



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 February 2019

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.16 pm): For businesses to have the confidence to invest in our state, they insist on stability and consistency in decision-making. However, when it comes to that, this Labor government will go down as one of the greatest flip-flop Queensland governments of all time. They are absolutely spineless when it comes to taking a position, backing themselves and having conviction. There is no greater example of that than what has happened with the Carmichael mine project. Labor's sitting-on-the-fence attitude is damaging our international reputation, causing sovereign risk and costing jobs in regional areas. When we have one of the worst unemployment rates, it is incredibly important that we do not do anything that undermines jobs, particularly in north and regional Queensland.

It is not just the LNP that is raising these issues. In the past week, a list of Labor luminaries has spoken out against this Palaszczuk government's lack of conviction, instability and inconsistency in policy and decision-making. Bill Ludwig has spoken out. Former Labor minister Steven Conroy and the current agriculture minister, Joel Fitzgibbon, have spoken out. We have also heard from former powerbroker Graham Richardson; Rockhampton mayor, Margaret Strelow; Mike Bruncker from the Whitsunday Regional Council; the federal member for Herbert, Cathy O'Toole; and, of course, the CFMMEU, which knows that the most important thing in regional Queensland is jobs.

What are some of those Labor luminaries saying? Mr Ludwig was the stalwart of the Labor Party in Queensland. Never ever under his watch would a government sacrifice jobs in regional Queensland for ideological purposes. He puts the blame squarely on the Labor Left and then puts in a dig at the Deputy Premier, saying that while she thinks she will be Premier one day, there is no chance of that happening.

Mr Conroy was reported in the *Australian* as saying—

I thought the Queensland government had been behind this project and right at the last minute, when it's cleared all hurdles, suddenly we've got a (problem with a) finch'.

How convenient is that? They will go through the process and hopefully the finch will be saved from any chance of extinction. But then they will look for the yellow-bellied sapsucker, so that they can say that it has a chance of being affected negatively by the mine.

Probably the most damning comments were made last week by the mayor of Rockhampton, who said—

At this time, we need our government to back us. Now more than ever.

In an article in the *Courier-Mail*, Mayor Strelow said that in India she sat at the table with seven other mayors as the Premier looked Mr Adani in the eye and said, 'We back you, we support you, we support a NAIF loan.'

**Mr Lister:** That's what she says about Queensland.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection. What is happening now? This is the telling thing that the mayor said. She said, 'This has now gone from an environmental issue to a matter of trust.' We cannot trust this Palaszczuk government because they flip-flop all over the place for political purposes.

We know where these Labor luminaries stand, but where do the members who represent the Townsville area stand? Where does the member for Thuringowa, the member for Townsville and the member for Mundingburra stand on this issue? The member for Thuringowa proudly shows off his Cowboys jersey everywhere he goes. He wears it all around the precinct. I am sure he wears it up in North Queensland, but a proud North Queenslander would back North Queensland jobs. That is what they would do. They would get off the fence, take the splinters out of their backside and say that they back Queensland jobs. They would stand up to the left of the party, which is sacrificing these jobs for ideological purposes.

**Mrs Frecklington:** What about Keppel?

**Mr MANDER:** And the member for Keppel. I will take that interjection. Where are they on this? What people are looking for is people with conviction to come out and say that they back Queensland and they back Queensland jobs. We are not seeing that with this current Labor government.

*(Time expired)*