



Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 3 April 2019

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Waste



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.00 pm): I move—

1. This House condemns the Palaszczuk Labor government for wasting taxpayers' money and wrong priorities; and
2. This House notes the following examples of waste:
 - (a) eHealth project blowout: \$256,800,000;
 - (b) ICT dashboard project blowout: \$211,897,547;
 - (c) uncollectable SPER debt write-off: \$191,000,000;
 - (d) fixing Labor's rail fail: \$170,660,000;
 - (e) closing privately operated prisons for the unions: \$111,000,000;
 - (f) ministers' personal staff cost blowouts: \$1,860,184;
 - (g) TAFE IT blowout: \$1,400,000;
 - (h) taxis for train drivers: \$493,033;
 - (i) functions and hospitality costs: \$289,000;
 - (j) ministers' overseas travel: \$267,821;
 - (k) QR CCTV screen duplications: \$50,000,000;
 - (l) government advertising in breach of election commitment: \$3,480,840;
 - (m) Goldoc golden handshakes: \$650,000;
 - (n) Lady Cilento name change: \$302,082;
 - (o) study into Whitsunday shark attacks to see if three shark attacks are a problem: \$250,000;
 - (p) Commonwealth Games Labor's giveaway tickets: \$230,000;
 - (q) Labor's charter flights for young crims: \$180,000;
 - (r) consultant to recommend name change from DIQ to DJQ: \$136,000;
 - (s) brand research about TAFE Queensland: \$102,300;
 - (t) phone app to help fat dogs lose weight: \$100,000;
 - (u) WorkCover Queensland executives' overseas junket: \$47,600;
 - (v) Premier's captain's call on Terry Mackenroth stadium: \$13,600;
 - (w) Jobs Queensland logo: \$37,086.50;
 - (x) extra ministers in breach of election promise: \$10,600,000;
 - (y) Premier's personal office budget blowout: \$290,585;
 - (z) ASF Spit project compensation: \$13,000,000; and
 - (aa) accommodation bill for Premier and entourage at the Commonwealth Games: \$81,313.69.

Before I came into this parliament I was the CEO of a not-for-profit organisation that ran off the smell of an oily rag, a not-for-profit organisation that respected every dollar that came through the front door, whether that be government money, kind donations from the public, or money that was generated

through our own revenue streams. The thing that motivated me to come to parliament is when I used to watch the Beattie government wilfully waste taxpayers' money—a pattern followed by the Bligh government and which is now being followed by the Palaszczuk government. One would think that a government that is heading towards \$83 billion of debt would be careful with taxpayers' money, but no. Rather than do that, this Labor government introduced five new taxes to generate over \$2 billion rather than concentrate on how it can reduce the wasteful spending that it goes about day in, day out.

The list of wasteful examples of expenditure that I tabled earlier today—27 examples—totals over \$1 billion. That is money that this state desperately needs to be invested in the right areas. I am sure some of my colleagues will concentrate on some of the bigger examples of waste in their contributions to this debate. One of those is one that I mentioned yesterday, which is the \$111 million wasted on prisons coming back under public control for the unions.

Often what really gets up taxpayers' noses are the small things that are just a wilful waste of money. In the short time that I have left, I want to focus on some of those. Out of all the wasteful spending that this government has done—and there has been plenty—I think the one that has really infuriated Queenslanders the most is changing the name of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. The opposition leader and I have been out at shopping centres with a petition about this change. I have never seen an issue that has resonated so much with the public. People are literally lining up to sign the petition. Many of them do not know who Lady Cilento was—although many do. It really infuriates them that, rather than helping those people who need this money—the patients—this government's priority is to waste it on changing the name of a hospital. We will constantly remind this government of that wasteful spending right through to the next election, because it is our responsibility to keep this government accountable.

Another example is the Premier making a captain's call to decide to name a stand at Lang Park after Terry Mackenroth. With all due respect to Mr Mackenroth's memory, that was another great example of this government being absolutely out of touch with what everyday Queenslanders want. Who can forget the phone app for fat dogs to lose weight—\$100,000 for an app to teach people how to get their dogs to lose weight? What about instead taking their dogs for a walk? How much does it cost to do that every week? These are examples of ridiculous expenditure.

When this government spends money on itself, that infuriates the public even more. Who could forget the accommodation bill for the Premier and her entourage at the Commonwealth Games—\$81,000 for 10 days of accommodation! What an absolute waste of money. There are greater examples of millions of dollars being wasted. In my opinion, if the government cannot be trusted with the small things, it definitely cannot be trusted with the larger things.