators in my border community of Currumbin shouldered the burden of state border restrictions in order to keep the rest of Queensland safe with zero targeted support from this state Labor government. For over a year now our border community has been calling for targeted support.

Last month local border businesses and community members came together in a last-ditch effort to implore the state government to hear them. After that meeting I wrote to the Premier once again outlining exactly what my border community have called for. My letter states that the border community urgently needed targeted financial support and funding for a marketing campaign; that the border community needed a focused mental health plan; and that our situation on the border may not have been so extreme if we had a cross-border commissioner, free from government politics, to work with their New South Wales counterpart to develop solutions for our community. I table a copy of that letter for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 19 August 2021, from the member for Currumbin, Mrs Laura Gerber MP, to the Premier and Minister for Trade, the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, regarding targeted support for Currumbin electorate [1407].

I also raised the matter directly with the minister and the Premier on the floor of this parliament. As a community we ran media campaigns, because we all know this government is more likely to respond when it is in the media. After our community banded together and after all of the media attention, we saw the small business minister visit Coolangatta, we saw a pop-up hub open on Kirra Hill and just yesterday the federal Morrison government came to the rescue and announced a joint emergency border package, and I note that two of the suggestions put forward in my letter by my border community were taken up and are part of this package. Two out of three is not bad, and I will continue to fight for the third—a Queensland cross-border commissioner.

So this is a thank you speech. I know there are ways this support can be improved—and I will continue to fight for them—but my community deserves a massive pat on the back for their advocacy. I make special note of Veri and Dane from the Coolangatta Board Store for spearheading the Coolangatta community meeting last month; Steve Edgar from the Coolangatta Surf Club for hosting the event and for advocating for the Cooly community every chance he gets; Sam Beau Patrick for spearheading the Essentially Cooly campaign, one of the campaigns that received financial support under the grant yesterday; the advocacy of the Greater Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce, including their president, Hilary Jacobs; and all of our border community businesses that banded together to ensure their voice was heard as advocates for this support package.

Yesterday's announcement is a testament to what can be achieved when our community rallies together for support. I will keep fighting for our small and family businesses and their staff, who are still falling through the cracks because they are ineligible to receive this support. There are businesses that

have been excluded from the border zone map. The hardship grant will not even be available unless the current border lockdown extends to 14 October, and there are businesses that are still waiting for the July lockdown support to hit their bank accounts. I will continue to fight for our small and family businesses and their staff on our border.