



Speech By  
**Tim Nicholls**


**MEMBER FOR CLAYFIELD**

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Record of Proceedings, 27 November 2019

**MOTION**

**Remote Area Tax Concessions and Payments**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (11.43 am): This is a desperate government desperately flailing around trying to find some sort of diversion from the economic bad news that continues to happen. This is a desperate motion from a government that only six months ago wanted to kill and hammer regional Queensland. How did they want to do that? They wanted to see a Shorten government elected—a Shorten government that wanted to attack every retiree's dividend imputation plan and tax them on average another \$5,000. That was what Queensland Labor and this Labor government and this Labor Treasurer supported.

They supported a Labor government that wanted to remove the negative gearing benefit for people who work hard and buy a holiday home or buy an investment property and provide rental accommodation. That is what this government supported. An ALP state government wanted to support Bill Shorten and his death tax regime. That would certainly hit every farmer in regional and rural Queensland and add another \$380 billion worth of new taxes to Queenslanders, particularly all of those people throughout regional Queensland. This is from a party that has a pedigree of taxing Queenslanders more. There have been 10 more taxes—\$3.5 billion. They include a billion dollar waste levy, increases to land tax, increases to payroll tax for certain employers, increases—

**Ms Bates:** Car rego.

**Mr NICHOLLS:**—to car registration. Thank you to the member for Mudgeeraba. They have a pedigree of getting rid of the principal place of residence concession for people when they want to buy their principal place of residence, their family home—adding \$7,500; a pedigree of increasing the tolls on motorways by 30 per cent; and a pedigree of getting rid of the fuel subsidy, adding eight cents a litre to the cost of motorists getting around. Who do you think that affects most? People in regional Queensland who travel the furthest distance.

When this Treasurer comes in and says, 'We want to support regional Queensland,' she is speaking with a forked tongue. In fact, we have to wonder who she is speaking for. I note that the Queensland Treasury is now seeking a chief economist, a chief economist to do the hard work. What does that chief economist role involve? It involves leadership and planning for economic growth and being the key spokesperson for the Queensland economy.

**Ms TRAD:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Why do they need someone like that?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Because the key spokesperson who should be the person—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. There is a point of order. What is your point of order?

**Ms TRAD:** I ask you to rule on relevance. This is not relevant to the motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have been listening carefully. I am giving some latitude, but I would ask the member for Clayfield to come back a little closer to the motion.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take that objection from the non-chief spokesperson of the Queensland economy over there—the Treasurer, who is paid to do it but now is looking for someone else to do it.

If this Treasurer were doing the job, one would have to ask why a simple 1½-page submission was put in after the closing date for submissions. It is not as though the time line has been any particular secret. It has been on the website since 28 November 2018 when the terms of reference were resolved. Whilst the LNP and the LNP's Treasury spokesman, the deputy leader, does the job that needs to be done and puts in a submission, here we are on 27 November 2019 and the Treasurer is finally getting around to making a submission.

We all know what this is. We all know that this is a distraction from the main issue. We all know that this is a distraction from an economy that is plummeting under Labor. We all know that the regions are suffering because this Labor government has taken its eye off the ball. We all know that this Labor government has desperately gone out to the regions in some vain attempt to try to recover lost ground, lost ground that they found out about on 18 May when the Queensland people comprehensively rejected their regime that they supported for higher and more taxes, for fewer jobs and to penalise workers who just wanted to get on with their job, whether that was in the resources sector or elsewhere.

We know what the Deputy Premier and Treasurer thinks about the resources sector: they should all retrain into other areas. That was her comment. We know what the Minister for Education thought when she was the employment minister. The Minister for Education was the minister who said, 'Youth unemployment is always with us. We can do nothing about it.' We only need to read Tuesday's *Courier-Mail* that talks about the increasing youth unemployment in the regions to show that she has taken that particular philosophy to heart and has completely given up on finding jobs for young people in the regions.