




Speech By
Hon. Mark Bailey

MEMBER FOR MILLER

Record of Proceedings, 16 November 2021

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coronavirus Vaccination, Truck Drivers

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.03 am): Let me start today with a thank you to our Queensland truckies for rolling up their sleeves and getting the COVID jab. As of yesterday, I can report to the House that 824 truckies have been vaccinated at our two special border clinics at Tugun and Goondiwindi. It is a huge help to our border towns and communities serviced across Queensland's freight network. It is also a huge help to Queensland's hospitals and health workers by preventing positive COVID infections.

We know that necessary interstate travel by truckies to keep our supply chain open has been a high risk to both their health and the health of the community. That is why we set up the two clinics for truckies specifically to get vaccinated. Our quick and decisive action has proved effective because we listen and act on health advice. Despite the constant and predictable howls by the typical suspects about the Palaszczuk Labor government's strong health response, it is measures like our dedicated truckie clinics that have kept Queenslanders safe.

These clinics have now down their job. At every turn the freight industry has worked collaboratively with us in responding to the pandemic, and I thank everybody in the freight industry for working with us on the health response. Not only have they been getting the jab, but they have been sticking to the rules to keep Queenslanders safe. On Saturday we stopped 1,049 trucks at the border and only nine were turned around for not having either the right pass or a negative test.

We are not out of the woods yet. COVID-19 is still a threat and Queenslanders are responding via our clinics, our hubs and our GPs statewide. Getting vaccinated is the best way to drive our economic recovery, and getting vaccinated is the best way to reunite families for Christmas. We are now welcoming back more people and gearing up for a bumper summer tourist season, but it means we will also see COVID arrive in the Sunshine State at some point so we need Queenslanders to be like our truckies and to get vaccinated and to keep acting on health advice. Get the jab so we can spend the Christmas with our families. I have one message: don't vacillate; vaccinate.