



Speech By  
**Michael Healy**


**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

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**MOTION**

**Tourism Industry, Support**

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (4.36 pm): I have got a lovely speech here and I could read it, but I might skip the notes because what I have been hearing is absolutely disappointing. This is nothing more than this government raising some concerns regarding the federal government. I will say that what the federal government has done to date is appreciated. I saw Josh Frydenberg and I went up to him and said, 'Josh, thank you very much with JobKeeper. It has been fantastic,' and it has been fantastic. I want to acknowledge that. We will take the stupidity out of the debate and put a bit of reality into it.

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Mr HEALY:** Sorry, Jon, I am talking and I cannot hear you. I would like to also acknowledge destinations like Cairns, where tourism is the lifeblood, and places like the Whitsundays and the Gold Coast. These are areas that are dominated by and reliant on international business.

We are rolling out the vaccines—and the state government is doing a successful job of that in conjunction with the federal government—and we will hopefully not have to shut our borders internally. We need to instil confidence in consumers and we are doing that. We are seeing thousands and thousands of people coming online, as was addressed. We are building demand for our destinations. This is what drives it, but the void in the international visitors is absolutely key. The federal Treasurer has spoken about 91 per cent of the economy almost getting back to normal. I was in Cairns and I heard what he said. The international industry up there is a \$2.9 billion industry and we have lost nearly \$2 billion. That also contributes to our international visitors and our international students, and that has impacted everywhere up and down the coast. The minister for tourism and I have travelled up and down listening to people.

What we are saying is that the federal government has not given anybody in any way, shape or form any assurity. We have key industry leaders in Cairns and other parts of Queensland asking, 'What are you going to do for us?' Ken Chapman, who is an icon up there, and the chamber of commerce up there are talking about this. A wide range of people up and down the coast are asking what the federal government is doing. We are saying that the federal government takes 80 per cent of the taxes so it should be pumping more money into it. If it is not going to be JobKeeper it can be something else, but at least give something to these businesses. Some of these people might even vote for you, but you have got to give these people some type of assurity. We are the only ones who are talking and we will continue to invest significantly and take a big hit. All we are saying is this: what are you going to do?