




Speech By  
**Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 March 2023

**MOTION: GABBA REDEVELOPMENT**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to support the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's motion. What those on the other side do not understand is that we appreciate that the Gabba needs to be redeveloped. Of course it needs to be redeveloped, but who in their right mind would think it is going to cost \$2.7 billion? Who in their right mind would believe the incredible claims that the Deputy Premier makes that over a two-year period from when it was first announced the costs have increased by 170 per cent? That is as credible as the Deputy Premier's Lady Cilento poll. That is as credible as the transport minister saying that he is good at keeping government records. That is as credible as the Treasurer saying after the bushfires that he found the Binna Burra bell.

The best way to look at the absurd blowout in cost is to compare projects that have happened around this country on other stadiums that have been built over the last two years. Let's have a look at some of those stadiums. The Bankwest stadium at Parramatta, a beautiful stadium which seats 30,000—not quite the same as we will have at the Gabba—it cost \$360 million—oh, million dollars—\$360 million—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock! I think we all know where we are going here. You made an error in billions and millions—

**Mr MANDER:** Which I quickly corrected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will go back to you, member for Everton.

**Mr MANDER:** The second stadium I want to look at is the Allianz Stadium which is the old SFS, the old Sydney Football Stadium. I refereed many games there. It has a capacity of 42,500. It cost \$828 million. Optus Stadium in Perth has a capacity of 65,000. It is one of the great stadiums in this country. What did it cost? It cost \$820 million. Let's go to the Gabba. The cost has blown out from \$1 billion two years ago to now be \$2.7 billion. It will have a capacity of 50,000, which is 8,000 more than we currently have, and it is going to cost us \$2.7 billion; that is \$52,000 per seat, which is more than double that of every other stadium than I just mentioned. This shows the disgraceful waste of money that this government is spending when it comes to building stadiums. They are not capable of building things on time and on budget.

In addition to that, as some of our speakers have already mentioned, the secrecy around the details of this cost are beyond belief. When the government is going to spend \$2.7 billion of taxpayers' money, Queenslanders deserve to know the details. Of course, when the Premier is asked any time for details about anything—not just this issue, but about anything—her media advisers have given her some down-pat answers that she must deliver which is to divert attention and ensure she does not give details in her answers at the time, not that I think she would know what the details are anyhow. What are they? On this particular project, a couple of months ago she said, 'We will release the details in a

few weeks.' That has not happened. If that does not work, she will say, 'You have to ask the minister' who is relevant to that particular question. If that does not work, it is, 'I am going to get back to you shortly.' If that does not work, it is, 'I have to go to National Cabinet.' If none of those work, if she has no other option it is, 'Oops, I have to go to lunch.' These are all the answers given and the contempt with which the Premier and her ministers treat the people of Queensland.

The transport minister and the member for Macalister come in here and treat Queenslanders like fools in saying that the \$1.7 billion blowout is because we need to have disability access better than we have at the moment at the Gabba, and nor do we have female facilities. What the heck are those female facilities going to look like? Are we going to have silk toilet paper? Are we going to have gold-trimmed taps? It is absolutely ridiculous to come in here and treat us with contempt. We all know the Gabba needs to be redeveloped, but that cost is absurd. Without giving any detail and without any business case, they are treating the Queensland public with total contempt.