



Speech By
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MEMBER FOR COOPER

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ADJOURNMENT

Land Tax


 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (9.12 pm): Henry David Thoreau famously said, 'That government is best which governs least,' but at the time that quote was given in 1849, Henry Thoreau had not met the Crisafulli government, and I wonder whether that quote would have been created if he had because the Crisafulli government, after successfully running the best small-target campaign during the 2024 election, is now running a small-target government. But I reckon that the cracks are starting to show. Word on the street is that this government is far too focused on the Labor Party and has not yet assumed the responsibility of governing for Queensland which is what we all hope for and expect, and it is, quite frankly, what ministers are paid for.

Exhibit K: just last month, many of my constituents received their annual land tax assessments and, for some, it was the first time they had been hit with a land tax bill; for others, the bill had increased significantly, well beyond what they had been reasonably expecting. The feedback has been loud and clear: we need a little bit of cost-of-living support during a challenging economic time.

That is why I wrote to the Treasurer, asking for a review of the land tax arrangements. Based on community concerns about the impact of the latest land tax assessment, I thought it was a reasonable request to make of the Treasurer. What I received in response was honestly concerning. Instead of addressing the specifics of the land tax framework or offering a commitment to review the thresholds, the Treasurer launched into a political tirade about mum-and-dad investors being mistreated for 10 years. He blamed the previous government, red tape and just about everyone else for Queensland's current housing pressures without explaining how any of that relates to the current land tax settings.

Mrs Gerber interjected.

Ms BUSH: I accept that I am being yelled at. I know this is difficult for those opposite to hear. Strangely, the Treasurer sent this political tirade to my constituent who just wanted a response to his question. He wrote to me and said, 'Does the Treasurer understand anything about property?' Maybe the Treasurer has never had to pay land tax and has resolved to attack others to hide that fact. I say with respect to the Treasurer that if he does not understand how the land tax system works then that is a problem. Instead of playing the blame game—pointing the finger at local councils, valuers or anyone else but his own portfolio—he should be reviewing the system.

Let's be clear: this is not necessarily about abolishing land tax. It is about fairness and ensuring the tax burden is proportionate and predictable and that it does not punish people simply for owning the same property that they have had for years. I call on the Treasurer to stop the spin, stop shifting responsibility and commit to a review of Queensland's land tax framework because Queenslanders deserve a system that is transparent, sensible and fit for purpose.