




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.16 pm): Today we have seen another broken promise from an incredibly untrustworthy government. As recently as 21 February this year when the Treasurer announced the details of the four new taxes that were announced just two days before the election in November last year, the Treasurer said the following—

We took our additional revenue measures to the people of Queensland at the November election just three months ago ...

We have no plans to introduce anything beyond that.

Today we have heard how hollow those words are. No plans equals yes. Any time we hear that side of the House talk about having no plans to introduce something in the future we know exactly what that means. Today's announcement confirms that.

This is how deceitful this government is. At least the member for Ipswich West had the honesty to come out a couple of months ago and say that that was what they were going to introduce. At least he had the integrity to tell people about this, unlike the Treasurer, who has hidden behind deceitful words and weasel words about having no plans when, in fact, all along they knew that they were going to introduce this new tax.

In today's press release where they talked about their new waste tax, what did they say? They said that this will not increase taxes for Queensland households. They said that this will not impact the everyday Queenslanders. They said that Queensland residents have no reason to fear because this waste levy will have no impact on them. What a load of hogwash.

Today the Minister for Environment, the new minister for crystal balls, came in here and answered a question—all coy, all puzzled, talking about looking into the future. I wish we had a crystal ball to see what she would say in her press conference. She thoroughly and utterly embarrassed herself: 'We are going to introduce this new waste tax—oh, I mean levy—not a waste tax, a levy.' When questioned about whether this cost would be passed on to everyday residents, she said, 'No. It is not a direct cost; it is an indirect cost. We cannot help it if building companies pass on costs to the consumer.' If it were not so serious, it would be funny. This minister, this Treasurer and this Premier are deceiving the Queensland public. They need to come out now and tell us what other taxes they are going to introduce into the future.

It was like an episode of *The Hollowmen*. Can you imagine all the bureaucrats, all the advisers, sitting around saying, 'We've got to get this new tax. What are we going to call it? We cannot call it a tax. Let's call it a levy.' 'No, we cannot call it a levy. Let's call it an impost.' 'No, we cannot call it an impost. Let's call it an indirect cost.' 'That is what we are going to call it—an indirect cost.' An indirect cost, an impost, a levy is a tax and they are going to dip into the pockets of Queenslanders once more.

When Queenslanders buy a brand-new house, HIA have estimated that there will be \$2,000 added to the cost of construction of that house. Who do you think is going to pay for that? When you go and buy a set of tyres, who do you think is going to pay the extra price on the tyres because of the waste levy? When you get somebody to paint your house, who do you think is going to pay the extra cost because of the waste disposal costs that will be added to that? When you buy a packet of fried chips at the footy, who do you think is going to pay the extra cost because of the waste levy?

This government has no idea. As is the case with the other four taxes they have brought in—taxes they have tried to portray as being taxes for the rich—this tax will flow on to everyday Queenslanders at a time when the cost of living is at a rate that many everyday Queenslanders cannot afford, whether it be electricity costs or petrol costs. Here we have a government that has slugged them once again. We are the only side of parliament that will make sure we have a low-tax regime.

(Time expired)