




Speech By
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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Taxation

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.47 pm): I have been striving to find the right word to describe the land tax/renters tax fiasco from the Treasurer over the last couple of weeks, and I have settled on 'debacle'. It was a debacle of a performance from the Treasurer over the last couple of months when it comes to the renters tax. From the moment this tax was proposed in the MYFER in December last year, we called it out as a renters tax. It would drive out investment and drive up rents. In estimates earlier this year it became abundantly obvious that there had been very little work on this. In fact, no work had been done on this particular renters tax. Nobody had any idea how much it would raise, how it would be collected and how many people would be impacted.

It has been over the last six to eight weeks that we have seen the Treasurer's true failings and his inability to listen as expert after expert has lined up to talk about the renters tax, the implications that it would have on investment and what it would mean for renters right throughout Queensland. We heard from economists, and I heard those opposite talk a little bit about Quiggin today. I will see your Quiggin and raise you a Gottliebsen and an Oliver. Gottliebsen, who is one of the most pre-eminent economists in the country, said that there could not be a worse thing to be doing to the national economy right now than introducing this tax. Shane Oliver from AMP Capital said that it was basic economics that investors would pass this on to renters, thereby driving up rents. And it was not just economists; it was academics.

A University of New South Wales economics professor talked about double taxation, and then we had law firms lining up. Would members believe that perhaps the most donation-friendly law firm in the country, Holding Redlich, which has donated plenty to the Labor Party over the years, came out and said that the Treasurer's tediously repeated talking points about loopholes were wrong—wrong?

Holding Redlich said that the land tax exemptions that were in Queensland law have been there since the 1910s. The loophole that the Treasurer was talking about has been destroyed by his own law firm. Then K&L Gates said that it was going to be difficult because of the lack of harmonisation throughout the country. Next up we had tax professionals from the Institute of Public Accountants in Australia who said it was alarming. The Queensland Institute of Public Accountants said it would be very difficult to manage for the Queensland Revenue Office and it would cause all kinds of problems. The property industry, the REIQ, called it illogical. The Property Council said it was ill thought through. The UDIA said it would deter investors and drive up rents. The Property Investors Council of Australia said it was ludicrous and it was the primary reason why people would be fleeing the investment market in Queensland. Dexu, a property investment trust, said it was a wonderful way to reallocate capital from Queensland to the southern states.

Mr Nicholls: What did John Quiggin say?

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. Surprise, surprise, he backed the government's position. That leads me to ask: why does this really matter? Firstly, in the middle of Queensland's worst housing crisis we had a Treasurer who was not listening to any experts,

not the advice from tax professionals or economists, let alone real estate agents who were talking about 11 properties being pulled from the market or builders who had seen a range of building contracts pulled from the market.

Mr Nicholls: What about his backbench?

Mr JANETZKI: I am coming to that. The Treasurer proved that he could not be trusted. He breaks promises. There are outright mistruths that have been spoken. Finally, as we saw noise from the backbench, in the middle of the worst housing crisis the Premier had to step in and act because the Treasurer had not listened. He had not consulted. He cannot be trusted. Now we know the Premier and the Treasurer are at war with each other. It is a dysfunctional and divided government. The Deputy Premier sits there smirking while this government falls apart.