




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

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MOTION

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.34 pm): Isn't it a surprise that we are here this afternoon debating this motion because yesterday, after weeks of bad press thanks largely to the member for South Brisbane, the government tried to reset, to suggest that they had a plan that was going to get Queensland out of the economic crisis that, COVID aside, was basically of their own making. It did not quite fly, did it? It was an eight-page glossy, which, if you took out the front and back page, the 5½ pages of pictures and the blank page, you ended up with about a half a page of dot points, of which half were repeated statements.

Mrs Frecklington: They did have a steer on it. That was as close as they got to ag.

Mr POWELL: That was a dip to the agricultural sector—a photo of a cow. This is a classic example of a government with no budget, no plan and no idea of how to get Queensland working again. They are short-changing Queensland. It is no wonder they could not get on the front page of the *Courier-Mail*. In fact, they could not even get a positive editorial out of the *Courier-Mail*, as the Leader of the Opposition pointed out. 'Pedestrian' was the word. Yet again Queenslanders see that they are going to let crooks out of prison, they will not open the borders and there is the ongoing drama around the member for South Brisbane.

Let us look at what they did announce. They announced an accelerated works program. From day one the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP have been calling for \$500 million to be spent on regional roads and bridges. They could not even hit that mark. Then we had the LGAQ's battle plan—\$200 million extra for Works for Queensland. That is not even a third of what the LGAQ were asking for—\$608 million. How is that going to fly in my areas of the Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast councils?

Then we had the small business grants. Thank goodness they finally got there. If it were not for the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow minister for small business, we probably still would not be here. They might have been the first to declare a pandemic or a health crisis in this nation, but they have been the last to deliver small business grants for our hardworking mum-and-dad businesses around this state.

As for keeping the forward infrastructure budget, wow! We are supposed to thank them for keeping their forward infrastructure budget? Imagine what the IAQ would say if this government had the vision of the LNP—if this government had signed up for the new Bradfield scheme or for the dam commitments that the LNP have. Then they would be getting some positive statements out of the IAQ. As for the tourism industry, it is not going to count for much if you cannot get tourists into the state. Only the LNP will get Queensland working again.

(Time expired)