



Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2020

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Coronavirus Response

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.15 pm): I rise to address the motion moved by the Premier. I will not be lectured on economic literacy by this Premier, by this party or by this Treasurer in particular. This Treasurer has presided over a collapse in the state's finances and a collapse in the state's economy. Every indicator—whether it be unemployment or business confidence—has collapsed long before we heard of coronavirus. Why? It is because of the Labor government here in Queensland.

The Deputy Premier and Treasurer used the word disgraceful. What is disgraceful is that yet again, minutes after we have debated the business program motion which outlines what we will be debating this week and guillotining and gagging debate on important legislation, we have another politically charged motion that is wasting 30 minutes of this House's time. What we have, as the member for Broadwater pointed out—largely because of the economic illiteracy of the Treasurer—is a government that is broke and has no solution to the situation it has found itself in other than to come in here and constantly beg, borrow and steal what it can from the federal Morrison government. It is beyond excusable. It is beyond a joke. Enough is enough.

This government cannot continue to blame everyone else for its own mismanagement of this state. As others have said in this debate, we believe there needs to be assistance. We called for it weeks ago.

As the member for Broadwater also pointed out, members of the government's own benches have been calling for it for a long time too. The state is primarily responsible. I have no doubt that the Morrison government will step up and assist in ensuring that Queensland, along with New South Wales, Victoria and the rest of Australia, gets through this crisis as it did with the bushfire crisis and as it has with every other crisis it has faced since coming to government.

The government that has not done enough is the government of those opposite. The government that has not done enough is the Palaszczuk Labor government. It screams and squeals every time there is another impact on its budget. It has no facility for any type of crisis such as this, none whatsoever. If it did, we would not be having these ridiculous debates every time this chamber sits. It is inexcusable. Enough is enough. Get on and do the job you were elected to do and govern this state.