



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 26 November 2019

**MOTION**

**Federal Government, Infrastructure Funding**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.52 am): In its motion the government talks about playing politics. What an absolute joke! For the last three years this state government has had to play politics because of its record underspend in infrastructure. The Deputy Premier said herself we have an infrastructure crisis. For the last three years those opposite have done nothing but sit on their hands. Not only have they played politics with the Commonwealth government when they should have made a contribution; they also played politics when the state made no contribution whatsoever. Two classic examples of that are the inland rail, where the federal government is putting up \$11 billion and the state government has no contribution—despite that it has delayed it, costing thousands and thousands of jobs—and the Brisbane Metro, again totally funded by the federal government and the Brisbane City Council with no funding from the state government. Those opposite have played silly politics.

Last week the federal government rescued the state government. We have the highest unemployment rate in the country, at 6.5 per cent. Our cousins in New South Wales and Victoria have unemployment rates of 4.5 per cent and 4.7 per cent. The question is: why is there a nearly two per cent difference? The answer is that this government has not invested in infrastructure. This government is totally infatuated with Cross River Rail, to the detriment of our regions. As the regions spoke in the last federal election, they will speak again on 31 October—particularly in Townsville, where the three inept members are constantly at war with the local newspaper, with their heads in the sand saying there is nothing to see with regard to crime. They will have their day of reckoning on 31 October next year.

This is again another example of the political games this government plays. It had to be rescued by the federal government because of its chronic underspend in infrastructure. The Queensland public has woken up to the tactics of this government, as the government will find out on 31 October next year.