



Speech By
Tim Mander


MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 9 November 2022

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3)

BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (7.03 pm): The most entertaining thing about the member for Bundaberg is that he actually thinks he is good. The guy has been here for five minutes, he will be here for another five minutes after this and we will never see him again. This will be his four years of fame when he was the member for Bundaberg for one election period.

Mr Saunders: At least he can count.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Maryborough, you need to be in your chair if you want to make any comments.

Mr MANDER: Good pick-up, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am actually not sure what he is referring to. I think he might be mixing me up with Bill Harrigan. I am not sure, but I suspect that is the case.

I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) and the betting tax bill. As the shadow racing minister, I want to focus on the extra betting tax. There are a couple of issues I want to focus on and one of them is broken promises. This is a government that has said time after time after time that it will not increase taxes, yet it has done it at least four times this term and I think in previous terms the count got up to about a dozen.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr MANDER: Member for Scenic Rim, I know you say that it is 10 but I think it was about 12 times that they promised they would not increase taxes and they actually did that and this is one of those examples.

One of the issues with this particular broken promise is not so much where the money is going to go to because this side of the House is a great supporter of racing, particularly country racing. Many of our members represent country areas and appreciate how important it is for our rural areas, not just the racing event itself but the contribution it makes to the social fabric of our rural communities. We know how important that is. One of the issues which seems to be a consistent theme with this Treasurer is the lack of consultation. What he continues to do, in an arrogant fashion, is introduce taxes without speaking to the people it impacts the most, and this is a classic example of it.

Mrs Gerber: Sneaky.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Currumbindi. We could describe it as being sneaky.

Mrs Gerber: Currumbin. Wrong coast.

Mr MANDER: They both start with C-u-r-r.

Government members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I want to remind those opposite that I do have feelings and I can get impacted by interjections so I may not be able to sleep tonight!

I go back to the substance of the debate. Time after time there has been no consultation with these taxation increases. I know this has been raised many times in the debate but I need to raise it again: the consultation that took place before the introduction of this increased betting tax bill happened with one party and one party only, and that was with an actor who was representing Tabcorp. I want to put on the record that any comments I make that criticise the government about this—and I said this during estimates as well—have got nothing to do with Tabcorp. If I were Tabcorp I would engage an actor. That is a smart business decision because they know the influence that an actor had on this government. It is a smart business decision and it is probably a smart investment. This actor had at least 43 engagements with the government about this particular tax, whereas those who were impacted by it, represented by Responsible Wagering, had absolutely zero interaction. That is a big issue with regards to how you go about responsible government and true consultation, but that did not happen and this is a regular habit of this Treasurer.

We just heard today about the doctors who wanted to have a meeting with the Treasurer about this payroll tax debacle. They have now gone back four or five years to charge doctors, in some cases in the millions of dollars, which is going to have an impact on patients if they carry through, not their threat, but the impact of this which may mean removing bulk-billing, which is a serious issue for those people struggling to pay medical costs. We know when it came to the mining tax there was zero consultation with those who were going to be impacted by it. These are serious issues.

The other issue about this betting tax is that they keep painting these international betting firms as demons. These are international firms that employ Queenslanders. One of those betting firms employs 550 Queenslanders, but apparently they are evil because they are international. How many international firms do we have operating in this state that employ locals? They should not be demonised; they should be encouraged.

Mrs McMahon: Tax dodgers.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from a member of the government calling them tax dodgers. They did not dodge any tax whatsoever because there was never a tax on them. These are the people who employ Queenslanders. That is typical of this government, which is targeting those firms that employ Queenslanders.

Mrs Gerber: Remember at first they did not want to tax?

Mr MANDER: Member for Currumbin, I take that interjection. Those issues about the betting tax are important, but they are a sideshow compared to the incompetence of this Treasurer.

Mr Krause: \$2.3 billion.

Mr MANDER: \$2.3 billion overspent. That is not a teeny little mistake; that is a whopping blunder. That you could get it so wrong! That you would overspend by \$2.3 billion! I thought it was incredibly interesting today when the Premier answered a question about the new doctors payroll tax. What authority did she refer to? She did not refer to the Treasurer. Her authority was some officer from the state revenue department. Why is that? That is because the Premier has zero confidence in this Treasurer. We saw it with the land tax backflip. We saw the Treasurer humiliated. That was proven again today when he did not even mention in his speech the amendments that he circulated afterwards that, yes, they were finally going to get rid of this land tax extension. I do not know about you, members, but I do not trust this Treasurer.

Mrs Gerber: No—‘for now’.

Mr MANDER: Exactly. The member for Currumbin is making excellent interjections tonight and I will take that one also. That is exactly right. The very relevant words are ‘for now’. You cannot trust this government when it comes to taxing Queenslanders because when they spend all the money they already have, whose money do they come after? They come after taxpayers’ money—our money. They will continue to waste it and spill it down the drain because they cannot responsibly manage finances.

(Time expired)