




Speech By  
**Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.41 am): It is a great privilege to be re-elected the member for Everton. This is my third term as my community's state representative. My passion and my enthusiasm for my electorate are undiminished.

The last electoral redistribution saw the boundaries of my electorate change. Unfortunately, I lost a component of Keperra and Mitchelton. I will miss my formal association with many schools and community groups in the area I lost: St William's Catholic school, Mitchelton Special School, the YWAM base at Mitchelton and the business precinct of Blackwood Street. I have made many good friendships. Those friendships will be maintained. People will still see me around the traps as all of those areas are on the boundary of my new electorate.

The losses of geographical area were compensated by picking up more of Gaythorne, the 'avenues' in Enoggera, Arlington estate in Arana Hills, Bunya Riverside, the southern section of Warner and a patch of Brendale. I am delighted to take in these new areas. I have affiliation with all of these areas. I lived as a young man in a share house at Wattle Street, Enoggera. I played golf and was a member of Wantima golf club for 10 years. I have driven many golf balls from the tee at the 11th hole into the Brendale housing estate. I apologise to anyone who was unfortunate enough to be having a barbecue at the time! As a teenager I rode my motorbike through the forests that are now Arlington and Bunya Riverside estates. It is great to represent these new patches.

I love representing my community. I grew up in it and my whole life has been invested in it. My family moved into the new estate of Arana Hills in 1963. I went to school at Grovely State School and Mitchelton High, both on the boundaries of my old electorate. I played football at West Arana Hills, where unfortunately my talent as a player was never identified, so I became a Rugby League referee and started refereeing there.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I will not take any of those interjections! As a schoolboy I delivered milk to homes in Arana Hills. I picked lettuce at a farm in Everton Hills. I helped my mum deliver mail in Everton Hills when she was a mail contractor and that service was warranted. I pumped petrol at a service station on Blackwood Street at Mitchelton. It was then Blackwood Road, as the locals liked to call it. When I was at school I worked as a yardman at the Brook Hotel on a Saturday morning. I had lots of jobs around my area.

As I said, I have lived in my district all of my life. Two of my children have now bought houses in the electorate, which brings me an extra four votes at least—so they tell me. My mum lives at the Aveo retirement village at Albany Creek and my dad is buried in the cemetery across the road. I love my community, and I want it to be the best place in Australia to live, work and play.

During the last term the LNP was in opposition. That does provide different challenges. Despite not being in charge of expenditure, I am proud of some of the things I and my team managed to achieve. We now have the Youngcare facility at Albany Creek. The land was donated by the former LNP

government when I was the minister for housing. It is just such a wonderful facility to have in our community. It is home to eight residents who, if they were not in this facility, would otherwise be in an old people's home. Youngcare has been absolutely embraced by our local community. There is no greater example of that than the fundraising effort, which I instigated and which was helped by the local business community, to raise money for a motor vehicle to transport the residents around. That is something they truly appreciate. It is a great facility.

Recently we saw the installation of traffic lights at Explorer Drive. This has greatly improved safety for the older residents at Aveo. There have been massive upgrades to Albany Creek State High School and Everton Park State High School. Tens of thousands of dollars in grants have gone to sporting and community clubs. We have managed to get grant funding from the state government and Brisbane City Council for an artificial pitch for Mitchelton Football Club. We have been lobbying for that for the past four years.

I mention the notorious intersection outside my office of South Pine Road and Stafford Road. During the election campaign we made a commitment to begin stage 1—a \$28 million bypass around the back of Woolworths. Lo and behold, two hours later I looked out the window and saw the Labor representative making the same announcement—very coincidental! It was good news for the community because it meant that, no matter who was elected, this upgrade would take place. We are waiting for that to take place. We will be keeping the government accountable, to make sure it keeps its promise.

There is still plenty to do at that intersection. We need not just stage 1; we need a full upgrade. That would require a significant investment of money—probably another \$100 million. This intersection is the bottleneck for my community. Everybody avoids it. It really is quite bad. We need an upgrade there and we are calling on the government to provide that.

As I mentioned last night, the biggest issue in my electorate and in many electorates of Brisbane is overdevelopment. This issue particularly affects electorates such as mine on the fringe of Brisbane where there have been acreage blocks and farmlets. People have invested in these areas because they offer the style of living they have wanted. This is a major issue. People are usually quite okay with development, but it needs to be appropriate, to be sustainable and to have appropriate infrastructure to support it.

As I have already mentioned a few times in this House, we have the Warner Investigation Area at Warner and Eatons Hill; we have the Albany Creek connection road between Greensill Road and Leitchs Road; and we have the Murphy's Paddock development in the Brisbane City Council area where Mirvac wants to put in 130-odd units. This is in itself not wrong, but there are issues of accessibility. We believe that residents should have access to the main road, not go through the back streets. This is an iconic block of land, which until about 18 months ago had cows on it—only 15 minutes from the city. We will continue to fight for those things in my electorate.

I want to thank my electorate office staff. In the last term I had April and Peter at the beginning of the term. They then moved on to bigger and better things. April is now a professional kickboxer, and she is not bad either. You do not muck around with April! She was fantastic. I now have Judy. Judy is the head of the electorate office and has done a wonderful job and will continue to do that. I had Lisa for a short time and Erin as well, but Erin has just left us as she is going on to hopefully practise her law degree.

Like all of us, there are many volunteers whom we need to thank. There are too many to thank from the last election campaign, but I want to thank my branch chair, Alex; my secretary, Paul; and my treasurer, Sandy, who did lots and lots of work to help me get re-elected. Of course there is Bruce—Bruce-ster—who owns the Jinker Track corner. There is a race every election between Bruce and members of the Labor Party to get on that corner. It was not unusual for me to get a text at 3.30 in the morning from Bruce saying, 'I beat them.'

Bruce is a beauty. In fact, people from the Labor Party did beat us there one night. That is because they started on Friday afternoon and slept there for the weekend and I said to Bruce, 'Mate, at least you've wasted four or five people on one spot.' I do not know what we would do without Bruce. He is a professional campaigner. Thanks also to Meg and Ian, Annette and Cameron. There are stacks of other names, but unfortunately I cannot name them all.

I thank my family—my four children and their partners and my two beautiful granddaughters. I thank my wife, Gayle, who has patiently supported me over nearly 35 years of marriage. Thank you for your love and support. I could not do it without that support.

Of course the LNP was unsuccessful at the last election, but I want to thank Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, for a fabulous effort. The hard work that he put in as leader of the opposition and the hard work that he put in through the election campaign could not be questioned, so I want to thank Tim for that. I also want to thank him for the mature and graceful way that he has handled the leadership transition. It has been a real credit to him and I hope that Tim stays around for a lot longer yet.

I want to congratulate the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, on being elected as the leader of the LNP parliamentary team. Deb is the real deal. She is intelligent, she is hard working, she is warm and she understands the issues in the bush but at the same time is completely familiar with the challenges in the city. She has raised a family of three beautiful young women. She has had real-world experience. She has worked hard to get where she is today and I am delighted to be her deputy. I will do everything in my power to help her become the next premier of this great state. That is what we on this side of the House are working towards.

I am also delighted to be the shadow Treasurer. Although I am delighted with that role, there is also quite a deal of trepidation in that when we do have a chance to govern we will have to try to clear up the mess that this state will be in at that time.

**Mr Janetzki:** On track for \$100 million.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South. With regard to this debt of \$83 billion that is projected for three years time, who knows what the projection will be when we get into government in 2020. It is a scary thought.

**Mr Watts:** \$7,000 a minute in interest.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh):** Member for Toowoomba North, you are not in your seat.

**Mr Watts:** Sorry, but I am acting as the leader of opposition business.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba North: yes, \$7,000 a minute—

**Mr Watts:** Interest only.

**Mr MANDER:**—in interest only, which is something that is just unforgivable. What we have seen so far is no economic plan from this government. We have seen five new taxes despite receiving over \$1 billion of coal royalties—a bonus that was unexpected. Despite that unexpected bonus and with those five new taxes we will still have \$83 billion worth of debt. Can members work that out? This is from the Treasurer who claims we have an infrastructure crisis, and she is right, but it is interesting that she would say that when in fact she was the previous minister who was responsible for infrastructure. Today we have seen the latest national account figures which say that we are flatlining. The major reason for that is because there has been basically zilch investment in infrastructure.

We are in desperate situations. The CommSec State of the States latest report had Queensland rated fifth. What would the treasurers of the past 20 years say about that when Queensland was the economic powerhouse of the nation yet now we are struggling to stay above Tasmania and South Australia? Those states are economic basket cases, and we have now joined them. Not only that, small and medium sized businesses in this state have the lowest confidence level of any state government in the nation.

There are two reasons why they state they have that low confidence. The first reason is that they are totally burdened by red tape and the second reason—surprise, surprise—is that they are worried about the union influence on this government and the effect it has on them in their small and medium sized businesses. Who is saying that? Is the opposition saying that? No, although we do say it as well, but small and medium sized businesses are saying that.

**Mr Watts:** We are saying it, but there are others.

**Mr MANDER:** That is right: we are saying it, but there are other sources as well to prove that this is not simply a partisan argument. It is a statement of fact. We have a lot of work to do when we eventually get back into government in 2020. We are going to have to clean up this mess once again and show that we are the only side of politics—

**Mr McArdle** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Caloundra. It is always the same: Labor governments go out and waste money. Earlier today we heard an example of that—\$100,000 on an app about how dogs lose weight. I could save the government \$100,000—take your dog out for a walk every day! That is \$100,000 saved. Labor's only plan is increased taxes, additional taxes, record

unemployment and record debt that our children and grandchildren will have to deal with in the future. It is a high-spending, high-taxing government and it is continuing to put its hands into the pockets of Queensland taxpayers.

The Liberal National Party team wants a secure economic future for our state and an outlook where Queensland's best days are ahead of us. I look forward to serving the constituents of Everton for the rest of this term to 2020.