



Speech By  
**Patrick Weir**


**MEMBER FOR CONDAMINE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Coronavirus, Quarantine Facility

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (7.13 pm): The sod has been turned on the Wellcamp quarantine facility and it is on its way to being constructed and apparently will be ready for 500 people to quarantine prior to Christmas this year, with 1,000 anticipated by March 2022. I am not sure how the hotel industry will like this loss of patronage given the border remains slammed shut to everybody. On 27 January I started asking for details on this facility and I am still asking for details in October, but they do not seem to be forthcoming.

I, along with the local members for Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South, received a briefing on 29 September from the Deputy Premier's department, which I thank them for. However, once again this was still very light on any detail. We asked questions and the answers received were limited to build and design details. We were told the day-to-day running will be at the direction of Queensland Health. I for one would like to know where the medical, security, cleaning, maintenance and catering staff will be coming from. Are they to be locally sourced or outsourced and, if so, where will they be housed? Will everyone on site be required to be fully vaccinated? What happens if one of the people housed in the facility has a medical episode such as a heart attack? Will they be transported to our local hospital? Once the 14 days quarantine has been completed how will the occupants be transported to their homes or their accommodation? What is the appropriate time line for the operation of the quarantine facility? Is it one year, two years, three years? What happens to the facility once it is no longer required? What will be owned by the Wagner family and what will be owned by the Queensland government?

There are many questions and too few answers. The Toowoomba community and surrounding district deserve some answers. When any questions are asked the Premier's response is that it is commercial-in-confidence. The government has forgotten that this is taxpayer money. A 2018 Audit Office report on confidentiality and disclosure of government contracts states—

In keeping with the policy of open information and the Right to Information Act 2009, parliament and members of the public should have access to government contract information unless there is a sound reason not to. This includes government contracts for the procurement of goods and services. The public has a right to know how much public money government is spending, on what, and with which vendors.

We are constantly told that this is an open and accountable government. Start by telling the people of Queensland how much of their public money is being spent on this project.