



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 1 May 2024

**MOTION**

**Miles Labor Government, Travel Expenses**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (6.03 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Nanango. I ask the parliament to think back to less than two weeks ago. It was a beautiful, crisp Brisbane autumn morning. The Premier and the police minister arrived at Brisbane Airport. They got out of their cars and their attendants took their luggage as they made their own way onto the tarmac. The Premier looked at the Minister for Police, they nodded and he said, 'Shall we?' Out came the aviator sunglasses—use your imagination—and the Premier said, 'How good is this? How good is this? We have finally made it. We both have our own jets.' Then the Premier said, 'Do you know what I feel?' 'What do you feel?' 'I feel the need—the need for speed! Are you up for it, Minister?' He said, 'I'm up for it!'

The minister had a pang of conscience and he said, 'But Premier, shouldn't we travel on the same plane together?' The Premier said, 'Don't be ridiculous. I've earned this and I deserve it. Besides that, I can't fit any more people on the plane. I have a cameraman, a sound technician, an autocue operator, a security detail, a social media consultant, a policy adviser and a bloke who does my tie every day—not very well. He said to the minister, 'You take your own jet because you deserve it and we'll have a race.' 'Sounds great,' said Minister Ryan. 'Can I be Maverick?' Premier Miles said, 'No, no, no. I'm Maverick. You're Goose. Because I'm the boss you need to give me a 15-minute head start. I'm taking off and you have to try to catch me.' That is what happened over the next hour and a half or two hours—whatever it took to go to Townsville. He said, 'Whoever gets there first can buzz over the flight towers as many times as they want because we are on the highway to danger'—

**Mr O'Connor:** To the danger zone.

**Mr MANDER:**—'to the danger zone. We're on a highway to the danger zone.' I missed it. I joke about this incident but the joke is on Queensland taxpayers. At a time when in the Premier's own electorate, which has been mentioned already, there are tent cities in local parks, this Premier sees no problem in using not one jet—we have no issue with that—but two jets leaving from the same airport at the same time and arriving a few minutes apart. He sees nothing wrong with that waste of money.

It was interesting to have a look at the speaking list tonight, and I think I might have heard the member for Maroochydore talk about defending the indefensible. Can you imagine what was happening when they were trying to work out who was going to speak on their behalf tonight, who were going to be the sacrificial lambs? They looked through this and they obviously said, 'He ain't going to be here in six months. He's not going to be here in six months. She's not going to be here in six months. Let's give it to them. It won't matter.' There was a really big reserve list as well; they had Pumicestone, Nicklin, Mundingburra, Aspley, Pine Rivers and Redcliffe. They were on the reserve list to speak on a topic that is indefensible.

There are issues that come up from time to time that we call 'barbecue stoppers', and this was one of them. Everywhere we went people were having little jibes: 'Did you catch a chopper here?' 'Where's your jet?' 'How did you get here?' I have not heard so many jibes since the Wellcamp debacle and, after that, the Gabba debacle. They are the types of things that make Queenslanders angry and those opposite have treated people with contempt. They have tried to defend the indefensible.

Returning to the member for Nanango's motion, if there is nothing to hide and if they are proud of their record with regards to using taxpayers' money wisely, why do they not come out and tell us how much it cost? Queensland taxpayers deserve to know.

*(Time expired)*