




Speech By  
**Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.33 pm): I rise to address the 2018-19 budget and support the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition in her reply. My mum told me many years ago that what people do when they have nothing to say in substance is to get personal, and that is exactly what we have just heard from the member for Woodridge. He has absolutely nothing of substance whatsoever so he has to personally attack the Leader of the Opposition. That is how desperate this person is.

**An opposition member:** No substance at all.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection: no substance at all. The member for Woodridge and the member for Cooper are sitting side by side, both auditioning for who will be the next leader. In terms of what the time frame will be, there is lots of speculation as to when that will happen.

This is a budget of taxes, debt and unemployment. This is a budget of broken promises and broken dreams. The Treasurer got up this morning quite proudly talking about those few people who endorsed her budget, many of them very worried about their future such as whether they will get government contracts in the future. They know they had no other choice but to say a few positive comments. What did other stakeholders say about this budget? Chris Mountford from the Property Council said—

Quick tax grabs are not a substitute for the long-term economic and tax reform that Queensland requires. They just push us further down the list in the global battle for job generating investment.

The tax increases locked in by the budget will increase the cost of housing for Queenslanders, increase rents for Queensland businesses, and reduce the amount of offshore investment in this state, which will ultimately translate to fewer jobs for Queenslanders.

That is the Property Council. What did the CEO of AgForce, Mike Guerin, say? He said—

Agriculture is one of the pillars of the Queensland economy and the fastest growing industry in Australia but has been largely forgotten in a State Budget focused more on big spending infrastructure initiatives in the south-east corner.

What did Shane Rodgers from the Australian Industry Group—someone who has incredible insight—say about the waste tax? He said—

... a new tax on business—

that is what the waste tax is—

in the state dressed up as an environmental initiative.

That is exactly what it is. Mark Jamieson, from the Local Government Association of Queensland, said about the waste tax—

On this we are on the side of local communities, who have said loud and clear that they want to see the waste levy money drive innovation not go back into general Treasury coffers.

We have already heard where 30 per cent of that money will go. Paul Turner from the RACQ is quoted as saying—

RACQ has however criticised the Palaszczuk Government's slug on drivers' hip pockets, with motorists set to be taxed more than ever before for registration and licensing fees.

Paul Bidwell from Masters Builders said—

It's a triple whammy for housing builders, with the Treasurer calling an end to the first-homeowners boost, the recently announced waste levy and the impact of land tax increases, which together will raise the cost of building a new home.

The President of the AMAQ has said—

For weeks now the government has been talking about the obesity scourge that we have in Queensland, and the AMA has asked for a whole of government solution to our obesity crisis. This was not delivered today.

Steven Conroy, the Executive Director of Responsible Wagering Australia and a former federal Labor minister, stated—

The Queensland Government's decision to pursue a significantly higher 15 per cent POCT—  
point-of-consumption tax—

will make it the highest effective wagering tax rate in the world. This punitively high tax rate poses immediate and significant risks to the already parlous state of racing in Queensland.

They are just a few comments from stakeholders who have seen through the spin and who have seen through this obscene tax grab by this Palaszczuk Labor government. Let us start with those tax increases.

**Ms Jones:** How are you going to fund the air conditioning? How are you going to fund it?

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Cooper. I cannot wait until she goes back to her electorate and says that she will not support state government funding of air conditioning in her local schools, because we will. We are proud about it.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Smart kids are cool kids.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. Smart kids are cool kids. We intend to deliver that promise to make sure that our kids are in a cool environment—one where they can learn without sweating and being in absolute hotboxes that some of our schools are.

This is a budget of taxes, debt and unemployment. This is a budget of broken promises and broken dreams. After seeing \$83 billion of debt on the horizon, it is hard to believe that this government apparently has a fiscal strategy. What is easier to believe is that this budget has managed to break two-thirds of this government's fiscal principles that are supposed to underpin this grand fiscal strategy. First, despite targeting ongoing reductions in Queensland's relative debt burden—which is one of their principles—the debt to revenue ratio is projected to increase every year from now into the forwards. This is not only a blatant failure to keep one of their own fiscal principles; it is also a complete failure to plan for the future fiscal sustainability of Queensland.

The next principle that this government has failed is to primarily fund new capital equipment through recurrent revenues rather than borrowing. With debt growth set to outstrip revenue growth, it is pretty clear to see that the only way that this government is funding capital investment—which I note is still lower than the LNP's time in government—is through debt, debt and \$13 billion worth of more debt. Another failed principle is to manage a consistent flow of capital works programs. This shows that this government is not only breaking its fiscal principles but also breaking its infrastructure promises. This government consistently underspends on its infrastructure commitments. In the last year alone, it underspent by \$500 million—risking public works, risking jobs and risking a backlog of work into the future.

The alleged infrastructure budget that this Treasurer is crowing about is a hoax. Labor is trumpeting a \$3 billion increase on last year's budget. However, last year's budget was the equal lowest investment in infrastructure in living memory. It is equal to Labor's 2015-16 budget, which saw a mere 2.2 per cent of gross state product invested in infrastructure. Labor has created an infrastructure crisis and is now trying to claim credit, restoring infrastructure spending to what is only equal to the decade long average. The infrastructure investment is still lower than that of the LNP's. The LNP agrees that a growing state needs more infrastructure, but Labor's infrastructure spend has not kept pace with Queensland's economy, and Queenslanders are suffering because of it.

Under the LNP, we invested an average of 3.2 per cent of GSP in infrastructure. This enabled the delivery of 11 new schools, hospital upgrades, the fast-tracking of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and major road projects like the Gateway Upgrade North, a 10-year plan for a better Bruce Highway and the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, to name a few. Anastacia Palaszczuk's legacy is spending less on infrastructure than any previous premier. Labor has cut an average of \$3 billion

from the state's infrastructure program each and every year. We have an infrastructure crisis thanks to the legacy of the former infrastructure minister, now the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, trying to clean up her own mess. The infrastructure cuts in regional Queensland are the most savage, with \$2 billion cut per year.

To add one final broken promise in this budget of broken promises and broken dreams, there remains the constantly ballooning public service. This ballooning bureaucracy helps to explain why the public service bill has now grown by \$5.2 billion under this government. As I have said previously, this is a budget of taxes, of debt and of unemployment. This is a budget full of broken promises and broken dreams.

Let me quickly look at these taxes one more time. There are five new taxes worth over \$2.2 billion but their election costings were for \$491 million of new taxes. This is a massive breach of trust. This is an obscene tax grab. Let me go through those taxes one by one. We have a waste tax of \$1.32 billion, 30 per cent of which is going, by their own accord, straight back into general revenue, and I bet you it is more than 30 per cent in the end. This is a waste tax that was brought on through a hoax as well—an interstate dumping problem that was totally due to the policies of the Ipswich City Council, which used superdumps as a way to boost their economy and then used the excuse of the recycling fiasco in Ipswich as well when they said, 'We need to bring it a year earlier,' and then two days later, wham bam, what do we find? They have solved the problem; there is no more recycling problem in Ipswich, but still they are bringing in the wagering tax—it is not the wagering tax, it is the waste tax; I am getting the taxes mixed up—and they brought it a year forward without any justification.

Then we have the other taxes: a wagering tax, which I have mentioned already, of \$367 million; a land tax of \$311 million; a property investors' tax of \$132 million; and a car stamp duty of \$100 million. The government has claimed that all of these taxes will not flow on to everyday Queenslanders. That is a total farce. Of course they will be passed on to Queenslanders and we will feel it. Just wait, over the next 2½ years, people will feel the pain of these extra taxes and they will vote with their feet.

Labor has also slammed Queenslanders with four new fees—on vets, on homestay international students in regional Queensland, on labour hire companies and on hazard perception. With all of these new taxes that Queenslanders are being slugged with and a massive boom in resource royalties, Labor has still incredibly managed to rack up a massive debt bill of \$83 billion for our kids and our grandkids to pay back. The Treasurer could not even bring herself to mention the word 'debt' in her budget speech—a debt of \$83 billion, a debt that has an interest bill of \$3.7 billion per year, \$7,000 a minute, \$420,000 an hour, \$10 million a day and \$71 million a week. That is the interest bill that has been put on Queenslanders today, our children tomorrow and our grandchildren into the future.

**Mr Powell:** And on to baby Elizabeth.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Glass House. This debt comes about because the government's 1.7 per cent average revenue growth is expected to fall below the average expenditure growth of 2.1 per cent over the forward estimates. Moody's rating agency stated—

This imbalance would lead to a growth in debt over the forecast period, challenging the state's credit profile.

The opposition leader this morning quite eloquently outlined the LNP's plan for the future. The LNP's economic plan will do the following (1) bust congestion; (2) provide cheaper electricity and fuel; (3) ensure better health and education; (4) deliver water security; and (5) stand for lower taxes and not bring in any new taxes in the first term of an LNP government. We will continue to listen to Queenslanders and make our state a better place for our kids. As a grandfather, I am particularly proud of our investment in education. We will provide a better environment for our teachers and kids to improve learning and change the failing NAPLAN results. Air-conditioning every public school classroom in this state is a bold commitment and an important one, and we are proud of it and we will proclaim it from the ceiling.

This is part of our plan to make Queensland kids the smartest in the nation. Labor like to talk big about education but they are failing to deliver. It is not just about major road upgrades, like the Bruce Highway. They are important, but it is also important to invest in busting local road congestion. That is important as well. This morning we heard a credible alternative plan. The LNP has a plan for the future.

*(Time expired)*