




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 8 September 2020

MOTION

Referral to Economics and Governance Committee

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.32 pm): I rise to speak to the motion. This week we had a Clayton's budget—the budget you have when you're not having a budget—with the Treasurer simply delivering an economic statement, a statement of facts. At one stage the Treasurer proudly mentioned that we had a two-year forecast, not a four-year forecast. This is not a two-year forecast; this is a 10-month forecast. First we had a budget that is not a budget. Now we have Clayton's estimates hearings—the estimates hearings you have when you're not having estimates hearings. This is typical of this government. It is all about smoke and mirrors and about trying to hide from transparency.

Earlier the Treasurer quite pathetically apologised for the mistakes he has made today. In fact, if I am right, I am pretty sure he said, 'I have spent my career apologising for my mistakes,' or something similar. He has made many mistakes, and they are not basic mistakes. These are mistakes that are fundamental to the financial operations of our economy. That is why the Manager of Opposition Business has moved this amendment. We want full and open scrutiny of this week's economic statement, because there simply is not enough information here. Instead of a 1,000-page budget, we have a 41-page glossy brochure. I thought the Treasurer said that no longer would they have the glossy brochures and all that rhetoric. We want to be able to, as the Treasurer himself said, grill them—and grill them we will with whatever time we are given, but we deserve longer.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Moggill. The people of Queensland deserve to have this fully scrutinised. There are so many things that need to be questioned, some of which I have mentioned already. There are projections of only nine months rather than four years or even two years. It was not a two-year forecast. It told us what happened in the last financial year and what is happening in this financial year. That is not a two-year forecast; that is a nine-month forecast. The economic strategy was simply a rehash, simply announcing things that have already been announced. This was a Clayton's budget and this will be a Clayton's estimates hearing. This is all because we have not had a budget.

I restate the point made by the Manager of the Opposition Business. Being able to deliver a budget in November, as the Treasurer outlined, means that a budget can be delivered now. Do people think that miraculously over four weeks, from 1 November to 30 November, the Treasury department will put together a budget? It takes months and months. They are doing it now. They have done it now. The only thing that the Treasurer claims is missing is the information he received two months ago about GST allocations going forward.

I raise that point because the Treasurer's statement yesterday was not significantly different from his statement two months ago, because the information has not changed that much. The same applies to the GST estimates by the federal government. There is no reason for this government to not have a

full budget and a full estimates scrutiny process. It is afraid of that occurring. We look forward to Friday, but we want it to be fair dinkum. We want access to public servants and heads of GOCs, as we normally would have, to ask proper questions about the future of this state.

I agree with the Treasurer that we are in the most dire economic situation in the history of this state. This government has put us in an even more vulnerable position with record debt and the highest unemployment rate. At the moment, our unemployment rate is higher than Victoria's and it is in lockdown! The scary forecast over this financial year is not that we will have more people in work but that 72,000 more people will be out of work, because the government does not have a fair dinkum economic plan. As the CCIQ said, it is simply rehashing what it has already announced.

The Queensland Productivity Commission said—no wonder they are reducing its independence—that it cannot be the 'same old, same old' again and acknowledged that the Queensland economy was wobbly well before COVID—and that theme continues. That is why we are passionate about this issue. We believe that the public deserves not three hours but a full day of questioning of the Premier, the Treasurer, heads of departments, heads of GOCs and all of those people who are responsible for the financial future of this state. It is only fit and proper that that happens.