



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2022

**MOTION**

**Palaszczyk Labor Government, Cost of Living**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.51 pm): I rise to support the shadow Treasurer's motion. This is a government that is out of touch with the average Queenslander. When it comes to the cost of living, the Premier, the Treasurer and the whole cabinet have no idea what challenges everyday Queenslanders face. They claim to represent the working class in this state, but they are on a different planet when it comes to understanding the pressures that the average Queenslander has to face.

Let me give an example of this detachment and disconnect. For the last eight years the member for Inala has been the Premier. For the previous three years she was the opposition leader. For the three years prior to that she was a minister of the Bligh government. For the last 16 years, the Premier has enjoyed the privilege of a taxpayer funded car and a taxpayer funded driver. Never in that 16 years has she had to worry about filling up a tank with petrol. She has never had to worry about paying for tyres, registration or car servicing. While every other Queenslander travels past a service station and looks at the petrol price to see if they can save \$4, \$5 or \$6, this Premier has not had to worry about that expense for 16 years. The Treasurer and Minister Hinchliffe have had the same privilege for a similar period of time—except for a short holiday.

For the past seven or eight years, most ministers have enjoyed salaries of over \$350,000. The longer you live a life of privilege and the longer you have this sense of entitlement, the more you become detached from the reality of living on an average wage and coping with cost-of-living rises. While everyday Queenslanders worry about finding money to pay for groceries, sporting club fees for their kids and school excursions, the big decisions these ministers have to make is what brand of taxpayer funded electric car they will have. They are so out of touch.

If we want to understand the issues causing cost-of-living pressures in this state, we need to look no further than at the housing situation that we have. How can the Premier and her ministers have any idea what it means to scrape to pay the rent? In fact, the Premier and most of her ministers definitely do not pay rent. They collect rent. After taking a quick look at the Register of Members' Interests, you would have to say that the Premier and Deputy Premier are property moguls. There is no doubt about it.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Kawana. They claim to represent the working class. The Premier, the Treasurer and the minister are so far away from understanding the pressures of the working class—as far away as the Treasurer was from the firefighters who found the Binna Burra bell!

Tomorrow will mark six weeks since the Housing Summit was held. What single thing has this government done in those six weeks to ease the pressure on people who are looking for houses? Whether they are trying to buy a house, pay their rent or find a social housing property—there has not

been a sense of urgency. Their grand announcement was granny flats. Since they made that announcement, thousands of people have come off the social housing waiting list and flocked into the vacant granny flats across this state! It is an insult to the intelligence of Queenslanders and an insult to those vulnerable Queenslanders who are sleeping in cars, in tents or on the couches of their relatives. This is a government that is out of touch and arrogant and has no understanding of the cost of living.

*(Time expired)*