




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2018

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Stadiums Queensland; Mackenroth, Hon. TM

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): Like most Queenslanders, I love sport. Queenslanders in general love sport. We have the best athletes in the country. That has already been shown by the number of gold medals that were won by Queenslanders during the Commonwealth Games. Their performance was exceptional. Queensland has the best State of Origin side.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will not take that interjection.

Mr Costigan: We love 'the Grasshopper'.

Mr MANDER: I will not take that interjection either. Queensland has the best State of Origin side. I mention that Josh McGuire comes from Albany Creek State High School, which is a school in my electorate. Queensland has the best cricketers. Matt Renshaw belonged to the Albany Creek Hawks, which is a great club in my area. Queensland has the best female AFL players and the best netball players.

This Labor government seems to want to give sport in Queensland a red card. It seems to want to put obstacles in the way of Queenslanders enjoying their sport and the best sporting competitions in the world being held in Queensland. The mismanagement of Stadiums Queensland by this minister and this government is beyond belief. Queensland sporting teams—iconic sides—are threatening to leave these stadiums because it is becoming uneconomical for them to stay at them. We have a sports minister who would rather attack our sporting sides rather than support them. We have fans facing higher ticket prices and membership fees.

Yesterday, in the latest blow of all blows, the great tradition of having the first cricket test in Brisbane is now gone. I am sure there are members here who have friends from throughout Queensland who make an annual pilgrimage to Brisbane to attend the first day of the first test at the Gabba in November. Now, that has gone. Queensland has been relegated to holding a test match with Sri Lanka on the Australia Day weekend. That is simply not good enough.

In the past, Queensland has had good stadiums. It is at this time that I would also like to acknowledge and pay my respects to Terry Mackenroth and his loss to Queensland, his family and the Labor Party. It is pertinent to note that he had the vision to build Suncorp Stadium against a lot of opposition. I am proud that I refereed the first game at the redeveloped Lang Park between Newcastle and the Broncos. The Broncos got done that day. That had nothing to do with the refereeing. That was in 2003—15 years ago. We have no chance of getting an NRL grand final until we upgrade that stadium as well.

I call on the minister and I call on the Premier to overhaul the board of Stadiums Queensland and take action to make sure that we have sporting teams that can afford to stay in these stadiums in Queensland and to make sure that we can attract other sporting events from throughout the world to our state.

This is not the priority for this government. It will not be the priority until we get the economy going. This government is slowly stifling the entrepreneurial spirit that Queenslanders have had for years. We have seen poor economic management and report after report is displaying this. The CommSec State of the States report, which came out this week, says that we are in sixth position. We are nearly at the bottom. We are going slightly better than the Northern Territory. It is embarrassing.

The ANZ/Property Council industry sentiment survey states that Queensland's property sector has the lowest confidence in the nation. The Sensis Business Index states that confidence in Queensland's small and medium businesses is now below the national average. We have the second worst unemployment rate in the country. This is an absolute joke. When I was growing up we were always known as the economic powerhouse of this country. We are now fighting Tasmania, South Australia and the Northern Territory at the bottom of the ladder. We need a government that has the foresight not to sap the confidence of Queensland businesses and the corporate sector by continuing to tax, tax and tax.