




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2019

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, LNP Plan

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.24 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the opposition leader's motion. There is one thing that the LNP can bring to Townsville that Labor cannot and that is unity. We are united to make sure that we can deliver not only for Townsville but also for the whole state.

This week it has been a fascinating experience to watch the Labor front bench as the Deputy Premier has struggled day after day with integrity issues. The Deputy Premier goes from stony-faced to being angry to being stern and sitting there like an Easter Island statue with no emotion. Is there any wonder why? In contrast, next to the Deputy Premier we have the smiling face of the member for Woodridge, who is as happy as Larry about the demise of the Deputy Premier. The contrast could not be greater.

Next to the member for Woodridge we have the member for Cooper, who is just as pleased. The member for Cooper and the member for Woodridge are fighting to be the next Right candidate for either the leadership, the deputy leadership or to be Treasurer. The member for Cooper went to Schwarto to get him to throw a few bombs this week. 'I cannot throw them', she would have said to him, 'but can you please throw those bombs in.' The Treasurer and the member for Cooper have not had any eye contact at all this week. In fact, they are back-to-back with no engagement whatsoever.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, I ask you to come back to the motion. Your Cowboys tie will not save you.

Mrs Frecklington: That is not even a Cowboys tie.

Mr MANDER: No, it is not, but I will take it. I will say it is.

Mr SPEAKER: That is all you have at the moment.

Mr MANDER: Not only will we bring unity but we will bring integrity. We will be a government that can be trusted. There will be nobody on our side of the House who will buy a property when there is a real or perceived conflict of interest, there will be nobody on our side of the House who will take five months to declare that perceived or real conflict of interest, and there will be nobody on our side of the House that will ring up the CCC chair on the weekend and interrupt the poor bloke when he is trying to put his Ikea furniture together because none of us have his phone number.

Let me now turn to the three state members who represent Townsville. It is fascinating that the government has given the three state members more profile this week—we have heard from the member for Mundingburra I think once in five years and probably five times this week—and once the public have heard these people they have come out of the woodwork wanting to be candidates. We have people knocking our doors down saying, 'Are these the people who represent us?'

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I draw the honourable member back to the motion that he is seeking the House to support.

Mr SPEAKER: The motion is a broad motion about Townsville and matters relevant to it, but I do direct the member to come back to items contained in the motion.

Mr MANDER: The people of Townsville are crying out for representation. They are crying out for people who have a bit of grunt in government, for people who have some influence in government. The three members from Townsville—Thuringowa, Townsville and Mundingburra—most definitely do not have that. We know the contempt the Palaszczuk government has for the people of Townsville and North Queensland by its removal of the portfolio it once had but was so poorly carried out by the member for Mundingburra.

The people of Townsville want representation from members who actually have influence. What local member would reject a police helicopter? What local member would say that they do not want cheaper electricity prices through competition in the retail market? What local member does not want dams built? That is what is happening with these three members. These three members reject policies that would benefit North Queenslanders and the people of Townsville. It is simply beyond belief that any sitting member would come here and not back policies that would benefit the people. There are less than 14 months until 31 October 2020. On that date, the people of Townsville will vote with their feet and they will vote for LNP representation for this city.