




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2020

MOTION

Coronavirus, JobKeeper

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.00 pm): In addressing this motion I must again point out, as we seem to be doing just about each and every sitting week now, the absolute lunacy of having a business program motion on a Tuesday morning that sets out that we are limited in our debate on a range of bills. The cognate transport debate yesterday is an example. We did not even get through half of the speaking list before the bills were guillotined. Yet here we can suddenly find an hour for the Treasurer to spruik—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, I do not see anywhere in the motion where it talks about the business program or the workings of the House. You will need to come back to the motion and the contents of the motion.

Mr POWELL: As I was just saying, we can somehow find an hour for the Treasurer to speak on a motion that—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, you need to speak to the motion. You are speaking about finding time to do the motion. I do not want to debate the matter with you. The motion itself will have to be the subject of your contribution.

Mr POWELL: Thank God for the Morrison federal government, which had the foresight to put in place JobKeeper and JobSeeker programs so early in the piece when COVID struck. The Prime Minister and his team put in place a safety net for all of those workers who suddenly found themselves without work.

Mr Furner interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister for agriculture will cease his interjections.

Mr POWELL: Compare that to the record of those opposite in this economic crisis, who had to be dragged kicking and screaming to deliver the small business grant program—the last jurisdiction to do so. And when they did, they only put \$100 million into it so that, as small businesses throughout this state went off to find the paperwork required to meet the requirements of that grant program, they found that it closed 72 hours after it opened. It was completely and utterly oversubscribed because it was completely and utterly underfunded. Compare that instead to what the Morrison federal government has done with their economic stimulation through JobKeeper, JobSeeker and a range of other programs.

Government members interjected.

Mr POWELL: I hear those on the other side of the chamber harping on, but the reality is they have been caught out. They have been shown to be the laziest, slowest and most inept responders to the economic crisis we are facing. Why is that? The reality is we were already in an economic disaster zone before COVID even hit.

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Algester will cease her interjections.

Mr POWELL: We had the highest unemployment rate, the lowest business confidence and the highest level of bankruptcies of any jurisdiction, and that was even before COVID. They are desperate on the other side. Why? Because they know their economic mismanagement is what is costing Queenslanders and Queensland employees. It is not the Morrison government because, heaven forbid, had they not been there Queensland would have been down the tubes.