




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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MOTION

Tourism Industry, Support

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (4.23 pm): This is an opportune government that wants to blame everyone else and never takes responsibility for its own actions. With a cheap little trick late on Wednesday afternoon they are now trying to make something out of it because, as the member for Toowoomba South said, they must know something is coming and they want to get ahead of the game. We have seen it before. We saw it back in March last year when they did exactly the same thing.

Let's have a look at what the federal government has done. We agree that the federal government does have an obligation to support all Australians, particularly Queenslanders, and particularly Queenslanders who are doing it tough because of the international border closures. But what have they just done? The biggest rescue package since the Second World War, \$507 billion, all went out the door or is going out the door within three months. What else have they done? JobKeeper; JobSeeker; the coronavirus supplement; JobMaker, \$74 billion; childcare support; boosting cash flow for employers, \$10,000 to \$50,000 for eligible businesses; supporting apprentices, \$21,000 up to 50 per cent of a wage; the instant asset write-off scheme, \$30,000 to \$150,000 and they increased the eligibility for companies up to \$500 million; the Small and Medium Enterprises Guarantee Scheme; and let's not forget the building fund that saw people get between \$25,000 and \$15,000.

This government crows about the building boom, but there is one reason the building boom is going on in Queensland and that is because the federal government has put that program in place. Was there one word of thanks from this government with respect to that? None. In the rear with the gear in fear—that is what this government is all about. If we waited for this government to come up with a plan that would achieve something and save something, we would be waiting a long time yet. This government closed the state borders and then sent the bill straight to the federal government. They knew the federal government was carrying the can—\$1,500 employee payments and all of the funds that were going in there—while they closed the border down with impunity and did not have to pick up the tab.

Political opportunism is the hallmark of this government and fiscal ineptitude is the hallmark of this Treasurer. I heard him mention bringing someone back. I say bring back Andrew Fraser, because at least he could make sense of the accounts and have a decent argument, not just look at himself in the mirror and spout numbers off. Queensland should be supported, the feds should do it, but this government has failed in every other test.