




Speech By
Tim Nicholls

MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD

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ADJOURNMENT

Budget, Taxes

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (11.26 pm): Continuing the theme of the week, I want to talk about the effect of this Labor government's taxes, charges, levies and increases of all sorts, making life harder for the residents in my electorate. The first of those I might deal with that affects my electorate is the wagering tax. The wagering tax has a significant impact on my electorate. I have Eagle Farm, Doomben racetrack and Albion Park racetrack in my electorate. Three of the major racetracks in Queensland are located in my electorate. Many people employed in the racing industry live in my electorate. In fact, they live in the suburb that I live in—Hendra—and will be affected by it.

Wagering taxes go from \$9 million in 2017-18 to over \$100 million in 2019-20—a tenfold increase in two years. Ordinary punters are being slugged by this Labor government and only a fraction goes to industry. None of it is going back, for example, into upgrading Albion Park—not even to replacing the starter's box, which has been surrounded by scaffolding for years. While the Premier is happy to turn up and drink champers and have canapes at Stradbroke Day, like Marie Antoinette, she looks over the crowd at ordinary racegoers, punters, racehorse trainers, racehorse owners and jockeys and says, 'Let them eat cake.'

Land tax is a property owners' tax but also a tenants' tax. I have spoken about this earlier. I do want to repeat for the record the email that I have received in relation to land tax and the effect it has on business owners and property owners in my electorate. I also reprise the email that was sent to me that says—

I notice that the Labor government has increased land tax rates by 10%. This is on top of a 100% increase in unimproved land values.

We remember the comments that ultimately the costs will be passed on and the tenants will go broke. The email went on to say that people will lose their jobs.

The real doozy, the hit to the economy, is the waste disposal levy. Here is a message that I received from a constituent again this week—

Joe rang the office concerned about the new waste levy that the government have brought in. He is not against it but thought Queenslanders should be able to produce an ID that they are from Queensland and not be charged extra ... This waste levy affects Joe because he is demolishing his house ... at Woolloowin to build two houses on the land. To demolish his house, it was going to be \$18,000, but because of the new levy, it will cost him \$28,000 to demolish.

This is not a rich person. This is not someone who is rolling in clover. This is an ordinary person who has owned a block of land for many, many years, who at age 67 wants to realise his investment and to subdivide his land—a perfectly legal, legitimate and encouraged form of business and investment in the electorate of Clayfield—who is being hit with an extra \$10,000 in waste levy. Joe specifically rang up and said, 'I want Tim to mention this in parliament.' Joe, this is for you. This is a bad tax and we will do everything we can to support you, mate.

(Time expired)