

Queensland Parliament Hansard Green

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SUBJECT: Coronavirus, Response

MEMBER: Ms LAUGA

Coronavirus, Response

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (7.06 pm): The coronavirus pandemic continues to threaten communities and economies around the world. We know the threat of COVID-19 remains as deadly and as debilitating as ever to lives, jobs and businesses. Victoria and NSW remain a threat, the USA still has 2.5 million active cases, which is nearly three times as many active cases as anywhere else in the world, and there are record numbers of new cases daily in France and Spain with nearly 9,000 and 10,000 cases respectively recorded in a 24-hour period on Friday. Right now I would not want to be anywhere else in the world.

Queensland was the first state in the country to declare a state of emergency in January. Only because of the strong leadership of our Premier, the calm and considered approach of our health minister, the expert advice of Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young and the cooperation of all Queenslanders can Queensland put the pedal to the metal and get our economy back on track. It has not been easy though. Our Queensland Labor Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, stood up to the attacks by the LNP, the NSW premier, Pauline Hanson and Clive Palmer, and even the Prime Minister weighed in. The Premier has always unashamedly made Queensland's health and safety her No. 1 priority. On behalf of the people of Keppel I sincerely thank the Premier for her strength and her determination to keep us safe.

Global economies are doing it tough and Queensland is not immune, but as a result of the hard work of Queenslanders we are the best-performing state in response to the global pandemic in Australia. Our forecast economic rebound is almost twice as strong as the Australian average. Only the Palaszczuk government has a plan to get Queensland's economy back on track after this pandemic. At the heart of Labor's economic plan is supporting small businesses, buying locally, growing our manufacturing sector and building critical infrastructure.

Queenslanders know that the Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington, and the LNP cannot be trusted to manage this health crisis and they cannot be trusted to get the Queensland economy back on track. It was the LNP leader who called for the borders to be opened no less than 64 times. Those opposite do not have a plan, unless it is the secret plan that they are keeping very hush hush because the only way they can pay their election commitment bill is by cutting services, sacking Queensland workers and selling assets. They have done it before and they will do it again.

In 2012 the leader of the LNP sat at the Cabinet Budget Review Committee table as Campbell Newman's apprentice assistant treasurer and ordered the sacking of 14,000 workers after telling Queenslanders that they had nothing to fear. Let us make no mistake: those opposite will do the same again. It was only yesterday that the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said that stabilising debt and cutting waste is what they plan to do. The LNP needs to come clean and tell Queenslanders how they plan to fund their election commitments, because the only possible way they can do so is by cutting, sacking and selling.