



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL**

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 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to speak on the appropriation bill. I add my congratulations to you, Madam Deputy Speaker Lui, on your appointment to the panel of temporary Speakers. It is a great honour. This budget has proven one thing: this Treasurer is absolutely delusional.

**Mr Minnikin:** And vain.

**Mr MANDER:** I will come to the vanity aspect later. Let us talk about how this Treasurer is delusional. For him to think that the Labor government was re-elected on its economic record and its so-called plan for the future is totally and utterly delusional. The new members in this House have already admitted the reason this government was re-elected. The government was re-elected because of COVID—firstly, secondly, thirdly, fourthly and fifthly. It was because of COVID that this government was re-elected and because it began the mother of all scare campaigns, which it should be embarrassed about. We have proof of that. There were recordings made of Labor's volunteers ringing vulnerable older people and telling them that if they did not vote Labor they would probably be dead. That is disgraceful! That is how delusional this government is, thinking it has been re-elected because of its economic record.

Let's talk about the government's coronavirus economic statement: the 40 glossy pages of its so-called road map to recovery—the one the Treasurer held so closely to his chest, like *Peanuts*' Linus clings to his blanket for security. Out of those 40 pages, there is one page of dot points. That is this government's economic strategy—one page of dot points. Most of those dot points had already been delivered. In fact, one of them was the LNP policy of FairPlay vouchers of \$150. We introduced that policy back in 2012.

What new member had a prospective voter come up to them and say, 'We are voting for you because you are giving \$500,000 in grants for art workers'? What new member can say that somebody came up to them and said that was the reason they voted for the Labor government? What prospective voter came up to a new member and said, 'We are voting for you because you are giving \$900,000 to support vulnerable multicultural communities'? That they think they were voted in because of their economic record shows how delusional they are. It is COVID that won them the election this time. It is the mismanagement of the economy that will lose them the election in 2024.

The Treasurer is also delusional if he thinks the current budget is a road map to economic recovery. This budget has no vision, no imagination, no idea and no ambition for Queensland. He said himself before he delivered it that this is a boring budget, that there would be nothing new. There is nothing closer to the truth than that statement.

Businesses in this state have had it with this government. They have had it. They are nice on the surface. They have to grit their teeth and go to press conferences and nod their heads because they know that they cannot upset the government of the day, because they know how vindictive this

government can be. If you get businesses behind closed doors they laugh at this government because they know it has no idea. They have had enough. They know how damaging these policies are going to be to the Queensland economy over the next four years. The Property Council and Master Builders—all those interest groups—have said that it cannot be business as usual in these unprecedented times. That is all this budget is. It is a bland, blah budget that will not produce the return that we require in this state, which is jobs.

The Treasurer proudly boasts that we have returned to the same levels we had pre COVID. Pre COVID we had the worst unemployment, during COVID we had the worst unemployment and, congratulations, we are going back to the highest unemployment level—as well as the highest number of bankruptcies, as well as the lowest business confidence. We have debt as well.

This Treasurer is also delusional about debt. He does not understand good debt and bad debt. He has no understanding whatsoever. He wants to compare us with the other states. As has already been spoken about by previous speakers, when you borrow an extra \$28 billion you expect to get a return. That is like me having a \$500,000 house and spending \$200,000 on renovations but when it is finished the house is valued at only \$501,000—really smart economics. This Treasurer is delusional about the reason this government was re-elected, delusional about the so-called economic recovery plan that this budget is, delusional about debt and delusional about his own credibility as Treasurer.

This is a treasurer who is not really good with numbers. They do not come naturally to him. This is a treasurer who mixes up deficits and surpluses in response to a Dorothy Dixer; in answer to a question from his own team he could not get it right with regard to deficits and surpluses. This is a treasurer who did not know the debt level when he appeared on television. This is a treasurer who has an incredibly high opinion of himself. Those excruciatingly embarrassing black-and-white photos taken in his office are downright embarrassing. He is channelling presidents of the United States—JFK or Obama. Can you imagine him staging that and going through rehearsal after rehearsal: 'How does this one look? What about this one? Is this one better?' I can only imagine that he has an official personal photographer who follows him to get him in those poignant moments of reflection.

**Ms LAUGA:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order about the relevance of the topic the member is talking to. Could I ask that he return to the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): There is no point of order.

**Mr MANDER:** We are seeing what is happening. We have the auditions for who will take over the Premier's role when she retires a year out from the election. Will it be the member for Woodridge or the member for Murrumba—the left and the right fighting each other? It is going to be great to watch over the next couple of years, watching these guys go for it as they—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** No, there are only two of them. I am sure there are only two of them. By the way, they have one thing in common: they both abandoned their electorates. They cut and ran to safer seats so they could have this battle they are going to have now.

We have a treasurer who is totally and utterly delusional. We on this side of the House will keep this government accountable over the next four years, because I see a Bligh government tsunami coming again over the next four years. It will be so bad that people will be waiting with baseball bats once they have got rid of the cover they have had over the last 12 months.

In this new parliament, I am proud to be the shadow minister for housing and public works—I was once minister—and the shadow minister for sport and racing, for which I was once the assistant minister. These are great portfolios and I am very appreciative of having them. There are many issues in those portfolio areas that we need to be looking at. I will mention a couple of those. With regard to social housing, what has happened over the last five or six years is a disgrace. When I left that portfolio in 2015, we had brought the social housing waiting list down to 16,546. By May that had blown out to 25,613. I suspect the number is a lot worse than that now.

Those opposite are the people who say that they look after those who are marginalised and the working class and yet they have abandoned them and failed to give them their most basic need which is housing. How can someone have a job if they do not have a house? How can someone have security if they do not have a house? They have whacked the property investment market, whether it is through the rental reforms that they will try to bring in which will make it difficult to be a landlord or whether it is through new property taxes. That has affected investment in housing and that affects the supply of housing for those who want to rent. That is important because home ownership has fallen. Now we have over 33 per cent of Queenslanders who rent their homes.

As well as that we have issues around procurement. The biggest issue with procurement is making sure that small and medium sized businesses—local Queensland businesses—get part of the \$16 billion to \$17 billion of government spend every year. We want a fair dinkum support local policy

not the facade of this government. Under Labor, \$1.2 billion in government contracts have been awarded to companies based outside Queensland. We want small and medium sized businesses to benefit from government procurement but it is too complex, it is too bureaucratic, it is too time consuming, it is too costly. We have to make it easier for these businesses to benefit from this procurement.

As I said, I am also the shadow minister for sport and racing. I am very passionate about sport. It has played a major part in my life. We want to make sure that we get as many young people involved in sport as possible. The healthiest pastime one can have is to be actively involved in sport. We need to promote that and do whatever we can in that regard.

We need to know what is happening in terms of the Gabba. The Gabba naming rights were announced about two years ago and there is still no money. In the meantime, we missed out on the first test. Imagine missing out on the first cricket test. It is outrageous. It is un-Queensland like for that to happen. Those things need to be looked at.

The racing industry has lost all confidence in this government. This government does not treat the racing industry with respect. It is a \$1.2 billion industry. Is it any wonder that trainers, owners and jockeys are going down south and staying away from here when we do not have a government that promotes what is a very important industry in this state?

I turn to my electorate of Everton. Surprise, surprise, there is nothing in the budget for my electorate.

**Mr Minnikin:** What did you get?

**Mr MANDER:** Nothing! Zero! We have two projects that are ongoing, but nothing new. Everton Park Link Road only happened because I promised it at the previous election. The government came in three hours after my announcement and said it was going to do the same thing. Everton Park State High School is in the process of being upgraded. They still worship me for making sure that the school remained open. The statue is being commissioned for the front of the school.

The big thing that is missing in the budget is the \$100 million that is needed to upgrade the intersection at South Pine Road and Stafford Road where my big sign is. Every day everybody has a long period of time to see my sign.

**Mr Minnikin:** You're starting to sound like the Treasurer.

**Mr MANDER:** No. I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. Quite seriously, \$100 million is needed for the upgrade of that intersection. It is a stage 2 upgrade after the Everton Park Link Road which is stage 1.

Also very close to my heart are a couple of community groups. The Nest Community is a centre for women and it has done a great job over the last five or six years. They receive no government funding whatsoever. They do not fit into the box. They are not a neighbour centre and because they do not fit into that box they receive no funding. It is a real shame. They have more engagement than any other community group I know. It is a really good group. The other group in my area that I would love to see funding for is the ORCA Project. It operates in the seat of Mansfield as well as in my seat. It provides employment opportunities for disabled people. It is really important. They receive no government funding.

This budget is an absolute failure. It is an embarrassment. It shows how delusional this Treasurer is and by association the Premier and the rest of the Labor team. If they think they have been re-elected on an economic platform then they have a lot to look forward to in four years time when we see it all come home to roost.