




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): For those watching, I recommend that you go back and listen to the contribution of the member for Stretton. Put it on slow motion and you then might understand one word that the member said.

I am a born and bred Queenslander. When I was growing up Queensland was the place to be economically. We were proud to live in this place. Under Labor, which has been in power for 17 of the last 20 years, unfortunately we can now not boast that. People used to want to come to this state because they knew that this state was the place of opportunity, the place of entrepreneurship and a place to get a job. Let us state the facts, which are in contrast to what the member for Stretton said: Queensland has the highest unemployment rate in the country. There is no doubt about that.

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Warrego. In the outback there is 62 per cent youth unemployment. That is an absolute disgrace. Annual business investment is down \$20 billion since 2015. We are the bankruptcy capital of Australia and business confidence remains at an all-time low. This government celebrates—does the high fives and the clapping—when we get above Tasmania. If we get across Northern Territory that is another drink they are going to have that night. We are at the bottom of the pile rather than at the top where we should be.

Most governments in this situation would try to stimulate the economy, but not this government. What is its big plan to get Queensland moving? Its plan is to tax, tax and tax. Two days before the election they snuck out the bad news of four new taxes despite promising time and time again over the previous term that they would not increase taxes. Those opposite are the Sheriff of Nottingham of parliaments. All they know about is taxing. They tried to sell this as a tax that only affects a few people—those at the higher end—but that is simply untrue. These taxes will affect everyday Queenslanders trying to get a job. If land tax is increased guess what? It means that the rents of small businesses will go up, which means prices go up, which means it is more difficult to employ people. If there is a foreign investment tax guess who that affects? It affects chippies, plumbers and builders. It affects confidence in the building industry. Those opposite even go on about the so-called luxury car tax. What is that going to mean? It means people are going to go interstate to buy vehicles and that will again affect our local businesses.

The taxes of this Labor government suck the lifeblood out of the Queensland economy, diverting \$500 million from the Queensland economy straight into Treasury. The simple truth is that taxes destroy jobs and business confidence. Those opposite cannot tax their way out of a hole.

Those opposite have been really evasive and dodgy when we have spoken about other taxes. In the last parliament we asked them about payroll tax. Recently the Under Treasurer said, 'We're looking at payroll tax.' The Treasurer says, 'We have no plans to increase payroll tax'. I say to the Treasurer, let us change that statement about 'no plans' to one that says, 'No, we're not going to increase payroll tax,' to give confidence to our businesses that are worried about these things. Why can't they say that? Why do they keep dodging the question? We are very doubtful that they will not increase mining royalties and we are very doubtful that they will not introduce a waste tax, because that is what this government does. They have no idea how to stimulate an economy. All they know is how to tax an economy. You cannot tax your way into prosperity or growth.

This is a government that cannot be trusted. This is a government that says one thing and then does another. This is a government that has no concerns about the fact that now in this country we are in the bottom half on economic performance indicators. We are becoming the basket case, rather than the economic powerhouse that we should be.

(Time expired)