




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 30 October 2018

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Stanwell Corporation

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.14 pm): I table the following letter from a whistleblowing employee—

Mr Dick: Is it your apology? Is it your apology to the deputy?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Minister!

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I will take that interjection from the super-sensitive minister, the member for Woodridge, who will do anything to be offended by anything. Weak as water they are! Weak as absolute water!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I am getting back to something far more serious if the minister wants to listen to it.

Mr Dick: Why does the LNP tolerate racism?

Mr MANDER: I table the following letter—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Just a reminder that members need to be in the appropriate seats if they are going to interject.

Mr MANDER: I table the following letter from a whistleblowing employee of the Stanwell Corporation—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Ministers! I call the member for Everton.

Mr MANDER: I will start again, Mr Deputy Speaker. I table the following—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I am not taking interjections, but I rise to speak on a very serious matter. I table a letter from a whistleblowing employee of the Stanwell Corporation, a Queensland government owned corporation.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 24 September 2018, from an employee of Stanwell Corporation to the member for Everton, Mr Tim Mander MP, regarding matters of concern with respect to that corporation [1757](#).

In this letter there are no fewer than six incredibly disturbing accusations that this brave whistleblower has made about the conduct of the Stanwell Corporation: No. 1, corrupt conduct; No. 2, market manipulation; No. 3, excessive speculative risk taking; No. 4, trading with Stanwell's hedge books; No. 5, inside trading; and No. 6, breach of section 911A of the Commonwealth Corporations Act, 'Need for an Australian financial services licence'. In each of these six extremely serious accusations the whistleblower referred to documents that would substantiate their concern.

Therefore, considering just how serious and specific these allegations against the Stanwell Corporation are, I am calling on the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to do the right thing by Queenslanders and table each of the documents referred to in this letter for the scrutiny and the examination of the House.

Stanwell has previously been caught out gaming the electricity market, most notably when it disgracefully forced up wholesale electricity prices to record levels in the summer of 2016-17. On top of that, this is the very same company that has had to be issued not one but two separate directions to stop gouging money out of Queensland households and businesses. The first direction came in June 2017. This was after Stanwell was caught red-handed gaming the energy market to drive up profits during the heatwave of the summer of 2016-17. Then there was a second entirely secret order that the Premier and the former energy minister made just two days before the election was called. I am calling on the current Minister for Energy to do better than his predecessor to stop the cover-ups and secrecy and to table the documents detailed in this damning letter.

Between Stanwell's price gouging and the Palaszczuk Labor government's cover-ups and secrecy, Queenslanders are caught in a perfect storm of high energy prices with absolutely no accountability or end of these high prices in sight. This is why the LNP will promote more competition and put downward pressure on wholesale prices by restructuring the government owned power generators from two to three entities. Labor's own modelling shows that creating three—

Ms Fentiman: Where's your policy?

Mr MANDER: I will tell the minister the policy if she will listen for a moment.

Government members interjected.

Mr MANDER: The policy is that we will create competition in this state—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the member for Everton, Ministers, you have had a really good go now. You will be warned under the standing orders if you continue. We will listen to the member for Everton complete his speech.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister for State Development, I just issued a warning. Now, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr MANDER: I will take the interjection from the Minister for Training. I will tell her about our energy policy. It will increase competition.

Ms Fentiman: You're a bully.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Employment, you are now placed on a warning along with the Minister for State Development.

Mr MANDER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at the comments made by the minister.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Everton has taken offence. Will you withdraw?

Ms FENTIMAN: I withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I go back to the interjection from the minister. I will talk about the competition that we will bring into the electricity sector that will put downward pressure on prices. We will increase the number of generators from two to three. That will reduce wholesale prices. We will bring in retail competition to the regional electricity market. Why should the people in the regions not have the competition that is available in the south-east corner? The member for Thuringowa should be the first person championing this cause and championing the LNP policy in reducing electricity prices.