




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 8 September 2020

MOTION

Business Program

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.35 am): We are now in the last week of the 56th Parliament. There is no greater example of what is wrong with this government than the business program motion that has been moved by the Leader of the House. The Leader of the House stood up quite proudly to talk about the fact that this is the first time we have known when the election would be held. That means that there is no excuse with regard to planning and making sure these bills were on the agenda and scrutinised well before the last sitting week of parliament. This just shows that this government has no idea about planning, not just here in the parliament but right throughout the government—whether it is budgets, legislation, backflips or whatever it might be. This government has proven that it cannot plan.

This business program motion also speaks to the government's priorities, as has already been mentioned by the Manager of Opposition Business. In terms of time allocated to debate bills this week, there are two hours for the Public Service and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, two hours for the wage theft bill, 1½ hours for the Torres Strait Islander traditional child-rearing practice bill and one hour for the child sexual offences reform, a bill that the Attorney-General herself said was incredibly important. We agree with that. There is one hour allocated for debate of that bill—half the time that has been allocated to Public Service reform! Queenslanders know that this government has its priorities all wrong? What drives it is its union masters telling it what they want, not what the people of Queensland want and what our most vulnerable kids deserve.

This motion shows the lack of transparency and the lack of planning that this government has exercised. There is no greater example of that than the Treasurer's refusal to have a budget before the election. Government members came into the House today and said they could do it in November. The preparation involved in formulating a budget means that you cannot do it in four weeks.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Clearly, the member for Everton has strayed well off the topic and is onto topics that are totally unrelated to the business program motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, on the point of order—this coming from the man who just spoke about Queensland borders being closed.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): What is your point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: My point of order is that the member who just raised a point of order about relevance spoke about things not relevant to the motion. I think he should apply the same standard.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Miller. Member for Everton, I am happy to give you a little bit of latitude. Come back to the motion too, please.

Mr MANDER: I was talking about the lack of planning and lack of transparency demonstrated by the business program motion and by the behaviour of the government. To not have a budget before the election is simply unacceptable. The Treasurer did not know that the original budget date was April and he misled the morning radio program by saying it was going to be in June. He did not know it.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is the same. The member was asked to come back to the motion and then he willingly avoided the motion altogether and got into very broad debating points about the budget. He is not speaking to the motion.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, on the point of order—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I first make a ruling?

Mr BLEIJIE: Can I take a point of order on that point of order, though? I am responding under the standing orders to that point of order. The Attorney-General, when moving the motion, talked about economic recovery and in fact talked about a budget being delivered if the Labor government was re-elected. As part of this motion debate now, I think the shadow Treasurer is responding to the points the Attorney made in her own speech.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are not going to debate the points of order. Member for Miller, I was happy with the way the member for Everton was articulating his points. I said I would give him some latitude. I will give him a little more.

Mr MANDER: I go back to the lack of transparency and lack of preparation. We have a Treasurer who did not know the debt level, is not going to deliver a budget and this morning did not know that the original budget was going to be delivered in April, which was well before the federal budget was going to be introduced. The member for South Brisbane is now laying back thanking her lucky stars that she is no longer the worst treasurer in the nation. We have a Treasurer who simply knows nothing about the facts and is refusing to be open and transparent and let Queenslanders know what the true state of the finances are as we go into a state election.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. I think I am going to pre-empt your point of order, Leader of the House. Member for Everton, I did give you some latitude. You have now strayed from the motion before the House. I now ask you to come back to the motion being debated.

Mr MANDER: There are so many other things that we could discuss this week if we had what we call a normal parliament—a parliament that sits into the night if that is what is required or sits into the early hours of the morning if that is what is required or sits on Friday if that is what is required. Would there be a better example of needing to go into Friday of this week given that it is the last week of the 56th Parliament?

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr MANDER: I will take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. It is actually budget week. Those opposite said today that they wanted to hear our plan. Bring down a budget and we will do a budget reply speech. They will not because they do not want to hear our plan. They do not want to hear about debt. This Treasurer is a debt denier. In fact, he said moments ago that the only reason he knows about debt is that we keep reminding him of it.

Mr DICK: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take offence at those words. I ask the member for Everton to withdraw and to also tell us how he is going to fund \$23 billion worth of—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Treasurer, I think you have overstepped the mark there. Member for Everton, the Treasurer takes offence and I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask you to come back to the motion being debated.

Mr MANDER: I am doing that, Mr Deputy Speaker. I was just accepting the invitation from the Treasurer who wants to know our plan. We will tell those opposite our plan. We have the greatest vision that has been delivered to this state in decades—a vision that will result in a decade of jobs and not two or three years worth of jobs. It has been delivered under visionary leader Deb Frecklington. It includes building the New Bradfield Scheme, building the Queensland Dam Company, building the second M1 and making electricity cheaper in the regions.

(Time expired)