




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR TRAEGER

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ADJOURNMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Coronavirus Vaccination Mandate; Spanish Mackerel Fishery

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (6.23 pm): I take the opportunity to endorse those comments made about autism. My sister deals with autistic children and they do some wonderful things now for children with autism.

Tonight I rise with a sense of extreme dissatisfaction given the number of debates in this place that have been truncated. I wanted to talk about the mackerel fishery that is being attacked at the moment, but I need to mention the speech I was preparing all day. I travelled 2,000 kilometres to be here and this was the big debate of the week for us and I did not get a chance to speak, along with many other members. There was a party last night on the green. We could have had another hour. There was another hour of debate yesterday. I would have been prepared to stay another two or three hours to let other people speak even if I did not agree with their views, but we are truncating democracy in this space by not letting members speak.

I am extremely annoyed that I did not get to put my views forward, so I quickly want to talk about vaccine mandates, something we have disagreed with from the start. I accept the view of trying to keep people safe and using mandates to do that. We are at 92 per cent or 93 per cent now and a lot of people are accustomed to doing it. I get so many comments from police, cafes and restaurants saying that they are sick of dealing with people by being the quasi-security police and enforcement officers for government around the state. The social disruption that is happening is not quantified. We can quantify deaths and illnesses, but we cannot quantify social disruption, the economic costs and those social costs. A parliamentary committee handed down its report on social isolation and loneliness. What do members think contributes to that? Mandates and the likes. It is very easy to present the empirical data on deaths and sickness, but it is very difficult to define the huge cost on society.

There are a number of people who are described as having cognitive dissonance. The number of people who have come up to us and said, 'Do you know what? I didn't have a problem with the vaccines, but I'm sick of the government forcing them and now I'm against them.' With regard to the swell of people outside, the government is inadvertently creating this balloon of people who are getting annoyed with the government and now they just want to object for the sake of it. There is a strong argument that all of the effort it is putting in now is counterintuitive and resulting in fewer people going to get a vaccination. It is time to get rid of the mandate and move on. We need to turn the messages into 'stay at home if you are sick', 'do not shake hands' and social distancing. They are real things we can do, but I do not hear that anymore. All I hear is vaccines, vaccines, vaccines. There is a lot more to public health than just that. That is one of the main reasons we so strongly object to that, and I table a report. It is not the pillar of what I stand for. Rather, it is a report that encapsulates a lot of arguments around that mandate.

Tabled paper. Report, undated, titled 'The unintended consequences of COVID-19 Vaccine Policy: Why mandates, passports and segregated lockdowns may cause more harm than good' [494](#).

The Spanish mackerel fishery is under attack at the moment. It seems to be the new battleground to attack primary industries. A new methodology has been discovered. The minister stood up today and said, 'It's all good.' In the peer review process, which I am not always a fan of, one guy stood out on a limb. His name is Neil Clark. He is doing the desktop peer review and he said, 'There's stuff here I don't agree with. You can't draw conclusions on this.' They have changed the methodology and they took the data off all the fishermen and will not give it back to them. They cannot get access to test this themselves. There are some highly questionable findings and the government is saying that now that it is under 20 per cent it is going to have to start to shut things down. We will have to import 50,000 tonnes from Vietnam or Indonesia now. That is where it will come from now when they are already overfishing.

(Time expired)