




Speech By  
**Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2018

**MOTION: DISTRIBUTION OF GST**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.46 am): I rise to speak to this motion as well. This is a Clayton's motion. This is the motion you have when you do not have a motion. This motion is about nothing. This is pure petty politics, and this is what this government is best at. As we have already heard, all this government is good at is blaming other people for their shortcomings. They will find a conservative cause somewhere, and they will go for that conservative cause no matter what the issue is because they have no record to stand on themselves. People are tired of hearing them blame the former LNP government. They are tired of the blame game. If it is not the conservative Brisbane City Council, then it is the conservative federal government they consistently criticise—

**Mr Crandon:** They remember from four years ago.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Coomera. They will continue to go back, back and back because they cannot stand on a record of their own. They will be blaming Donald Trump shortly or the United Nations—you name it. If they can find another excuse for their poor performance that is what they will do. The hide of the Premier to bring a motion like this to the House when, as the Leader of the Opposition said, she did not even know what the GST is. I have a theory about that. When the radio announcer asked the Premier—who was at that time the opposition leader—that question, they did not ask, 'What is the rate of the GST?' They asked, 'What is the rate of the goods and services tax?' The Premier had no idea what the goods and services tax is. That is my theory. Had they asked about the GST maybe she would have got it, but the Premier had never heard of it because they gave the full name of the tax.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Broadwater. This government makes hollow claims. They speak about sticking up for Queensland, but when we look at the submission that they gave the Productivity Commission on this issue they do not compete with every other state in this country. We are at the bottom or in the lower half of nearly every economic indicator in this state, and we are not only in the lower half but also last with regard to the submission that this government made to the Productivity Commission.

An indication of this is the submission that was made. New South Wales made a 108-page submission to the Productivity Commission. Little ACT made a 170-page submission to the Productivity Commission. The Northern Territory made a 76-page submission. Queensland submitted a measly 30 pages of hollow claims by this government. Government members talk about sticking up for Queensland but they made no effort whatsoever in making a submission. It is a pathetic, amateur—

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South: 'The dog ate my homework'—once again.

This Productivity Commission report is a draft report. They are hypotheticals. It is not the federal government's report; it is the Productivity Commission's report. They are doing the right thing by putting it out to the public, to the states, to ensure they get the best result right across-the-board. Of course, we want a great result for Queensland. Every Queenslander wants that. This government should not worry about hypotheticals but should concentrate on the here and now. It should be stimulating the economy in this state now to raise revenue and ensure revenue is flowing. To date, that effort has been absolutely pathetic.

I have already mentioned that on most of the economic indicators this state is in the lower half of states. How can we expect business to have confidence in investing in this state when this government cannot be consistent or fair with regard to how it administers its policies? It flip-flops all over the place. I refer to the ASF development on the Spit at the Gold Coast and the Logan Renewal Initiative. A contract was signed, but 18 months later the Minister for Housing and Public Works reneged. What confidence can business have to invest in this state when things can change so long after a deal has been signed?

In terms of the resource sector in the Galilee Basin, Bill Shorten, the great leader of the comrades at the national level—'Mr Yoyo Man' they now call him—is flip-flopping all over the place with a different message. When he visits North Queensland—

**Mr Costigan:** 'Batman Bill'!

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. Can the member for Whitsunday imagine how the federal Leader of the Opposition would be received in North Queensland now?

**Mr Costigan:** We know.

**Mr MANDER:** You know! That is exactly right. My challenge to the Premier of this state is to ring the leader of the federal opposition, put him in his place and tell him to show his support for jobs in Queensland and for the resources industry. The Premier has no backbone and will not do that. We do not know where the Premier stands on this issue. We all know why they have changed their minds time and again on this issue—to protect the member for South Brisbane's seat. I remind the member for South Brisbane that she serves South Brisbane at the pleasure of the LNP. We will decide whether or not she is in that seat next time, with our allocation of preferences—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. The strong rumour is that she is after the member for Toohey's seat. Like the former member for Mount Coot-tha, she will just take a transfer. That is what one does—take a transfer, like a government teacher.

**Mr Costigan:** They like Tooheys!

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. We cannot trust this government. How can people do business in this state, and how can we ensure that we increase our revenue flows by stimulating the economy, when we have a government that simply flip-flops all over the place?

I refer to the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility. Let us compare this government with the West Australian Labor government, which was cooperating fully with NAIF and bidding on the infrastructure projects they want in their state. This government refuses to engage with NAIF and in fact criticises it. There is \$5 billion worth of investment for Northern Australia. If we are not careful, the majority of that money will go to the Northern Territory and the north of Western Australia which, I estimate, represent probably 20 per cent of the Northern Australian population while 80 per cent would be in North Queensland. This government is just ignoring that opportunity, whereas other Labor governments, in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, are taking full advantage of this. This government should focus on stimulating the economy, ensuring that we have strong investment in this state, ensuring that there is confidence and that there is no chance of sovereign risk. At the moment, we are being treated like a Third World country with regard to investing in this state.

The other side of the equation is ensuring we cut the waste. The Leader of the Opposition has already mentioned the fact that this government is starting what Labor governments are known for, that is, wasting money. If it is not the Health payroll debacle of \$1.2 billion, it is the overspend at the Lady Cilento hospital, which was \$600 million, \$700 million or \$800 million over budget. Time and again we hear about this waste. We now hear about another \$250 million overspent on ICT projects. I can assure members that that will get worse and worse. We will track that and keep this government accountable with regard to waste and with regard to its lack of revenue investment confidence opportunities. We will back Queensland. We are the only side of politics that represents all of Queensland, both the regions and the urban areas. We will not let the people of Queensland down.