




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR HILL

Record of Proceedings, 20 March 2024

MOTIONS

Cash, Legal Tender

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (4.39 pm): This motion is very important. I will again read out the motion moved by the KAP member for Traeger. It is very important for rural and regional Queensland and Australia that this House: notes that cash is legal tender accepted in Queensland; openly supports the right to use cash as a lawful form of payment throughout Queensland; calls on the state government to take immediate steps to mandate that all state government offices, including all department service centres and state owned sports and recreation facilities must accept cash as a legal method of payment; and condemns any move by local or federal governments to move towards a cashless society.

First of all, I am going to read a KAP exclusive traditional Aussie poem titled *Cash is King Poem!* It reads—

In the land down under where kangaroos hop,
We cherish our cash, we refuse to stop.
Mate, in Australia, we're a cash-lovin' crew,
We ain't jumpin' on that cashless hullabaloo.

Now, picture this, in a cashless regime,
When the power goes out, it's like a bad dream.
No EFTPOS, no tap-and-go spree,
Just stranded Aussies, as grumpy as can be.

In remote Queensland, where the internet's slow,
Try swipin' your card, and watch your patience go.
Buffering circles, spinning round and around,
Cash in your pocket? That's where it's found!

And what about cyclones, a true blue fear,
When nature decides to make things unclear.
With no power for days and cards on the fritz,
Cash saves the day, no technological blitz.

So here's to the notes and the coins that we hold,
In wallets, pockets and ash trays, they're worth more than gold.
A cashless society? I'd rather a kick in the shin,
Give us our cash mate, cause Cash is King!

I looked up in regards to cash is king, and I just want to show this sign. I think I might get in trouble, will I, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, you will.

Mr KNUTH: Sorry, I forgot standing orders. The business is encouraging customers to use cash. They put a sign outside which reads—

Customer Notice

If you are able to pay using cash please do!!!

This will ensure that we keep 100% of your payment & the banks get nothing!!!

The member for Traeger brought up these figures. The four big banks delivered a record full-year profit of nearly \$32,000 million—\$32 billion—in the 2023 financial year, and what have we seen? We have seen bank and branch closures, forecast bank and branch closures and massive interest rate rises. We are seeing a very struggling economy and struggling people. This is why we are putting this motion forward. If we do not start doing something now, we are going to see massive impacts. I wish to read from an article from the *Straits Times* titled 'Cyclone-hit New Zealand exposes the risks of a cashless society'. It states—

The cyclone that tore through New Zealand last week has exposed the dangers of a cashless society, prompting the central bank to consider new ways of ensuring access to physical money when power and telecommunications fail.

New Zealanders were left unable to pay for vital goods such as food and water for days after cash machines and payment systems were knocked out by Cyclone Gabrielle, which left at least 11 people dead and displaced thousands as it cut across the upper North Island.

Some areas were still without connection more than 10 days later. It further states—

The central bank is having discussions with banks and independent third-party operators about how to ensure resilience in the system and make sure cash remains accessible.

The member for Traeger also mentioned that in 2022 we saw the Canadian government move to freeze bank accounts of truckies who were on strike. As I said before, we have to start now. We have to start protesting now because we are starting to see councils going cashless, state governments going—

(Time expired)