




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) (2.16 pm): This government has now been elected for its second term. We are now eight months into that second term, with the Treasury being under the control of the Deputy Premier and member for South Brisbane. This morning we heard the Deputy Premier wax lyrical once again about the state of the economy according to her, but Jackie Trad has more spin than Nathan Lyon. Let us look at some of the economic credentials of this particular government, which really are an embarrassment when we consider where Queensland should be at the moment.

The current unemployment rate in this state is 6.1 per cent. For 39 of the 41 months that this government has been in power, the unemployment rate has not dipped below six per cent, which is the second worst in the nation. Even the powerhouse economy of Tasmania has a better unemployment rate than Queensland, and this flies in the face of the Premier's objective. The Premier has constantly stated that she wants the unemployment rate in Queensland to begin with a five, and that is what we want as well. We want the unemployment rate down, and the policies of this state government show that we are entrenched with an unemployment rate of six per cent. It does not look like it will go below that.

The opposition leader spoke about the \$83 billion worth of debt that we are heading towards. Is it any wonder when we have a look at some of the figures that relate to the Queensland state Public Service? Since June 2015, private sector wage growth has averaged about 1.87 per cent.

An opposition member: What about the public sector?

Mr MANDER: I am glad the member asked that question. Public sector wage growth has averaged an increase of 2.48 per cent. That is 42.6 per cent greater than what is happening in the private sector.

Mr Dick: You do not want workers in the private sector; you want wage suppression. That is what you want: you want wage suppression.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Woodridge. What it says is that this government knows how to spend money. This government knows how to waste money. This is why we have \$83 billion worth of debt. Let us look at the numbers. The Public Service has grown by 26,401 full-time-equivalent employees under this government and the Public Service bill is now \$27.36 billion. That is over \$1 billion more than last year in recurring expenditure.

Let's go back even further. Public Service expenses in 2015-16—the first Labor budget—were \$23.29 billion. In less than four years, the recurring extra expenditure is over \$4 billion—a growth of 17½ per cent. We wonder why we are heading towards \$83 billion worth of debt! Those opposite are totally incompetent when it comes to economic management. They prove it time and time again. It is not only us who say that.

The Treasurer herself has overseen, in her short period of time as minister, 4,300 extra public servants. When we invest more money in public servants, Queensland taxpayers expect better results. They are not getting the results they deserve. When we look at indicators in health, education and so on we see that things have become worse.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr MANDER: That is exactly right. I take the interjection from the member for Caloundra: their leadership is wanting in this area. We are fifth in CommSec's State of the States ratings, just ahead of the Northern Territory. The CCIQ says that this government has the lowest level of confidence on the part of small business because of the amount of red tape and the influence the unions have in decision-making. The CCIQ and small businesses see that, and that worries the heck out of them.

The member for Bancroft said earlier that to be successful and to have a growing economy you must have confidence. There is very little confidence on the part of stakeholders with regard to the management of the economy by those on the other side of the House.

(Time expired)