



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 17 June 2021

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL**

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 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.18 pm): One of the Labor Party's policies that I do agree with is their policy to incorporate their speeches. It is one of the small mercies, but it is something that I really do appreciate.

I want to begin where the Leader of the Opposition finished in his very good budget reply speech. I only agree with one thing the Treasurer said in his budget reply speech, and that is when he said, 'This is a typical Labor government budget.' He could not have said a truer word, because Labor budgets are all about spending. They are not about substance; they are all about smoke and mirrors. They are all about repackaging, reannouncing and reneging on promises and commitments, all delivered by a Treasurer who is totally obsessed with himself and who has an ego that cannot be matched in this place. The Treasurer has one thing on his mind, and that is to become the next premier of this state. That is all he is obsessed with, so everything he does is an audition to his colleagues 'pick me, pick me' to be the next premier of this state. If he is not taking credit for recovering the Binna Burra bell from the bushfires, he is working on the next photo opportunity to satisfy his obsession to be viewed at the same level as past presidents of the United States. It is rumoured that Treasurer Cameron Robert Dick is demanding that his colleagues refer to him as CRD, and I would believe that.

**Mr Bleijie:** What does that stand for?

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Kawana. I think it stands for Cameron Robert Dick.

**Mr Bleijie:** Oh, like JFK.

**Mr MANDER:** That is exactly right, like JFK. That big cheesy grin will not hide the sham that this budget is—and what a sham it is! This is a Treasurer who, before the election, said that increased borrowings by the Queensland government would be \$4 billion. After the election we learned that figure was going to be \$28 billion. He did not have the courage or integrity to be up-front with Queenslanders before the election took place. After increasing the deficit to \$28 billion, this week he comes in here and wants us to pat him on the back because it is now going to be \$2 billion less. Thank you so much, Mr Treasurer, for your outstanding financial management in bringing that \$28 billion down to \$26 billion!

This budget is a sham. It is all about trickery and hiding the facts from the Queensland public. There can be no greater example of that than in the housing portfolio. When we left government in 2015, the waiting list for social housing had been brought down to 17,000 households. As at September last year—so this figure is now nearly nine months old—that figure had blown out to 26,000 households. The very disturbing thing which the opposition leader spoke about is that, out of that 26,000, around 16,500 people are in very high need. An even more disturbing figure is that 16,000 is an increase of 82 per cent in the 18 months leading up to September last year. I can only imagine what that figure is now nine months later. We have some questions on notice to find out what that figure is.

Do not be surprised, Mr Deputy Speaker, if the Labor Party decide to no longer publish the housing waiting list. That is what they have done with every other key performance indicator that embarrasses them: they do not report them anymore. They are already trying to hide it. They do not call it a waiting list anymore. They call it the 'registry of need' because they do not want Queenslanders to know how inefficient they have been in ensuring our most vulnerable people receive housing. Social property housing numbers have increased over the last five years by 0.6 per cent. If they kept up with population growth there would be another 6,000 extra social housing properties. These things do not happen over a short period of time, although they have accelerated in the last six years. This is because we have had a Labor government for 27 of the last 30 years. These things build, these inefficiencies build and these waiting lists build because of that. This has occurred through a total lack of planning.

We need innovative thinking to solve the housing crisis we have at the moment. It was so ironic yesterday when the member for Logan asked a question of the housing minister about social housing. If the Logan renewable initiative had been implemented, right now we would see new homes, additional homes, refurbished homes and better wraparound services. When the minister came into government in 2015 and saw the Logan renewal initiative, she agreed with it. She thought it was a great idea. It was not until Minister de Brenni took over the portfolio that they scrapped it and tore up contracts that took two years to bring about.

What we need is innovative thinking, and that is what the Logan initiative was. That was about being serious about partnerships with the community housing sector and not-for-profit development companies. But no, that is too innovative. That goes against their philosophy. It meant they may have lost the union memberships of the 42 people who worked at the Woodridge Housing Service Centre. That is the type of thing that dictates this government's decisions. That was a disgraceful decision. Why would you do business in this state when, after two years negotiating with a government and coming up with one of the biggest contracts ever entered into, they just tore it up.

Then they come here with a cruel hoax talking about a \$2.9 billion investment in social housing. That is incorrect; it is not. A billion dollars of that is the Queensland Housing Investment Fund, which as we know has been conjured out of the re-evaluation of the titles office. There are no figures in the budget papers with regard to the revenue that is being forecast in relation to this. This is a cruel hoax. What we need at the moment are better partnerships with the community housing sector to unleash them. There are billions of dollars available at the moment—and I mean billions of dollars—through the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation which every other state in Australia is accessing. Queensland is missing out because our community housing providers have not been able to grow and leverage access to this money. The people from NHFIC are dying to give money to Queensland, billions of dollars, so we can build the community and affordable housing that is so desperately needed.

One of my other shadow portfolios is sport. I would have thought that with an Olympic decision imminent—and it is looking pretty good for us—the government would make a serious investment in sporting infrastructure, particularly for our junior sporting clubs who are preparing our future athletes for the Olympic Games. The minister may be able to correct me, but I think I can see \$26 million, and it is a bit vague as to what that may be for. It would seem that the infrastructure grants sporting clubs have been used to receiving over a whole long period of time from both sides of government has shrunk. There appears to be shrinkage involved with that funding.

I cannot understand that decision because I know that in my electorate, for example: the Albany Creek Excelsior Football Club wants a couple of hundred grand to upgrade some of their clubhouse facilities; the Mitchelton Football Club needs around \$400,000 for dressing rooms for their female players; the Everton Wolves AFL club wants some ground alterations; the Wantima Golf Club wants to improve irrigation; the Everton Park Bowls Club wants money to put shade over their artificial turf green; and the Pine Hills Football Club wants money to enhance their lighting. These things are important to increase participation in sport for our junior sportspeople. What are we getting? We seem to be getting nothing, and that is a real concern. It shows a lack of confidence with regard to preparing ourselves for the Olympics and hopefully a successful Olympic bid.

I have already touched on a couple of things in my electorate with regards to sporting clubs, but the No. 1 thing in my electorate that has not been addressed is the direct upgrade of the intersection of South Pine Road and Stafford Road. There is an interesting history here, and I will give credit to my predecessor and now senator, Murray Watt, who actually got the plans together for the intersection upgrade that was required, but they have now been sitting there for the last six or seven years not funded. In the 2017 election campaign, I made a commitment to build stage 1 of the upgrade, which is the Everton Park Link Road, and miraculously three hours later the Main Roads minister made the same announcement. It was a miracle that he made that announcement, but I am happy he did that because that meant the community was going to get that no matter what. That has just opened and we are hoping it will provide some improvement, but it will not bring the improvement to the level that will only come if we have—

**Ms Boyd:** It is stage 1.

**Mr MANDER:**—the direct major upgrade of the intersection, which is stage 2, and I take that interjection. We need \$122 million to bring about that. There is nothing at all about that in the forward figures, so there is nothing over the next four years and we will still have this congestion outside my office. The only good thing about it is that it gives people a chance to look at my big billboard a bit longer, which is at that intersection. It is a pretty good billboard and it is a very good picture. It is a little bit dated. My hair was a bit darker. I hope the government does not bring truth in advertising laws in, but at the moment we are going to keep that.

We need this intersection upgrade. It is the biggest issue in my electorate. We have all of this traffic coming south on Old Northern Road from the northern suburbs in the Moreton Bay region and they have no other alternative. They can go out to Gympie Road or the Bruce Highway but that just makes that congestion even worse. Instead, they come right down the middle of my electorate and we need to do something about it. We need to spend that money. It is going to be money well spent because it will help people get home safer and quicker. It will also enable businesses to get around quicker to do their work. Everybody knows to avoid that intersection and that should not be the case.

I also want to mention a couple of community groups in my electorate. For the life of me, I just do not understand why this group called The Nest, which is a centre for women, do not get funding through the neighbourhood centre network. They do not fit the box, and because they do not fit the box they do not get funding. This is an unbelievable group of women who through creativity have intergenerational learning. They have survived over the last five or six years. When we were in government, I was able to provide some funding for the rent of the house they are now in. Any money at all that could go to The Nest would be greatly appreciated.

I also want to mention ORCA. They are a training group to prepare people with disability for employment. I know they have places at Mansfield and Albany Creek. We made a promise had we got into government of a couple of hundred grand, and that would go a long way to help people with disability get work.

In summary, the budget is disappointing. It is trickery. It is all about smoke and mirrors. It is all about reannouncing, repackaging and reneging on promises and commitments. The people of Queensland and the people of Everton deserve far better.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member for Everton, I wish to assure you that life can be full and meaningful with grey hair as well.