



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2019

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships; Bushfires**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): I rise in the House this afternoon to ask the Deputy Premier and Treasurer to fill the void. If the Deputy Premier thinks that a clearance by the CCC of official corruption allegations is going to make this matter go away, she is sadly mistaken. In fact, what this investigation has done is raise more questions than answers, and the Deputy Premier and Treasurer has an obligation to come to this House and fill the void.

Why did the Deputy Premier and Treasurer buy a property where there was a perceived or a real conflict of interest? Why did the Deputy Premier fail to declare that purchase within the prescribed time limits? Why did the Deputy Premier claim that she knew nothing about the purchase? Why did the Deputy Premier then change her story about that advice on at least two occasions? Why did the Deputy Premier ring the CCC chair on the weekend on his personal number after the matter referring to her had gone to the CCC to have a discussion and to let him know about her cooperation? Why did the Deputy Premier not stand down during that investigation by the CCC?

In stark contrast, news has just come from New South Wales that the sports minister, John Sidoti, is stepping aside from cabinet pending an ICAC investigation into what? It is into the purchase of land he made near the Metro Northwest and Metro West projects which stand to make him millions. This was when he was only an assistant minister. This is the difference in standards between a Labor government and a Liberal National government. The Liberals in New South Wales know right from wrong and have done the right thing and the minister has stood down.

The CCC said that the behaviour was not corrupt because the law did not say it was corrupt. However, they have now recommended that that behaviour should be made corrupt. In a number of weeks when this government comes into the House to hopefully bring in these laws, they will go down in parliamentary history as 'Trad's laws'. The reason these laws are necessary is because we have a Premier who is too weak to act. Steve Wardill's column in the *Courier-Mail* last week hit it on the head; this would not be necessary if we had a Premier who was strong enough and had the intestinal fortitude to keep—

**Mr Watts:** Any authority.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection—or any authority to keep ministers accountable to the ministerial code of conduct. This Premier is too weak to act and that means that legislation has to come into this House to make sure they do the right thing because they cannot do the right thing unless the law tells them to do so.

Quickly, I want to move to some of the statements made today by the Minister for State Development. This minister said that 'anyone that uses the bushfire tragedies to gain political ground should be condemned.' The Minister for State Development and member for Woodridge stands condemned by his own words. I refer to a tweet of the state development minister parading the Binna Burra bell—

**An honourable member:** The bell boy.

**Mr MANDER:** 'The bell boy'. The member said, 'We recovered it from the site today.' I table this document.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 11 September 2019, from the Twitter account of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Cameron Dick, in relation to the Binna Burra dinner bell [1493](#).

My question to the member for Woodridge is: what did the member do in the attempt to recover that bell? What was his role in the recovery? Did he get his hands dirty? Did he have ash over his face? What a shameful display of grandstanding! What a shameful display of undermining the great work of our firefighters—the firefighters who risked their lives for their communities. This minister shamefully claims credit for something that he did not do, because he was politically grandstanding.