




Speech By  
**Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2017

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

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (3.50 pm): It is quite humbling to follow an intellectual genius of the type of the member for Yeerongpilly. He is an expert in everything, from economics to rocket science. It is particularly overwhelming to follow him.

I rise today to speak about the 2017-18 budget. Despite the skyrocketing crime rates across Queensland, the Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 budget reveals that Labor has failed once again to deliver for our police services. Crime is on the rise.

**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. We have youth crime that is out of control in North Queensland and Far North Queensland, we have crime on the rise right across the state and we have the bikies back in control on the Gold Coast. Yet Annastacia Palaszczuk and this current police minister are happy to underspend in the Queensland Police Service.

Let us look at the statistics that really matter—the statistics that show what this government have been doing in this area, or what they have not been doing, and what they will be judged upon by the Queensland people. In the past year, personal safety offences have increased by 11.8 per cent, which includes assault by 12 per cent and robbery by 32 per cent. In the past year, property offences have increased by 11.9 per cent, which includes break-ins by 13 per cent and car thefts by 22.8 per cent. These figures are damning and these are what everyday Queenslanders are experiencing on a daily rate.

Despite these escalating crime rates, the capital budget for police was also significantly underspent, meaning that our front-line police are not getting the support and the equipment they need to keep Queenslanders safe. The capital budget underspend for the past year was \$26.285 million. That was on top of the road safety underspend for the past year, which was \$32.625 million. How that money could have been spent, but it has not been. Unbelievably, when we look at the forward projections, for next year the QPS budget will be actually going backwards. There will be no boasting about record spends in the police budget for next year. This is a government that makes big promises but fails to deliver.

Despite its constant crowing about being transparent and accountable, this government plans to cover up vital information in future budgets that the public deserves to know. This year the budget hid important figures, such as police car purchases, but next year the cover-up continues with the budget failing to record individual crime statistics. Only last year we heard of a significant shortfall in the number of additional police vehicles being supplied to the service, and this year that measure is not even reported. Equally disturbing, crime statistics are being hidden after this year's state budget. The Service Delivery Statements usually report a breakdown of offences per 100,000 people. None of that will occur in the coming year. Crime rates should be the most important service standard for the Queensland police. Their No. 1 job is to protect the community, which is why scrapping this measure from next year's budget is quite concerning and quite unbelievable.

Only an LNP government will support the police to the level that they require. We gave an extra 1,100 police over four years—something that was very welcomed by them and by the community. This budget talks about a pathetic 20 additional general purpose police and 20 extra police in the Townsville area. What does the Gold Coast think of that, where they are so concerned about the bikies being back in town, about the population growth and—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Mudgeeraba—there are higher rates of DV and that affects the police time that is appropriately needed to deal with those issues. They are crying out for extra police and they will see nothing in this budget for them whatsoever.

Only an LNP government will provide the laws that give the police the powers that they need. It was the tough anti-criminal gang laws that we brought in that stopped the bikies. We brought in the laws that the police asked for. We brought in the laws that proved to be effective—the anti-association laws; the stop, search and detain laws; the closing down of the bikie clubhouses. These laws worked, but the new soft-on-crime Labor laws have seen the bikies starting to become bolder, starting to claim the streets of the Gold Coast, starting again to brawl in daylight.

**Ms Bates:** Meth labs everywhere.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection again from the member for Mudgeeraba—meth labs are everywhere. The bikies will be back—they are already back—but we will see more and more and more activity.

We were the only ones who were game enough to respond to the juvenile crime issue. I am sure my colleague the shadow Attorney-General will speak in detail about this. We heard the cries of the North Queensland members of parliament from the last parliament, the 54th Parliament, when they talked about the out-of-control youth crime that was there. We brought in reforms and they were working. We said that juvenile repeat offenders—not someone who has done it once, twice or three times, but someone who has repeatedly snubbed their nose at the law—would be named and shamed. We have also said that it is absolute common sense that breach of bail should be an offence for juvenile offenders. That is common sense and what the public expects. We also believe that jail is not necessarily a last resort for these people. Some of these people need to be detained. Why? It is so the public can be protected. The No. 1 priority of the government and the police force is to protect the public.

We also strongly believe that our police and our front-line emergency service personnel should be protected and should not be treated as punching bags. A recent article in the *Townsville Bulletin* detailed the assaults on police officers. It stated—

Latest police statistics reveal officers in the Northern Region, from Townsville to Mount Isa and Cairns, have been assaulted 474 times between last July and April 30 this year.

I repeat: 474 times. The article continued—

Townsville Acting Superintendent Roger Whyte said he was regularly briefed on assaults on police officers.

'There's not one Monday when I come to work that I'm not briefed on one of my officers being assaulted,' ... 'Regardless of whether one of my police officers cops a slap in the face, or a kick in the groin or a smack on the head, it is totally, utterly, unacceptable.'

We agree with that, as does the president of the Queensland Police Union and their members. The article stated—

Mr Leavers called on minimum custodial sentencing for offenders.

What response do we see from the current minister? We see these letters that he sent around to regional newspapers totally misrepresenting the policy that we will bring in when we win government. That is, if people assault a police officer, if they assault a paramedic—and, Mr Deputy Speaker Crawford, you know yourself because you have worked in this field—or if they assault a fire officer who is doing their job, they will spend time in jail. They will spend a minimum seven days in jail—no ifs, no buts about it. They will go to jail.

We want to send a clear message to our police, paramedics and firefighters that we value them, we support them and we have their backs. What do we hear from the current minister? In this letter to the editor, the current minister brags about the fact that the maximum sentence for assault on police has been increased from seven to 14 years. Who did that? We did that when we were in government! They would never have thought about doing that, but now he claims it. Then he misrepresents the situation, saying that our new policy means that that is all somebody will get for serious assault. He knows that is misrepresenting the situation. What does he say to the police officer who was coward punched by Memefata Asiata, who was convicted and received an 18-month probation noncustodial

sentence and walked out of the courtroom scot-free? The minister is telling the police officer who was coward punched that that sentence—not even seven days imprisonment—is good enough for that assault.

I can tell the House and the police minister that we will promote this policy far and wide. We will tell members of the public that we back our police, we back our paramedics and we back our firefighters. It is completely unacceptable to touch one of those people. If you do that and you are convicted of serious assault, you will spend time in the slammer for a minimum of seven days. Only a Tim Nicholls Liberal National government will build stronger families and provide safe and livable communities.

Unfortunately, the same thing continues with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Again we have a capital budget underspend of \$3.033 million. I have not seen the details of the press conference that the minister gave today, which I am sure was about additional equipment for rural fire services, but that is not new money. It is money that was promised last year in the forward estimates. They have simply brought it forward. It is another con job. They treat the Queensland public as if they are mugs, but they will not be conned. They will not be sucked in by this government. They can see through it because they know a con job when they see it.

I will talk briefly about my electorate of Everton. I am bitterly disappointed that once again there is no funding for the upgrade of the intersection of South Pine Road and Stafford Road, outside my office, which is a known bottleneck on the north-west side of Brisbane that affects electorates such as Pine Rivers, Murrumba and Aspley. In that growth area, it is a renowned bottleneck. Last night the parliament condemned the government for its underspend in Main Roads—

**Mr Minnikin:** Historic.

**Mr MANDER:** I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth: an historic motion was passed last night, condemning the government for its underspend in the Main Roads area. Instead, we see this billion dollar fairytale that is Cross River Rail. That money will never come through this Queensland government. I know that the electors of Everton, Aspley, Pine Rivers, Kallangur, Murrumba and Ferny Grove would much rather that \$100 million of those billions of dollars be invested in upgrading that intersection, which is mentioned on the radio every morning as being congested. People are sick and tired of it. This budget is a failure. It is a con job. Queenslanders will not be sucked in by it.