




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

North Queensland; Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.45 pm): Residents of Townsville, that is an example of the representation from North Queensland. Is it any wonder that North Queensland is going backwards when that is the type of representation that it has. It is great to be back in Townsville again. I have been coming to Townsville for decades. In fact, it was great to see last week the last game played at 1300SMILES Stadium. It has been Dairy Farmers. It has been Stockland. Twenty-four years ago I refereed the first Cowboys game here in North Queensland. I also refereed the first time the Cowboys played in the grand final. I am so happy that the people of Queensland are a gracious people, because they have forgiven me for both those games.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, I remind you to act with decorum. There will be no more hand gesturing in the chamber.

Mr MANDER: Forgive me. I occasionally get very excited. It is good to be back here in North Queensland. North Queensland has had enough of Labor. In the last federal election three out of four Queenslanders decided not to give Labor their first preference. It was a rout for Bill Shorten and his federal opposition in North Queensland and in regional Queensland in general. It is no coincidence that straight after that federal election result, which apparently had no impact on Queensland Labor, they announced, with 10 weeks notice, that we are going to have a sitting of parliament in North Queensland. The Premier moved parliament here for nobody else but herself.

The people of North Queensland are not silly and will not get sucked in by the stunts that will happen all this week, the false promises and the reannouncements of promises in the never-never. We know that North Queenslanders can see through that. North Queenslanders have had nothing but five years of failure under Labor. Five years ago the Premier promised jobs, jobs, jobs. What has Townsville got? Dole, dole and dole! Thousands of permanent jobs have been lost in Townsville under Labor—2,000, in fact. More than 8,000 people here are out of work. Business confidence has hit rock bottom. More than 500 businesses have collapsed in North Queensland and across Queensland the total is 5,000. There are more bankruptcies in Queensland than any other state. That is the first time that we have held that shameful record since 2002.

Businesses and workers are being betrayed by this anti-resources, anti-regions and anti-jobs Palaszczuk government. There is no greater example of that than the Carmichael mine. It should be an economic lifeline for Townsville, but Labor has cut that lifeline to get Greens preferences. They sold out the people of North Queensland and Central Queensland. They sold them down the river. They cannot back resources, because they rely on Greens preferences in South-East Queensland, particularly in the seat of South Brisbane. They talk now about being the friend of the resources industry and that they love coal, but what do we see in Oakey? Today, 150 mine workers and their families will be told that they will not have a job and that is because of the inaction of this government. Words mean nothing. You must back up those words with action. This government cannot be trusted on anything that they say.

As the Leader of the Opposition has already mentioned, the integrity crisis just gets worse and worse for this government. There is now a stench about the Palaszczuk Labor government. The Deputy Premier, who despises property developers, has herself been speculating on a bit of property near Cross River Rail. She never should have bought that property. She should have registered that property. She should have sought advice from the Integrity Commissioner before she bought the property. She should have declared her interest in the Cross River Rail and Dutton Park school decisions. She never should have called the CCC chair on a Sunday afternoon on his personal mobile phone number. Meanwhile, a company owned by the Premier's chief of staff is getting a six-figure grant from the government.

This is a government that does not know the meaning of the word 'integrity'. This is a government that Queenslanders cannot trust. They cannot trust the Premier and they cannot trust the Deputy Premier. They have lost confidence in this Palaszczuk government.

(Time expired)