



Speech By  
**Ros Bates**


**MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2021

**MOTION**

**Coronavirus, Palaszczuk Labor Government Modelling**

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.00 pm): I move—

In accordance with standing order 27 this House orders the Premier to table by 27 October 2021 all modelling and analysis concerning the Queensland government's response to COVID-19 and, in particular, information relating to the Queensland government's plans for the reopening of the Queensland economy as rates of vaccination increase.

The motion speaks to plans for the reopening of the Queensland economy as rates of vaccinations increase. I want to address that matter first. Vaccination is critical. It is our pathway out of the pandemic.

When it comes to integrity, I have more integrity in my big toe than the member for Woodridge. If you want to talk about credibility, I have more credibility as a registered nurse than the former attorney-general for Tuvalu has or the embattled Minister for Health. The member for Woodridge and some of his colleagues on the benches opposite tried to claim today that I was somehow opposed to the vaccine. Those statements were defamatory and they were wrong. The last time the member for Woodridge tried to impugn my reputation as a nurse, he was forced to apologise to the House by the Speaker.

I want every Queenslander to get the vaccine, and let me tell this chamber why. I want it so Queenslanders do not get ill when COVID comes to Queensland so that they are not needing to be admitted to our ICUs and our EDs. Let me repeat that: I want Queenslanders to get the COVID vaccine so that when it comes to Queensland, they are not needing to be admitted to our ICUs and EDs. I want it so Queenslanders who have been separated from family by international and state borders, like me, can be reunited at long last. I want it so that small and family businesses right up and down this great state can know that they will be able to trade, to have the confidence to plan ahead. I want it so that we are able to live with hope over fear.

I say it to my family, I say it to my friends, I say it privately and I say it publicly. I say it at every press conference and I say it in this chamber. I had my vaccination before the Premier. I had my vaccination before the health minister. My entire family is vaccinated. My message and my position is clear.

If you want to talk about vaccination scare campaigns, the mother of all of them was borne by the Premier's action or rather inaction. The flu shot, the dog bite, the trip to Tokyo—we would be so much closer to 80 per cent and a roadmap out of this pandemic if it were not for those pathetic excuses. Vaccination is the key driver behind being able to establish a roadmap out of this pandemic. That is the roadmap that we do not have. It is the roadmap that this government has not and will not provide.

The Premier has refused point blank to provide a pathway out of the pandemic. We have heard the excuses: we need to vaccinate children; the hospitals will not cope; vaccine supply issues; the spread of the vaccination is not even. The Premier said—

I encourage the Prime Minister to release the revised Doherty modelling before Friday's meeting and then publicly.

The hypocrisy when it comes to releasing information is rank. The Premier on one hand says releasing modelling is important—she is happy to say that about Canberra—yet on the other hand when it is not politically convenient for her or her government, the Premier decides releasing the information to the public is not needed.

Questions need to be asked. Does this government have a plan or has it changed? I agree with the Premier when she says modelling should be released publicly; it makes sense. Bring Queenslanders into your confidence, share with them the rationale and share with them the criteria. It is these things that can allow people to plan—to plan their next visit to come home to Queensland, to plan the next move for their business.

The Premier has form when it comes to this. The opposition recently called for the Premier to release pandemic research. It cost more than half a million dollars, but the Premier refused. This government are experts when it comes to governing in the dark. It is not a record to be proud of. Let the record show that this is yet another example of that. The information is good enough for the government, but it is not good enough for honest Queenslanders and that hurts. Real people, real Queenslanders need answers and they are not getting it. The time has come to let us know.