




Speech By
Tim Mander

MEMBER FOR EVERTON

Record of Proceedings, 11 May 2023

MOTION

Far North Queensland, Service Delivery

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion. This week, those who have attended the parliamentary sittings have seen something extremely rare—more rare than a Labor Party funded promise becoming a reality, more rare than a juvenile car thief being brought to justice, more rare than the Minister for Transport rejecting an instruction from his union masters and more rare than the Treasurer walking past a mirror and not looking at his reflection. The rare thing that the people of Cairns who have come to the convention centre have seen is their members of parliament—those members of parliament who come here and roar like a lion but who are as meek as mice when they are in Brisbane.

I can use no greater example of this than the member for Barron River. The member for Barron River has been here this week strutting around parliament, very proud of himself. I think I would be right in saying that the number of speeches the member has given this week exceeds the number of speeches he has given in the eight years he has been a member of parliament. There is no doubt about that at all. He is full of bravado. I swear I saw a couple of people in the gallery saying, 'Who's this bloke?' It was the first time they had seen him.

Much has been said about the future of the member for Cairns. It does not matter what he says: the rumours are overwhelming. Already there has been discussion about his trip to Hong Kong. I know why he is going to Hong Kong. It is because they have the best tailors in the world and they are going to make the most beautiful robes—

Mr ACTING SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member, I can see that you are enjoying the performance for the people in the gallery, but it does make it difficult for Hansard to hear your contribution. I ask you to direct your comments towards the microphone and through the chair.

Mr MANDER: As already has been mentioned, it is well known that the member for Cook deserted her electorate when she left Mareeba to base her electorate office not in her electorate. I do not know of any other example of that in the Queensland parliament.

This week these Far North Queensland members have trumpeted what they have done for Far North Queensland—particularly for First Nations people, with their Path to Treaty legislation. As the Far North Queensland members slap themselves on the back and sip champagne at the cocktail parties celebrating what champions they are for the oppressed, what is the reality? You see the reality when you walk to the convention centre and you see the homeless people in the parks—over-represented by Indigenous people.

There are 6,000 people on the social housing waiting list in Cairns and across Far North Queensland. I can tell you now: there is an over-representation of Indigenous people on that list. That 6,000 people represents a 67 per cent increase in the last five years. Despite that 67 per cent increase,

the number of social houses has increased by 1.4 per cent. That is a disgrace. You do not hear the local members talking about that. In the past five years only 50 properties have been built in the Far North Queensland area, despite the fact that 2,374 people have been added to the list.

If you do not have a stable roof over your head, it is very difficult to live life. Is it any wonder we have an over-representation of Indigenous people in the juvenile justice system when they cannot get a house? Is it any wonder there is an over-representation of Indigenous people in the health system when they do not have a house? Is it any wonder there is over-representation of Indigenous people in terms of school truancy when they cannot get a house? Those opposite talk and make promises, but they do not deliver on the reality that our most vulnerable people, no matter what treaties are signed, are suffering and the local members are doing nothing about it.