




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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VACANCY IN SENATE OF COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Election of Senator

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.23 pm): As has already been mentioned by the opposition leader, the opposition is very much a supporter of the federal convention that when a senator resigns that senator should be replaced by somebody from the same party, so there is no argument about that whatsoever. What we have to remember is that this senator is representing the interests of Queensland. This senator is going to Canberra supposedly to stick up for what is best for Queensland. That is where the opposition has some incredibly grave concerns about the Greens.

The Greens are the most dangerous political party in this country. Long ago they expanded their remit from protecting rivers and forests and have gone on an extreme mission which is causing constant devastation to our economy, not only in Queensland but also right across the country. At best their policies are misguided; at worst they are just plain dingbat crazy. You do not have to go too far to see some of the ridiculousness associated with their policies. During the last federal campaign, Senator Di Natale suggested that there should be a uniform wage across the country. No matter if you have a job and no matter how rich you are, you should get a salary—no matter what. What would that cost? In order to pay for a system like that, the tax of those who actually do pay tax would have to increase by 75 per cent. Senator Di Natale said, 'Yes, it's radical.' It is more than radical; it is totally and utterly irresponsible.

At the last state election I think it was the member for Maiwar himself who said that the Greens' policy was to build a million new social housing properties over the next 30 years. Again, that is absolutely ridiculous. There are only 10 million houses in the country, yet they want to build a million houses in Queensland alone over the next 30 years—20,000 a year, at a cost of \$60 billion.

Then we have that intellectual genius, former senator Lee Rhiannon.

Mr Minnikin: She's gone.

Mr MANDER: She's gone, but her policies remain. She wanted to increase foreign aid by \$8 billion. I do not think I have heard one Greens member talk about drought relief or what they can do for our farmers, but they are happy to increase foreign aid by \$8 billion.

This is a party that hates Australia Day. This is a party that hates Christmas. This is a party that takes the high moral ground when it comes to donations but receives the single largest corporate donation in the country—\$1.6 million from Graeme Wood and wotif.com.

This Labor government relies on the preferences of the Greens. That is why we have seen the lurch to the left from this Labor government and their crazy social policies—because they need to appease the Greens. There is nobody in that situation more than the member for South Brisbane.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Leader of the Opposition, please resume your seat. Members, regardless of the subject matter being debated, the House must still be a place of decorum. I am asking members to cease interjecting at the level they are interjecting. I need to hear the contribution by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Ms JONES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I just wanted the honourable member to elaborate on what these crazy ideas are.

Mr SPEAKER: No, that is not a point of order. Resume your seat.

Ms JONES: Is it gay marriage?

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Minister.

Ms JONES: Is it abortion law reform? What are these crazy ideas?

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat, Minister! Minister, you are warned under the standing orders. I repeatedly asked you to resume your seat.

Mr MANDER: Nobody needs Greens preferences more than the member for South Brisbane. The member for South Brisbane has come out and said that she will run in South Brisbane at the next election. I do not believe it. She will go to Toohey. She will flee South Brisbane because she knows that next time she will not be so lucky with regard to the preference deal.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I would like to bring you back to the motion. I am allowing an awful lot of scope and space here for you, but I believe you are now straying further afield than is necessary. I would ask you to come back to the motion that we are debating in the House.

Mr MANDER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The position of senator for Queensland is one that is incredibly responsible and we in this House—this side of the House at least—want to make sure that the representatives who are in the Senate are there for the best interests of Queensland, and that is our appeal to the new recycled Greens senator—that is, to think about what is best for Queensland and the majority of Queenslanders, not some crazy left fringe who represent an incredibly small minority in this state. We want our state to be the economic powerhouse of this country, and that definitely will not happen under Greens' policies.