




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): I rise to speak specifically about the Treasurer's announcement last week of new savings measures for Queensland. The statement made by the Treasurer was basically admitting the failures of the government over the last five years. He started the announcement by saying, 'Guess what, folks? Now every dollar matters.' Does that mean that for the last five years every dollar of Queensland taxpayers given to the Queensland government did not matter because this government has been reckless and irresponsible with its economic management—if you can call it management? It has been mismanagement.

Let us look at some of the announcements made by the Treasurer. He said we are going to maintain Public Service positions, that we are going to keep them in line with our priorities, we are going to have internal recruitment only to fill non-frontline roles. What the Treasurer is admitting is that the figures of the Public Service and the non front line are too high. What the deputy premier—sorry, the Treasurer; he wants to be the deputy premier—was also admitting was that he has not kept one of the key fiscal principles of this government and that is that the Public Service would not increase beyond the rate of population growth.

Over the last five years the Public Service has increased 16.7 per cent. The population increase has been 7.8 per cent. Bong, bong! Wrong! Straight off he failed to keep a key fiscal principle—a principle that he was not aware of when he was asked about it by Steve Austin on ABC Radio. The Treasurer also said in his so-called economic statement that we are going to have a natural reduction in senior executive service roles. Does that mean we have too many senior executives? They appointed people who were not needed? He said we were going to stop IT projects. Why? Because they are \$500 million over budget. They have blown out by \$500 million.

Dr Rowan: And failed!

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection. They are failing. Then we come to the real beauties, the real big savers: we are going to stop social media pages. The Treasurer has the tenacity to come in here and insult the intelligence of the people of Queensland by saying they are reducing social media pages and that will make a major contribution. Not only that, there is also an admission that they have too many glossy magazines, too many photos, too many annual reports. We have wasted taxpayers' money on selling the government's very limited achievements, if they have any achievements at all. At the same time as he talks about that, we hear about the daily overtime rate of train drivers—\$75,000 a day; \$24 million a year. That is where Queenslanders want to see savings. At the moment up on the Sunshine Coast about every minute on TV there is some sort of ad about Cross River Rail. They could not give two hoots about Cross River Rail. It is a waste of taxpayers' money.

One of my major motivations to come into the parliament was to stop wasteful spending. If you have been in private enterprise or you have been the CEO of a not-for-profit organisation that has to run on the smell of an oily rag, you see this blatant waste of \$75,000 a day. Then we have a Treasurer

who does not know any detail. How can we know the number at which public servants are to be capped when he does not know how many public servants there are? How can we stop consultants when he does not know how many consultants there are? We have had consultants doing jobs that public servants should have been doing over the past five years. The list goes on and on.

I said it this morning and I will say it again: this Treasurer is the Sergeant Schultz of Queensland politics. He knows nothing and he has proven that over the past few weeks. This is his dream job, but he is failing miserably. It does not matter who from the Labor Party controls the treasury benches, whether it is the member for South Brisbane or the current Treasurer: they have no idea when it comes to economic management. That is why we have the highest unemployment rate, the highest number of bankruptcies, the lowest level of business confidence and no future under this government.

(Time expired)