




Speech By
Michael Hart

MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH

Record of Proceedings, 1 September 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Coronavirus, Queensland Border Restrictions

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.06 pm): Those opposite might be surprised to know that one and one always equals two—not sometimes, always. Those on the Gold Coast are being severely affected by border restrictions around the Tweed area. Unless you are a member of parliament like the member for Currumbin, myself and the member for Mudgeeraba, you will not appreciate how affected these areas are by these restrictions. I wrote to the Premier urgently two weeks ago and suggested that we put together a cross-border group of MPs and councillors to discuss these issues and to come up with sensible suggestions to make to the government. Two weeks ago I wrote to her, but I have had no reply. One and one is two.

I am aware that the Premier keeps saying that she has talked to the New South Wales Premier. The New South Wales Premier says that the Queensland Premier has not actually spoken to her at all about moving the borders. The Queensland government says it wants to move the borders, but it is the one that is stopping this from actually happening. New South Wales put forward some very sensible suggestions yesterday around moving the borders, but that was rejected by Queensland. It put forward some very sensible suggestions about reworking the essential workers to include healthcare workers, to include education workers, to include childcare workers. That, too, was rejected by the Queensland government. It put forward very sensible suggestions to involve rapid testing at the border. That, too, was rejected by the Queensland government.

Tonight we heard that the Queensland government has been doing polling about its responses to COVID. One and one equals two, members. The decisions that are being made by this government are clearly political in motive, coming from that polling.

Government members interjected.

Mr HART: It is slamming the borders closed. It is putting these restrictions in place that are having a terrible effect on my electorate.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Pause the clock. Members to my right, please cease all interjections.

Mr HART: It is putting these restrictions in place based on polling and political decisions. It goes out and makes these announcements and then it has the Chief Health Officer justifying it by her health advice retrospectively enforcing what the government has already decided.

If that is not the case, release the advice. Show us the advice in advance. Release the polling. Release the advice. If that is not the case, I will apologise to the House. My area is being heavily affected by what is going on at the border. They need support. I have businesses going broke. I have people who say they cannot pay their mortgages. This government is making political decisions not based on health advice.

Mr Bailey: Look at the outcome, Noddy!

Mr HART: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Somebody over there just called me 'Noddy'. I take personal offence to that and ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr BAILEY: That was certainly me and I withdraw.