



Speech By **Tim Mander**

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 20 May 2020

MOTION

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.10 pm): This document has one fundamental flaw and that is that its author, which is the Palaszczuk government, has zero economic credibility. What did we see under the former treasurer? We saw the highest unemployment rate in the country, we saw the highest number of bankruptcies, we saw the lowest level of business confidence, we saw the highest debt and we saw business suffocated by nine new or increased taxes under the Palaszczuk government. The Palaszczuk government is no friend of business. We saw a former deputy premier who was embroiled in integrity issues. Believe me, the member for South Brisbane will be back. She is not going anywhere. She will be back and she will be in some position of influence in the future, although she is still pulling the strings in the background now.

What happened over the last week? We have a new Treasurer. The happiest person in Queensland on Saturday when the former treasurer made her announcement was the member for Woodridge. The member for Woodridge would have been doing high-fives around his lounge room when he realised, ‘My opportunity has come!’ What an embarrassing start it has been. At first, there was the foray into Virgin which we have spoken about time and time again.

Mr Minnikin: How did that go?

Mr MANDER: How did that go? That is exactly right. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been lost by this organisation over the last six or seven years, an organisation that is 90 per cent foreign owned, and this minister wants to recklessly use taxpayers’ money despite the fact that private investors are queuing up to be involved in getting Virgin mark 2 back up again. The minister then gave false hope to the Virgin workers that they are all going to get their jobs back, which we know will not be true, unfortunately. It got better than that! Then we had the bumbling, embarrassing situation on national television where the Treasurer of this state did not know the debt. Even when he finally found it, he understated it by \$7 billion.

How can we have any confidence in the plan in this document when we have a Treasurer who has absolutely no idea, who believes it is okay to give \$200 million to a venture and not expect a commercial return? This Treasurer is also all show and no go. This is a man who fell in love with himself many, many years ago and has remained faithful ever since.