



Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 20 August 2019


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Economics and Governance Committee, Report

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.52 am): What did we learn from the estimates hearings this year? What we learnt is that Queensland has a Treasurer and a Deputy Premier who cannot be trusted. At best we have a Treasurer who has incredibly poor judgement and at worst—let's wait for the CCC to make its conclusions about those investigations. Let's just go through the record of the Deputy Premier that was outlined during the estimates hearings with regard to her at best incredibly poor judgement. This is the person who holds the highest position with regard to dealing with the state's finances. This is the person who many would believe, rightly so, runs the Palaszczuk government. We have seen poor judgement to an extent that we have not seen in the Queensland parliament for decades.

This is a Treasurer who bought an investment property in an area which was obviously going to benefit and appreciate in value because of its proximity to a station on Cross River Rail and also the location of a newly formed school. That is the first point of bad judgement that this Treasurer made. Then she failed to declare it on her register of interests, which was a clear breach of the ministerial code of conduct. Then she claimed she knew nothing about it, and she changed her story three times. 'I knew nothing about it. My husband bought it. No, hang on, it wasn't my husband. It was our company that bought it of which I am a director and a shareholder.' Then, on further quizzing day after day, she admitted that she got a text message. The story is beyond belief and, as they say, what is always worse than the original sin is the cover-up—trying to cover up.

This is a Treasurer and Deputy Premier whose arrogance knows no end. She then freely declared, after the opposition had referred this matter to the CCC, that she rang the head of the CCC on a Sunday afternoon on his personal mobile. What for? To let him know she is going to cooperate fully with the investigation. What does that mean? Does that mean that the default position of the Deputy Premier and the ministers in the Palaszczuk government is that they do not cooperate with the CCC and that they need to ring him to reassure him they will cooperate?

Then she mentioned a file note which at the time, conveniently, she could not table during the estimates hearing. We see that file note that has now been released and has been put on Twitter by the media. It is a very conveniently written file note. It is very neat and seems to address all the issues of contention. I would love to see the other 364 pages of that diary because I have a very deep suspicion that they are all blank and that this is the only note that has been done belatedly—

An opposition member: After the fact.

Mr MANDER:—to cover up after the fact. I take that interjection.

We have a Premier—sorry, excuse the faux pas. We have a Deputy Premier and a Treasurer who simply cannot be trusted. We have a Premier who is too weak to act, a Premier who is hiding behind the referral to the CCC when it is now quite obvious—and the CCC has said this themselves—that the breaches of the ministerial code of conduct are not within their jurisdiction. That rests solely with the Premier of this state, a Premier who will not take any action because she cannot take any action against the most powerful person in the Queensland Labor Party, and that is the Deputy Premier and Treasurer.

This is a chance for the Premier to stand up and show Queensland who is in control. However, we have a Premier who will go down in Queensland history as the weakest premier we have ever seen.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, before you resume your seat, you used the word 'cover-up' which is considered unparliamentary.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw.