



OPEN QUEENSLAND NOW

Fellow Queenslanders,

Palaszczuk must open Queensland borders

Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk continues to deny Queenslanders jobs and prosperity by refusing to open the state's borders to the rest of the country.

Like her Labor counterpart in Western Australia, she needs to act now to ensure a successful future beyond COVID-19 by opening borders to allow the flow of trade and travel from other Australian states.

I have this week lodged documents with the High Court declaring the border closure of Western Australia unconstitutional. I will be doing the same soon for Queensland.

By maintaining lock down borders, Labor Premier Palaszczuk has condemned nearly a million Queenslanders to financial ruin, unemployment, stress and family break-up.

For the Queensland Government to be considering September or beyond before our borders are opened is irresponsible, particularly when Australia's leading expert on infectious diseases, Professor Paul Kelly, believes it is safe to do so now.

This is what Professor Kelly – Australia's deputy chief medical officer and a member of two World Health Organisation advisory groups on disease study – said about the closures:

"From a medical point of view, I can't see why the borders are still closed. The domestic borders were not part of our plan for control of this."

Why is it that our Queensland leaders are not deferring to the medical experts on this matter, and consigning the state to economic oblivion?

There is no time to waste with the winter school holiday break on our doorstep, where an influx of southern visitors could be the saviour for so many Queensland businesses on the brink of closing their doors forever.

Our tourism operators are haemorrhaging while the borders remain closed. The Gold and Sunshine Coasts, the Tropical North, the Great Barrier Reef and elsewhere need to be accessible to all Australians now or our tourism industry may never recover.

Queensland needs trade and travel between the states now.

Businesses, such as mine, have stepped up and paid full entitlements to their employees. Now it is time for the State Government to let Queenslanders provide for their families.

There are no health issues that justify the continued destruction of Queensland. The Premier needs to respond in the best interests of her fellow Queenslanders by reopening the borders immediately.

All the best,

Clive Palmer