




Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 June 2014

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (11.00 pm):  
Tonight I rise to support the Newman government's state budget for 2014-15. Like all my colleagues, I congratulate the Treasurer and Minister for Trade for forming a budget that is appropriate for our times. Over the past 2½ years, the Treasurer has methodically and systematically taken Queensland finances, which were an absolute basket case, to a place where we can have great confidence in the future. With the rest of the cabinet, he has finally got government spending under control. In the decade leading up to 2012, each year there was an average increase in government spending of 8.9 per cent; in 2012-13, that was brought under control to 0.2 per cent and next year it is forecast to be 2.2 per cent. With this Treasurer in control of the finances, this government has a plan to bring us back to a fiscal surplus and a plan to reduce the \$80 billion debt that is a millstone around this great state's neck. This government is a responsible financial manager; the Labor Party is a reckless spender that promises the world and delivers nothing.

It is amazing that the Treasurer has done all of that and, at the same time, found the funding that is necessary for some incredibly important initiatives for all Queenslanders. I congratulate him for that. He has managed to find \$406 million over the next five years to implement the Carmody report which, of course, centres on the child protection system. That is an incredibly important initiative to protect the most vulnerable in society and to get right to the core of the issue, which is to help families and to provide the foundations that are necessary for children. I congratulate the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, who is very passionate about this as well.

I congratulate the Treasurer for finding \$44.5 million over the next four years to bring in the Safe Night Out Strategy. That strategy is a comprehensive package—I emphasise that: it is a comprehensive package—of initiatives to address violence, antisocial behaviour and safety issues around licensed venues. It is about patrons, venues, communities and the government coming together to create a safe, cooperative and vibrant culture for Queensland's nightlife, as opposed to our Labor opposition which has one idea, and it is not a good idea, with regards to dealing with alcohol fuelled violence. It will be very interesting to see how the candidate for Stafford goes when debating this, as he is a one-issue candidate and it is an issue that they have absolutely no understanding about. I congratulate the Attorney-General for putting together a policy that is holistic, that is comprehensive and that will work. I also congratulate the Treasurer for finding the necessary funding for it.

I congratulate the Treasurer for funding 267 extra police and, of course, the necessary funds, \$132 million over the next four years, for extra correctional centres. Again, the Treasurer has managed to get the balance right between bringing expenditure under control and cutting the waste, while at the same time finding the funding for those very essential initiatives that we have committed to over the next four or five years.

In my Department of Housing and Public Works, we are enthusiastically going about implementing the Housing 2020 and Homeless-to-Housing strategies. Over the next year, \$160 million has been set aside specifically for social housing commencements as we continue to push the social housing waiting lists down, from 30,000 over two years ago to around 19,500 now. We have also committed \$62 million to the National Partnership Agreement on Remote and Indigenous Housing, which is a fantastic initiative to reduce the overcrowding in Indigenous communities. It is encouraging to go to those communities and see the excitement of the locals as they move into a new house. Many of them come from houses where a dozen to 16 people lived, and they are very enthusiastic and absolutely excited about receiving keys to a new home.

I am delighted to confirm funding for the 40-bed supported accommodation facility in Cairns and the 40-bed facility in Townsville. Of course, in Redcliffe work is already underway on 20-bed supported accommodation facility. Homelessness services will be funded, with around \$107 million allocated in the next financial year. This will help a whole range of initiatives, including bond loans and RentConnect programs, which will help 38,000 low-income households to either find or obtain a place in the private rental market. We are very committed to expanding the Street to Home program, which gets rough sleepers off the streets and into houses. It is an incredibly effective program. We are also establishing a housing assistance triage system to rapidly provide people with support. I am very pleased to note that there is funding for homelessness services across the state, including two services that operate in my own electorate. INCH, or the Inner North Community Housing organisation provides a great service. Home Assist Secure operates out of Stafford but services a lot of the north-west suburbs and, of course, North West Youth Accommodation Service does a fantastic job in providing accommodation for young people in my electorate and surrounding electorates.

Turning specifically to my electorate of Everton, like all the electorates in this state we are benefitting from this budget. It is very difficult to go past the funding that has been made available for schools. Already, \$200 million has been allocated to the school maintenance backlog program and schools in my electorate have benefited greatly from that. Another \$101 million has been allocated to that program and my schools will be lining up to make sure that we can get the backlog of maintenance out of the way once and for all. The Greats Results Guarantee funding is probably one of the most exciting initiatives that schools have seen in decades and it has been very warmly embraced. One of my school principals has called this funding the 'if only' funding. It is the funding that for years they wished they could have, if only they could get the extra money. Now they do and they have total control of it. Albany Creek State High School, Everton Park State High School, Albany Creek State School, Albany Hills State School, Eatons Hill State School, Everton Park State School and McDowall State School have all received generous amounts of money. They are very excited about their funding for this year and the years to come, and they will have absolute control over that money.

I am very pleased to announce that, for 2014-15 to 2015-16, \$400,000 has been set aside from the Safer Roads Sooner program to fund the safety upgrade of the intersection of Eatons Crossing Road and Lilley Road at Eatons Hill, as well as Warner Road in Cashmere, in the neighbouring electorate of Pine Rivers. That is very exciting. It is important that our roads are safe. It is great to see that at the moment Old Northern Road is being resurfaced, which has been riddled with potholes for quite some time now, not helped by the bad weather that we have had in recent years. My electorate is very excited about the repairs that are taking place, which will be finished by the end of this month.

We have a fantastic facility in the middle of my electorate—the Bunyaville State Forest Park. There is an education centre there. Some \$690,000 has been allocated to replace three of the existing toilet blocks with one modern facility and upgrade the water supply to the toilet block as well. This facility is used by schools on a regular basis. Students learn about environmental issues and the local fauna and flora. I call it our metaphorical lung in the middle of my electorate. It is wonderful to have a picnic in Bunyaville State Forest Park.

Finally, I am very excited about the funding in the budget for the Get in the Game program—a program introduced by my colleague the Minister for Sport. What a wonderful initiative this has been to encourage young people to join a club and to become involved in sport. Being involved in competitive sport meets so many different needs for individuals—for example, health and social needs.

A number of clubs in my electorate have already benefited from the program. The Albany Creek Football Club has received \$100,000. The Mitchelton Soccer Club has received \$100,000. The Pine Hills Baseball Club has received nearly \$90,000. The Pine Hills Soccer Club has received \$100,000. We are looking forward to the next round of funding that I think is going to be announced tomorrow.

**Mr Dickson** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** Sorry, I am not allowed to say that. Stay tuned tomorrow as something might be happening. I am looking forward to being involved in that program once again. My clubs have benefitted from that.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** Don't worry; nobody will see this until tomorrow morning so it will be fresh news then. I thank the minister for that initiative. I am looking forward to seeing some of that funding in my electorate. This is a budget that is responsible. It is a budget that is appropriate for the times. It is a budget that shows that we have a strong plan for a brighter future.