



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 12 August 2020

**MOTION**

**Liberal National Party, Commitments**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.51 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the opposition leader's motion. Let there be no doubt that the upcoming election on 31 October will not be about COVID. It will be about economic recovery—not just from what COVID has wreaked on us in the last five months but also what has happened in the last five years. Queenslanders will be asked: who do you have confidence in with regard to navigating our way out of the economic recession that is upon us at the moment? How can you have confidence in a government that could not manage the economy pre COVID and is trying to convince everybody that it can manage the economy post COVID?

Why would you invest in this state when it takes eight years to get approval for a mine, or whatever else it might be? Why would you invest in this state when there have been nine new or increased taxes put on businesses, with this government having no idea of the cascading effect that has on small business and, of course, consumers themselves? Why would you invest in this state when the treasurer of the day assures business that there will be no increase in royalties and then three or four weeks later, when the budget comes down, there has been an increase in royalties?

Queenslanders are looking for competent government. They are looking for people who can manage the economy.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Bancroft and member for Whitsunday, you are both warned under the standing orders. You will direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr MANDER:** This will be about confidence and competence. How can you have confidence when you have a Treasurer—the third treasurer—who has proven that he is not across his brief, who has proven that he is not capable of working with figures? In the short time that he has been Treasurer, it has been nothing short of an embarrassment for our state. The Treasurer did not know the debt level in that infamous Karl Stefanovic breakfast interview.

The Treasurer comes in here and talks about \$3 billion worth of savings. One of the bad things about being the last speaker in a debate is that other speakers pinch your lines, but I have to repeat it. The Treasurer had an epiphany that 'every dollar now matters'—as if it did not matter in the past! He proved that with his announcement about savings, which was an admission of all the things this government has done wrong in the last five years. Think of the money they have wasted! We will be reminding Queenslanders that 93 per cent of the \$101 billion debt we are heading to was racked up prior to COVID.

We have the Treasurer coming in here and admitting that we need to stop Public Service growth and that the fiscal principle they have of making sure that the growth of the Public Service does not exceed the population growth now needs to be addressed, without knowing the number of public

servants. He talked about the fact that we have too many consultants. What are those consultants doing? They are doing the jobs that public servants should be doing. He talked about the fact that we have too many public servants at the executive level and that we need to get rid of some of those. He talked about the fact that the IT programs have gone over budget, so we need to stop those. He talked about the fact that we have spent too much money on glossy advertising. Well, you would not know that from looking at the TV over the last couple of weeks or months. Millions of dollars is being spent on government advertising which is propaganda for this government. There was also the infamous statement about the number of social media accounts around, which must be contributing so much to our state debt.

This is all about who has a plan for the future. The Leader of the Opposition has announced a bold plan not for one year and not for two years but for the next decade. Let it be on the record that the Treasurer today did not call it the 'New Bradfield Scheme'; he called it the 'fake Bradfield Scheme'. Let that be on the record. That will stop them duplicating our program at least, you would think, with the Treasurer denouncing it that way. This is a program that has a vision for the future—a vision to invest for growth, supercharge the regions and unleash Queensland industries so that we can secure our children's future. It is only the LNP that will get Queensland working again.