




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 17 March 2020

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Coronavirus, Economy; Youth Justice

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (1.13 pm): I rise in the House to speak about the impact of the coronavirus on the economy. There is no doubt that over the coming weeks, coming months and maybe even coming years our economy is going to be shaken to its core because of this virus. Already we have heard about the impact on the tourism industry and international education. For small businesses and the hospitality industry there are going to be hundreds if not thousands of people whose jobs will be threatened.

This morning we heard the Treasurer predict that the impact of the coronavirus might be around \$10 billion over the next two years. This will have a devastating effect on Queensland's economy. There is no state that is more vulnerable to this crisis when it comes to its economy than Queensland. We have been struggling for some time. At the moment, we have the highest unemployment rate in the country. We are the only state with a six at the beginning of its unemployment rate. We have the highest number of long-term unemployed—those who have been unemployed for more than 12 months. Over the last 12 months we have had the highest number of bankruptcies in the nation. Business confidence is at the lowest rate ever recorded. This state government is not seen by the business community as competent to cope with the future.

Is it any wonder that we on this side of the House are extremely nervous about the ability of the Treasurer, Jackie Trad, to navigate this crisis. We have already seen policies that are a cruel hoax. They talk about deferring payroll tax payments. What relief is that when in six months time people have to pay double? It is not about what they are doing at the moment. It is a political solution, not an economic solution.

I have some advice for this government. We heard them come in here today and talk about how they are going to cooperate with the federal government. They need to do more than cooperate with the federal government; they need to follow their lead. They need to follow their instructions. I have total confidence in the economic management of Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg compared to that of Treasurer Jackie Trad. The record of Treasurer Jackie Trad speaks for itself. We are at the bottom of the barrel when it comes to economics in this nation. The Leader of the Opposition has already outlined a series of stimulus packages that should be implemented immediately.

The minister, who spoke before me, spoke about crime. That has motivated me to speak about the greatest backflip since the air-conditioning announcement two weeks ago, which was the greatest backflip since the Adani decision 18 months ago. I speak about crime. This government has zero credibility when it comes to dealing with youth crime. Their latest five-point plan now makes it a 14-point plan over the last two years. Their first five-point plan was a total failure. A year ago they had a four-point plan which was a total failure. The latest five-point plan will also be a total failure. The member for Thuringowa's time in this House is limited. The member for Townsville, the member for Mundingburra, the member for Cairns and the member for Barron River will all be gone as a consequence of this one issue—that is, dealing with crime.

The people of Far North Queensland and North Queensland are treating these people with contempt because they know they are all talk and no action. The member for Thuringowa said there was no crime problem. Stop speaking it up!

Mr HARPER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take personal offence at that remark and ask that he withdraw. I never said that. I have never said that. That is on the record.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. These members come out time and time again and stand like dummies behind a minister or the Premier nodding their heads in agreement with what is about to happen. The performance of the police minister is an absolute embarrassment. He has come out and condemned the judiciary for misinterpreting their own legislation, which clearly says that we should not send these kids to jail. They are an embarrassment and they will pay at the polling booth.

(Time expired)