



Speech By  
**Michael Hart**


**MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 September 2021

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT**

**Burleigh Electorate; Queensland Border Restrictions**

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.25 pm): If one has a very strong arm and a very small rock, one could almost throw a rock from the border crossing on the M1 at the Gold Coast to my electorate so I was really surprised when I saw that my electorate was excluded from applying for the emergency border business COVID grants. If the so-called Minister for Small Business thinks that the businesses in my electorate in Palm Beach and Burleigh are not affected by the restrictions that this government has put in place on the border she is quite frankly delusional.

I have a number of businesses in my electorate that have been affected. I will give members a couple of examples. The lady who runs my local bakery lives just across the border in New South Wales. It is 10 kilometres away. People drive that far to go to work every day. I know that most of us do. This lady cannot cross the border. She cannot operate her bakery. She cannot pay her bills. She is telling me now that she is struggling with her mortgage. Her husband has recently passed away and she is taking care of her two small children.

I also have a crane company in my electorate that has had to sell two of their cranes because they can no longer operate around that part of the coast. They cannot cross the border and come back in. That is where most of their business is. We have a number of builders who are operating under fixed price contracts and they can no longer do the work on those buildings because they cannot get across the border.

What we have here is, quite clearly, a Premier who is making political decisions about the border, reinforced then by information from the Chief Health Officer to put in place what the Premier has already decided. She has let in a bunch of footballers and their wives, but she is decimating the businesses in my area. I also have a corn chip company that cannot get their people across the border. I have an air-conditioning company that has half of its staff who cannot come across the border.

I have nurses and teachers in the same situation. One of my schools has 30-odd teachers who live in New South Wales and could not come across the border. I have been speaking to the students at that school. They are not getting the attention they need, especially the students getting close to finishing—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr HART:** If the Minister for Education would like to come down and talk specifically to some of those students, I would be happy to introduce her to them so she can learn for herself. After all, we need to hear it from the horse's mouth. This lunacy has to end. Please give grants to the people in my electorate who are suffering because of this border chaos.