




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 11 August 2020

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Queensland Economy; Ethics Committee Report, Apology

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): I can say that my worst day will always be better than his best day. We are talking about a Treasurer who did not know the debt level when asked on national television. Not long ago he did know not know the fiscal principle about the growth of the Public Service and—

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The matter that the member refers to is personally offensive. It is not what I was asked on radio. I was not asked about the principle. I was asked about—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Are you taking personal offence?

Mr DICK: I ask the honourable member to withdraw. It is personally offensive to me.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has found that comment personally offensive and asks that you withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. It was only a few weeks ago that the Treasurer came out after the federal government's economic and fiscal update and snuck through an announcement that the debt level by the end of next financial year will be \$17 billion worse than what was announced at the December MYFER. They have the hide to hide behind COVID to explain their debt levels, but let's remember that out of this \$101 billion—

Mr DICK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find it personally offensive that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said I was intending to hide anything. That is entirely untrue. It is personally offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Treasurer, it is not an opportunity to debate. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Treasurer finds your comments personally offensive and asks that they be withdrawn.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. We now have a debt that is hurtling towards \$101 billion of which 93 per cent was already racked up before coronavirus hit. This government has fiscal principles that mean absolutely nothing. They are there to put on paper and mean nothing. Basically, every one of them has been smashed and they have zero credibility. That is why when this Treasurer comes in here and talks about this side of the parliament having no plan, when there has been no budget, no transparency, no idea with regard to how they are going to make savings, did not know the size of the Public Service, still unsure about details with regard to how they are going to reach that \$3 billion worth of savings, it is laughable. It is absolutely laughable.

In contrast, the LNP's fiscal principles will ensure that Queensland builds a stronger economy to secure more jobs and improve services like health, education and policing. The LNP will stabilise Labor's debt and deliver our economic plan to get Queensland working again. We have already released the LNP's fiscal principles. First, we will strive to be the lowest taxing government in the nation

by guaranteeing no new taxes and a 10-year royalty freeze to give certainty to business. Second, we will target fiscal balances across the economic cycle by limiting general government expenditure to be less than revenue. We will not spend more than we earn, which got us into that trouble in the first place.

Third, we will stabilise and begin repaying Labor's debt with the target of regaining the state's AAA credit rating. We are on the verge at the moment of having our credit rating downgraded again under this Labor administration. Fourth, we will set improved standards in Public Service delivery and accountability across the whole of Queensland. Finally, as we have heard the opposition leader say today and we will say it time and time again, we will build the job-creating infrastructure Queensland needs. We will establish the Queensland infrastructure fund, which will be royalties from the Galilee Basin; we will build new roads and dams; and we will deliver the New Bradfield Scheme to harness the floodwaters, the monsoonal rains of the north, to irrigate a land mass the size of Tasmania, to have hydro-electricity to generate power for 800,000 homes and to stop all of that sediment that runs into the Great Barrier Reef because of the floodwaters. There is only one party that has a vision for Queensland, and that is the LNP.

I do want to mention in this speech today that I have read report No. 200 of the Ethics Committee, and I apologise unreservedly to the House for my actions.