



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 October 2019

**MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.16 pm): As the Labor government lurches from one integrity crisis to another and is distracted by those types of things, unfortunately it means that it is also distracted from the management of the economy. There is no greater example of that than the unemployment situation in this state at the moment. Currently, a record number of Queenslanders are looking for a job. Under the Palaszczuk government, more than 174,000 Queenslanders cannot find a job and the figures get even more frightening. More long-term unemployed Australians live in Queensland than anywhere else in the nation. Even though the populations of New South Wales and Victoria are significantly larger than that of Queensland, we have more long-term unemployed than those two states. Queensland has 47,000 long-term unemployed, in New South Wales there are 41,000 and in Victoria there are 37,000. That is an embarrassment for this state.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Pause the clock. Members, there are too many interjections. They are not being taken by the member for Everton.

**Mr MANDER:** Over the past 12 months, Queensland has had the largest increase in the number of long-term unemployed residents of any state in the nation. While the number of Queenslanders looking for work for more than a year increased by 13 per cent, in New South Wales that figure decreased by 19 per cent and in Victoria it decreased by 18 per cent. Is it any wonder when they are distracted by lurching from one integrity crisis to another, by their utter incompetence and by their waste of money?

This government appointed somebody to head Queensland's bushfire recovery for a 12-week period, at a cost of \$57,000, knowing that that person was going to be away for five weeks. That is disgraceful. It is also an insult to the high-ranking police officers and firefighters who are currently in charge of those departments. For the government to think that somebody within those ranks could not do that job is an insult to those officers.

What about the dodgy poll that they put out recently? They have not learnt any lessons from the Lady Cilento disgrace. Despite the CCC recommending that those dodgy polls should be fixed they went out with another poll—this one was around bunting and advertising on election day. They were found out when Channel 9 cast 200 votes—100 yes votes and 100 no votes to make sure they were fair. They were found out and had to get rid of that poll straightaway.

It has already been mentioned today that another tax has been brought in—the Straddie tax. They have increased the monthly beach access rate from \$47 to \$158. Even the Labor stalwart member for Capalaba said that this was a poor decision and done without consultation. He was one of the people they did not consult with even though he is one of the people down around North Stradbroke Island. He is a Labor member and he was not told about this.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Chief whip.

**Mr MANDER:** The chief whip. I will take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. The chief whip did not know about this tax that will affect his residents as well as residents right around this state.

If it is not an integrity crisis it is some act of incompetence that continues to embarrass—

**Mr McDonald:** Or tax.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. It is some act of incompetence or an increased tax that distracts this government from good economic management. That is why we have one of the worst unemployment rates in the country. That is why we have a record number of people who are unemployed and looking for a job. Those opposite are anti jobs and have no idea how to stimulate the economy.