



Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2019

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

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

That this House—

1. condemns the Palaszczuk Labor government's catastrophic management of the Queensland economy under a Deputy Premier who even failed to forecast a \$1.3 billion budget blunder;
2. notes that under Labor—
 - (a) Queensland has the second highest unemployment rate in the nation;
 - (b) the Sensis Business Index puts the Palaszczuk Labor government as the least popular amongst small and medium sized businesses;
 - (c) compared to an equivalent time under the LNP government, Labor has seen a drop of 38.5 per cent in business investment equal to \$73.5 billion;
 - (d) Queensland private sector wage growth was less than the national average for 2018;
 - (e) the December 2018 quarter was the worst for construction seen since December 2006;
 - (f) 18,000 jobs have been lost in the manufacturing sector and Queensland has the lowest number of manufacturing workers in three decades;
 - (g) Queensland has more strikes than any other state or territory;
 - (h) the Queensland growth rate for last year was lower than the national average;
 - (i) five new taxes have been introduced, ripping \$2.2 billion from the economy;
3. calls on the Palaszczuk Labor government to stop petty politics in its forthcoming budget and adopt the LNP's policies to—
 - (a) air-condition every state school classroom;
 - (b) fast-track the second M1 upgrades;
 - (c) deliver the second M1;
 - (d) deliver the Mackay Ring Road stage 2;
 - (e) upgrade the Bruce Highway;
 - (f) duplicate the Sunshine Coast rail line; and
 - (g) guarantee no new taxes.

I say thank you to my colleagues for their incredible encouragement. The next sitting week of parliament will be the opportunity for the government to bring down its second budget of this term, the second budget of the current Treasurer. This is also an opportunity—

Mr Krause: The second last.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim; this is also the second last budget of the current Treasurer.

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We have been given clear guidance that we address our comments through the chair, especially addressing and facing the chair rather than the backbench.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Thank you, member for Logan.

Mr MANDER: I will be waiting to see how the Treasurer responds to that particular direction as well.

It is an opportunity for the Treasurer to right the wrongs of her previous budget and the incredibly poor economic record of this government. The economy has ground to a halt under the Labor government. Business confidence has plummeted under this current Labor government in the state of Queensland. If we look at every lobby group and every survey that is done, we see that they all indicate the same thing: people and the business community have lost confidence in the government.

The March Sensis Business Index puts the Palaszczuk government as the least popular government amongst small and medium size businesses for the fourth consecutive quarter. The March CCIQ Pulse Survey shows not only that Queensland's economic outlook has taken a dive but that business conditions and profitability continue to rapidly weaken. The very well credentialed CommSec State of the States report again puts Queensland at second bottom on the list with regard to its economic performance. That is a comprehensive report that looks at a number of economic indicators and we are at the bottom of the pile, and we have continually been at the bottom of the pile for some time.

Then, of course, we have the unemployment rate, and the Premier said that she yearns for the unemployment rate to start with a five.

Ms Fentiman: 6.6 per cent.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the minister. What is so important about these unemployment rates is the relative unemployment rates across the country. We have 6.1 per cent and the national unemployment rate under the incredible economic management of the federal coalition government is five per cent. If we look at our New South Wales and Victorian counterparts, we see that earlier this year the unemployment rate in New South Wales was actually 3.9 per cent and it has now gone out to the low fours, and Victoria is the same. We are constantly behind and now we have over 160,000 Queenslanders who are without a job because of the economic performance of this government.

At the next budget why does the Treasurer not do what the LNP has been advocating, and that is invest in infrastructure that will stimulate the economy? We want to see the duplication of the Sunshine Coast railway. We want to see six lanes from Caboolture to Caloundra. We want to make sure that we have dams across this state that will provide water supply for our regions. We want to make sure that our schoolkids and our teaching staff are comfortable in their classrooms, and in the south-east corner they are not. We are asking for this government to make an investment in our schoolkids because we know that cool kids are smart kids.

One of the most incredible investments we have promised is that we will bring competition to the electricity retail markets in the regions which will result in not just hundreds of dollars less in electricity bills for residents but thousands of dollars for businesses as well.

During the next sitting week of parliament this Treasurer will have an opportunity to right the wrongs of the last budget—the five new taxes that are taking \$2.2 billion out of the economy and have zapped the confidence of business in this state.