



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 November 2019

**MOTION**

**Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.32 am): What do the government do when they have an atrocious question time? They come up with some desperate attempt to deflect, to change the subject or to change the agenda and suddenly try to discover that the regions actually exist. It is amazing what has happened since the federal election in May. State cabinet has finally discovered regional Queensland. Ministers have gone out there in their droves in the last six months, more than they have in the previous 4½ years. We encourage them to continue to visit the regions, particularly the Deputy Premier.

**Ms Bates:** Take Bob Brown with them!

**Mr MANDER:** Take Bob Brown with them; I take that interjection. The more that the Deputy Premier and ministers go into the regions, the better our election chances are in October next year. They have suddenly discovered the regions.

This is a government that has been anti regions since the moment it came to office five years ago. Whether it has been the vegetation management laws, the reef regulations, commercial fishermen or the resources industry, the government has done everything in its power to show that it is anti regions and, therefore, anti jobs. All of a sudden government members come up with a stunt to try to make out that they are friends of the regions. Nothing could be further from the truth. This has been brought on by the Deputy Premier, who has been responsible for driving our economy to become an absolute basket case in the last five years.

**Mr Minnikin:** What's the unemployment rate?

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth. The unemployment rate is the worst unemployment rate in the country. It is even worse in the regions.

**Ms Fentiman:** Still better than when you left office.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the minister, because what is so important about the unemployment rate is the relative unemployment rate—how we compare to the rest of the nation. The relative unemployment rate in this state at the moment under Labor is three times higher than it was when the LNP was in power. Those are the important figures that we need to be comparing. Our interstate cousins—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. I ask you to be relevant to the motion before the House.

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, just to seek clarification, I am referring to—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I will not have a debate. I have given you some latitude. I would like you to come back to the motion before the House.

**Mr MANDER:** The Palaszczuk government tries to make out that it backs Queenslanders working in our regions. It does not back Queenslanders working in our regions. That is why we have high unemployment rates in our regions. That is why the youth unemployment rate in the outback is over 40 per cent. Those opposite speak with a forked tongue when it comes to saying that they back regional workers, because they do not.

We have made a submission to the Productivity Commission. Unlike the Treasurer, we made it before the closing date. The Treasurer's submission was made after the closing date. Again, she is slack, incompetent and tardy, not just with this—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Broadwater. What are the priorities of this government?

**Mr Nicholls:** She had other submissions on her mind, I suspect.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Clayfield. That is part of the problem: the Treasurer is distracted with so many other things.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I will come to that in a moment. The Treasurer obviously is distracted by many other things, whether it is purchasing properties or having interviews with potential school principals. I would love to know what that meeting was supposed to be about, but we will address that tomorrow.

We need no further evidence than the CFMMEU outside chanting, 'Labor Party fail! Labor Party fail!' That is what they are chanting. Even the unions are denouncing the Treasurer and the Labor government because they have had enough, too. They know that this government is all talk and no action. There is no further proof needed than this lame, fake motion. They come in here and make out that they stick up for the regions. This government is anti regions, anti resources and anti jobs.