




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 22 April 2020

MOTION

Referral to Economics and Governance Committee

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.48 am): I am compelled to rise to speak about this issue. While it is very difficult to go beyond the comprehensive assessment that the Manager of Opposition Business has given, there are a couple of points that I would like to raise. It is more important than ever to have some sort of independent oversight of what are some of the most significant decisions that this parliament will ever make. As has been said countless times, we are in unprecedented times and the government is making enormous and significant decisions that need independent review and oversight. That is even more important in this state when we only have one house of parliament, when we do not have a house of review. We all know that it was the Labor government that got rid of the house of review in 1922.

Mr Dick: Hear, hear!

Mr MANDER: 'Hear, hear!' says the Minister for State Development. I will take that interjection.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Order, members. That debate was settled 100 years ago.

Mr MANDER: It is more relevant in this state than any other jurisdiction in the country that we have some independent oversight, as is happening in nearly every other jurisdiction in this country, so that we can properly analyse the decisions that this government makes. By the Leader of the House bringing this before the House today, it says to me and those on this side of the House that this government is afraid of scrutiny. It is afraid to be challenged about some of the decisions that it has made. Man, oh, man, there are many that need to be challenged. The frustration that we have at the moment, as has been very well enunciated by the Manager of Opposition Business is that we have not had sittings of parliament to be able to scrutinise and keep this government accountable. It is, as I often say, a joke to think that this government can have an economic and governance committee independently review any legislation or anything that this government has done when it is dominated by Labor members. What the government should do in the true spirit of bipartisanship is adopt the motion for a select committee that has been recommended by this side of the House.