



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR EVERTON

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; STATE FINANCIAL
INSTRUCTIONS AND METWAY MERGER AMENDMENT BILL**

Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (2.11 pm): I rise to give my speech in response to the budget. Yesterday's speech by the Treasurer was—there is only one word for it—disturbing.

Ms Boyd: It wasn't yesterday.

Mr MANDER: I take the only sensible interjection the member for Pine Rivers has ever made. Yes, it was two days ago. It is a budget that treats the people of Queensland with absolute contempt. In his third-last sentence the Treasurer said—

Queenslanders will be asked to make a choice about their future, not to express an opinion about the past.

Is it any wonder the Treasurer made that statement? With this government's record, the last thing it would want to do is talk about the past. In answer to a question yesterday the Minister for Education said—

... past behaviour is always the best predictor of future behaviour.

Not a truer word could be spoken when we look at the record of the past 10 years of this government and it expecting Queenslanders to give it another four years. There is no greater example of that than in the housing space. This government will do and say absolutely anything to get re-elected.

Mr Lister: Except build a house.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection. Let us look at some examples of service delivery that are in the past that the government does not want anybody to remember. There are currently 43,000 Queenslanders on the social housing waiting list, and that figure increases year on year. On Labor's watch, building approvals are 25 per cent below the 10-year average and new housing lot approvals have fallen by around 30 per cent. We wonder why we have a supply problem! Queensland's rental increases are the worst in the nation. According to the ABS, Brisbane's annual increase in rental prices is 8.4 per cent while the national average is 7.3 per cent. The budget papers reveal that the average wait time for the most vulnerable Queenslanders to access social housing has exploded to nearly two years, effectively double the government's own target and the worst on record. Despite the housing crisis gripping this state, 15 per cent of Queensland's social housing stock remains underoccupied as families sleep rough in cars, in tents and on the streets.

Let us look at the broken promises. Originally, it was promised that the Housing Investment Fund would be able to supply up to 3,600 new social housing dwellings across Queensland by 2025—next year. The budget has revealed that there are not even 300 homes under construction through the Housing Investment Fund. Three years on, not one additional home has been built. The government's target lies in tatters. Labor's other failures—the litany of failures that we repeat many times—include

the failed Griffith University emergency accommodation project; the Help to Home program, which promised a thousand homes and has delivered only 64; and overseeing the community housing sector going backwards—the only state that has gone backwards—between 2015 and 2022.

Let us look at some of the initiatives in the budget. Under Homes for Queenslanders, funding for housing and homelessness services falls off a cliff, shrinking more than 80 per cent by 2027-28. This means that vital services will be wound back severely under Labor's plan. In terms of Homes for Queenslanders capital funding, Labor needs to start building new homes now. The vast majority—67.7 per cent—of the spend for the state's social housing build is lumped in the 2027-28 financial year. The government simply does not understand the urgency of the crisis at hand.

The Treasurer was half right in his encouragement to look ahead and not look behind, but we need to look behind to know the Labor Party's record and to remind Queenslanders of that. We do need to look ahead. There was no greater example of visionary planning than the opposition leader's budget reply speech today, particularly his emphasis on housing. It was so good that those in the government had to claim that his ideas were theirs. With some of these initiatives, I want to know on which page they appear in the government's little homes booklet—what page number?

Where is the establishment of a cabinet housing ministerial taskforce—a group of powerful ministers such as the Treasurer, the planning minister, the housing minister and the local government minister—to ensure we cut through the red tape, get action and start building houses? At what page number in the government's housing document is there an investment of \$2 billion over four years in infrastructure to unlock new lots in partnership with local councils? This is a good one: where in its policy document is the partnership with local churches and not-for-profits that approached the government time and time again saying, 'We have land'? The government has ignored them, right from the Housing Summit. The Catholic Church offered 90 sites. It has heard zip, zero, nothing. The faith organisations got together with Q Shelter and the Property Council and said, 'We have the land; we just need help to unlock it. All we need are some planning law changes and we can have 2,000 over the next five years and 10,000 into the future.' This minister refuses to deal with them. It can only be on philosophical grounds. The land of faith organisations is not good enough for Queenslanders! It is sitting in front of the government and it has not taken advantage of it. We will. What page number is that?

Let us also look at the Productivity Commission. We will reactivate the Productivity Commission to make sure we do a proper review of the building industry. What is the No. 1 thing we want? We want increased productivity. We do not want less than three days a week being the accepted standard of productivity in this state where projects go on and on and on, delay after delay, costing millions and millions of dollars and obviously delaying people getting into houses.

Where in their policy document—what page number—does it talk about abolishing a state tax? Under our housing policy, Queenslanders, particularly younger Queenslanders, who want to get into a home, who want to construct a new home, as encouragement to increase supply, will not pay one brass razoo when it comes to stamp duty. That is one of the most exciting housing policies that has been announced by any government in decades. Of course the thresholds have been raised with regard to existing properties as well.

What about the minister yesterday going on about a shared equity scheme: 'The LNP never support a shared equity scheme.' We support a Queensland shared equity scheme like every other state has! It is no use coming in here and bragging about the Commonwealth scheme. We have a state scheme that is run by Queenslanders for Queenslanders. That is exactly what we will do and we will do it proudly. We will do whatever it takes to get people into home ownership to make sure that we are not at the bottom of the pile—which we are at the moment when it comes to home ownership—but in 10 years time we are at the top of the pile. What a great initiative.

Another great little niche policy with regard to first home buyers and the little incentive that they get—\$15,000 or \$30,000, whatever it may be at the time—is that there have been restrictions on them being able to rent a room out. We are in a housing crisis.

Mr Stevens: Perfect for young people.

Mr MANDER: It would be perfect for young people. That was a great interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. It would be a bit of an earner on the side, if you like, and at the same time put somebody in a room—put somebody who is currently couch surfing into a room. Again, what page number was that policy on? I am not sure because it does not exist.

We will also ensure every dollar of the Housing Investment Fund is used on new housing. After it was already known that not only do we support the 20 per cent uplift in homelessness services funding, which this government only committed to 30 June 2025 so there is no certainty for the future, but also we have committed to extending that funding for another three years and, surprise, surprise,

they have come out today—it was not in the budget—and said that they are going to do the same thing. Isn't it funny how things change overnight? Isn't it funny how things change when they know that there are better policy positions put before them?

The Leader of the Opposition's speech was one of the best budget reply speeches ever given in this House. It is just a little of what is to come. We are going to take great pride in announcing comprehensive policies with regard to youth crime, with regard to health, with regard to cost of living. These policies, as I said the other day, will blow them out of the water because they will not do what we will do. This was a visionary budget reply speech that talks about where we want to go in the future.

It would be remiss of me not to talk about the things that I have not received in Everton once again. I could just get out last year's speech on the budget and the year before that and the year before that and the year before that. When are we going to have an upgrade of the intersection at South Pine Road and Stafford Road? When is that going to happen? Senator Murray Watt was the man who put the plans together 11 years ago. I will give them credit for that, but it has been 11 years and not one thing has been done with regard to the upgrade of that intersection.

When are we going to have Old Northern Road repaved? It is one of the major arterial roads because there is no other way to get into the city other than that road and Gympie Road. When is that road going to be repaved? When are we going to see some of our community organisations like The Nest receive funding from this government? They talk about neighbourhood centres and that they do a great job but, unless you fit in the box of a neighbourhood centre or another community organisation that does unbelievable work, this mob will not fund them or give them any assistance. This particular group has hundreds of volunteers.

When are some of my sporting clubs going to get the upgrades that they deserve? What about the Mitchelton Football Club that was flooded? When are we going to get a clubhouse there?

Mr Stevens: I think you played for them, didn't you?

Mr MANDER: No. I never played for Mitchie. I played for Budapest Grovely, believe it not—now Westside. Then I saw the light and went over to Rugby League.

There is so much that my electorate deserves and that this government has refused to acknowledge, whether it is roads or whether it is my community groups that are desperately looking for funding to expand sporting fields and the like because we want more kids playing sports. Those things have been neglected in my electorate. I will keep banging on about those things until we get them. I look forward to being in a position in the future, if we are fortunate enough to be in government, to have more influence in delivering those items.