




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 14 July 2020

MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.28 am): I rise to speak on this motion once again. What I have said often during this debate that we have had through this whole parliament is what we have been missing since the government changed the standing orders. One of the things that is missing now from an opposition's point of view is an opportunity to respond to things that are said. For example, in ministerial statements we had the opportunity in a previous parliament to respond with three-minute speeches or five-minute speeches. I cannot remember what it was, but there was an opportunity. Today there were issues that needed to be responded to and we require time allocated in the agenda of the parliament to be able to do that.

The classic one today is the talk about borders. We are very, very open and proud to talk about our debate on borders.

Government members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take the interjections from the government because we did mention 64 times that the borders should be opened as per the program that the Premier originally put out. What did the Premier do? The Premier listened to our advice—eventually. The Premier listened to our advice and opened the borders on 10 July as their business principles actually stated. What did the opposition respond to? The opposition responded to the uncertainty that the Premier brought to this state by talking about the borders reopening in September or maybe beyond. That is what we responded to. The Premier eventually heeded our advice. The Premier eventually stuck to her original plan that she abandoned for a number of weeks causing incredible angst in our community, particularly the business community.

What happened in the days leading up to that announcement? The day before the Premier made the announcement to stick with the 10 July date, the Minister for Main Roads said it would be irresponsible to open up the borders. The Treasurer said the same thing a few days beforehand. The Minister for Health said the same thing a few days beforehand. The coup de grace was the whip who on the day the announcement was made was reported on the front page of his local paper saying that it would be irresponsible to open up the borders now. He did not get the memo, because this Premier consults with nobody whatsoever.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member may be trying to get away from the fact that he wanted the borders open to Victoria, but that was not the point. He is misrepresenting words being said in this place and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: Write to the Premier!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Everton, we do not need your comments. Member for Everton, the member for Miller has taken offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: Can you clarify that? Did he take offence?

Mr BAILEY: Absolutely. The honourable member misrepresented what I had said. I take personal offence to that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Miller. He has asked you to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw.

Mr BROWN: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Mr MANDER: Oh, here we go. Up you come.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, before you make any further comments I remind you that you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BROWN: I take personal offence and ask the member to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. I wonder what that was on the front page of the *Redland City Bulletin*. I thought it was a picture of the member for Capalaba. I thought I read the statement below that said—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. We are debating the business program motion before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, I was just about to interrupt you and ask you to come back to the motion. Can you please take my guidance.

Mr MANDER: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. The point I was making is what has changed since the last parliament. With the changing of standing orders and the fact that debate needs to be truncated, it eliminates our opportunity to do what we could do in the previous parliament where we had speeches to be able to respond to the ministerial statements. That was one example, the borders. The other one this morning was when the Treasurer talked about his so-called economic recovery plan. This Treasurer can now be known as the Sergeant Schultz of the Queensland parliament because he knows nothing. He knows no details whatsoever. He was an embarrassment during the week in making that so-called economic statement.

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am happy to debate the economic statement. I thought this was about the business program motion before the House.

Mr Minnikin: What is your point of order?

Mr DICK: Thank you, member for Chatsworth, for your advice. Two points: relevance and, secondly, I take personal offence at the words used by the member for Everton and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Everton, the Treasurer has taken offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: And move on to the business motion.

Mr MANDER: As I said, there are so many things to be talked about.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will mention that a bit later on this afternoon when I will get an opportunity through matters of public interest. It is astonishing that this government has not allowed the opposition the opportunities to debate those issues that concern Queenslanders so much. Over the last two and a half years of this parliament we have not been given opportunities to talk about substantial shortcomings in this government, whether it is economic management, whether it is integrity, whether it is a lack of a plan for the future, whether it is all the failures with regards to service delivery, whether it is in public transport, whether it is in health, whether it is in education, whether it is in crime and law and order. All those things warrant and deserve extra time given to the opposition to be able to keep this government accountable. Thankfully 31 October is now only 109 days away. We cannot wait for that day of reckoning.