




Speech By
Ray Stevens

MEMBER FOR MERMAID BEACH

Record of Proceedings, 26 October 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Coronavirus, Queensland Border

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.13 pm): My office is still inundated with complaints about the Premier's inconsistent border closure regime, particularly blocking Queenslanders from returning home even though they are double vaccinated and prepared to home quarantine for two weeks. There are Queenslanders stranded in other states because of the Premier's barbed wire, unconstitutional blockade of them returning home. What sort of dictatorship are we Queenslanders living in? The Premier needs to develop some personal compassion and humanity and stop the political gamesmanship based on her weekly polling of what is trying to keep her popular. The 'corona queen' crown is falling down around the Premier's ankles because of her lack of caring and compassion for a small band of Queenslanders stuck across borders through no fault of their own.

Some 4,000 Queenslanders are on the waiting list to come home, some of whom are living in their cars because they are out of money and out of hope. There are another 9,000 interstate folk on the waiting list to come to Queensland, but surely our 4,000 Queenslanders should have priority to return to their home state above new arrivals to Queensland. Do Queenslanders take priority, Premier? The illogical and unfair quarantine regime enforced by the Premier has no reasoning in fact or empirical experience. These are double vaccinated people prepared to undertake current COVID testing for a negative result and prepared to home quarantine for two weeks. The only fathomable reason that the Premier is keeping them from returning home is that her weekly polling based decision-making is saying to keep them out of Queensland to enforce the perception that the Premier is keeping Queensland safe from coronavirus.

We have Queensland's most prominent poll dancer! How does the Premier reconcile Transport Workers' Union truckies going back and forth across the border every day but double vaxed Queenslanders are held at bay across the border, as if they are an infected plague? The answer to that of course is that the Premier is looking after union mates at the expense of everyday Queenslanders. The Premier is harping on daily that people should get vaccinated and yet these double vaccinated Queenslanders are being kept out of the state like lepers for no good reason. Let them come home, Premier. Show these Queenslanders some compassion, Premier, and stop playing political games, based on your weekly polling, with the lives of innocent Queenslanders. Queensland, Queensland, Queensland! We need them home right now. Open up the testing regime so that these people do not have to pay \$1,000 for a sample. We want them all home!