



Speech By  
**Hon. Mark Ryan**


**MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 September 2021

**MOTION**

**Queensland Border Restrictions**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.39 pm): There is no doubt about it: these are extraordinary times. COVID-19 has affected the entire world. It has affected Australians; it has affected Queenslanders. Some Queenslanders have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Seven of them have lost their lives. Today 12 people in New South Wales passed away and two Victorians died. So far 1,102 Australians have died. They have made the ultimate sacrifice. We have to continually recognise that to keep people safe, to stop people from dying, we have to make sacrifices. We have to be inconvenienced at times because it is the sacrifices and hard work of Queenslanders in particular that has saved lives. It has been the hard work, the sacrifices and the commitment of Queenslanders to strong action on borders, strong action on hotel quarantine, supporting expert contact tracing, supporting outstanding work by health infection control, police and other government officials in hotel quarantine that has kept us safe.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr RYAN:** The world that Queenslanders live in today is a safe place because of the sacrifices, hard work and commitment of Queenslanders to strong government action. The world we would be living in if the LNP had their way would be quite a different story. It would be a world where they say, 'Let's open the borders'; a world where they put billboards up to say, 'Let's open the borders'; a world where we help people climb over barricades at the border on the Gold Coast; a world where we say, 'Eat some horse worming tablets'; a world where we say, 'Let's not lock down'; a world where we say, 'Let's have dinner parties in the streets in Toowoomba'; a world where we say, 'Mask mandates are insanity'; a world where, when an email comes in from Pfizer saying, 'Here's some vaccine', we right click and mark it as junk; a world where we say, 'Quarantine facilities are not a commitment of the federal government'. The world that the LNP would have us living in would be a very different place compared to the world we are living in today. The world we are living in today is because Queenslanders have worked hard, Queenslanders have made sacrifices and Queenslanders have backed in strong government action by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

We are safer because of the hard work of Queenslanders. We are safer because of strong decisive action by Queenslanders. It would all be at risk if you took your eye off the ball of keeping Queenslanders safe like the LNP would have us do. If Scott Morrison had done the right thing, if he had ordered enough vaccines, if he had not ignored offers from Pfizer, if he got hotel quarantine and other quarantine facilities right, we would absolutely be in a very different place today. But because he has dropped the ball, because Scott Morrison did not do the things that he had to do, we are in a very different place. That is a shame on him and a shame on the LNP.

The Queensland government will always put the interests of Queenslanders first. That may mean taking strong decisive action to keep people safe. It is because Queenslanders have backed in that strong decisive action that we are safer. We are in a better position than other states. We do have to reflect on the position those other states are in. What is happening in New South Wales and other states is a tragedy. There is community transmission of COVID-19; people are filling up hospitals; people are being put on ventilators; and people are being put in intensive care units, not able to have their families come and visit them in hospital because of that situation.

Because of the strong action of our Premier and because of the strong action of the Queensland Labor government we are in a better place. I pay tribute to the very hardworking frontline workers—the police, the State Emergency Service volunteers, the firefighters and the Queensland Health personnel who have worked hard on the borders, in hotels and right across the state to keep us safe.

*(Time expired)*