




Speech By  
**Hon. Tim Mander**

**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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Record of Proceedings, 19 February 2025

**REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Sport and Racing and Minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games) (4.29 pm): I am pleased to rise in the House to speak about the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. It amazed me today when I heard those opposite ask what cost-of-living relief the government has provided. Here we are debating this bill just over 100 days after coming into government. We are keeping the promises that we made and that we know will give cost-of-living relief.

It is funny how the opposition always tries to build a narrative around cuts. When it comes to taxes, we cut taxes. They add taxes. We cut taxes. In their 10 years in office I lost count—I do not know whether the Treasurer can help me—

**Mr Janetzki:** It's 18.

**Mr MANDER:** Is it 18; I was going to say 19. Eighteen times they either increased a tax or added a new tax. Is it any wonder that businesses and ordinary Queenslanders suffered under that regime? Unfortunately, today the Treasurer announced the bad news—the bad news he predicted—that now we have a credit rating outlook downgrade—

**Mr Stevens:** Costing Queenslanders more.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. He said it will cost Queenslanders more. That is exactly what will happen. That is what happens with credit downgrades. That is something that we have to try to avoid. I am glad it is this side of politics that is in government now. We regret that situation, but we will do everything possible to make sure that we can stop any downgrade from happening. It is going to be an uphill battle.

Let us get to the specifics of this bill. In my former role as the shadow minister for housing—my colleague the member for Bonney today described me as a visionary; I would not go that far—

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** If you insist. One of the things that we were continuing to talk about was the housing crisis we have. As a Queenslanders I am quite embarrassed to know that we have the lowest home ownership rate in the country. In the 1970s we had about a 70 per cent home ownership rate and that has now gone down to 63.5 per cent, which is the lowest in the country. We want to make sure that that dream of home ownership is still alive for all Queenslanders, particularly young Queenslanders, venturing into the housing market and trying to get a permanent place to live. One of the policies we said we would introduce was to give stamp duty relief to people building their first home.

**Mr Stevens:** Particularly for young people.

**Mr MANDER:** Thank you. They would not pay one single cent in stamp duty. That is a heck of a start. The modelling suggests that around 3,000 first home buyers per year will benefit from this. One of the practical ways to cut the cost of living is by providing this type of relief. Not only does it do that but also it motivates people to build. One of the problems we have with the housing crisis is that we simply do not have enough houses. We have to be able to increase supply. This will help that as well.

One of the things that I love about this policy—and it is something that does not cost anything—is allowing first home buyers who get the first home buyer concession—

**Mr Stevens:** To rent out a room.

**Mr MANDER:**—to rent out a room. Am I giving this speech or are you giving this speech, member for Mermaid Beach? I know you are giving me good prompts. I appreciate that. You are taking all my good lines.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** Do not be so nasty, Grace. You know I am very sensitive. Let me get back to the substance of this debate and talk about allowing people to rent out a room. That has a double benefit. It provides a room for someone to live in in this rental accommodation crisis. The second thing it does is that, when people go to the bank to get a loan for their first home and say, 'We are going to rent out a room to give us extra income,' it puts them in a better position to get the loan. It is very practical. It is low-hanging fruit. It does not cost the state any money.

**Mr McDonald:** It's good government.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. It is simply good government. I commend the Treasurer for that.

The other element of this bill which provides cost-of-living relief is getting rid of Labor's patient tax. They said it was a blow-up. They said it is not real. They said we are making it up. Any time we highlighted a problem—whether it was youth crime, housing or cost of living—the government of the day, the now opposition, would say, 'You are making it up. It is not real.' The AMA did not think we were making it up.

**Mr Stevens:** They said it was an amnesty.

**Mr MANDER:** That is right. The AMA have campaigned rigorously about this. We were on the right side throughout this argument. I heard that one of my medical clinics had a picture of me in the lobby encouraging patients to contact me as their local member to talk about the patient tax. I was a bit concerned because I was worried that they thought I was advocating for it. I got onto the AMA to say, 'You know that we are on your side? You know what is happening here?' They realised they had to communicate better with their medical practitioners because they were targeting the wrong people.

We had to target the then government and, in particular, the then treasurer, who will go down in history as the worst treasurer of Queensland. The tax that these medical clinics were going to have to pay was going to have to be passed on. It was going to lead to the total abolition of bulk-billing. The Treasurer mentioned an example in my electorate, GO2 Health, run by Rod Martin. It is just across the road from my office. It is a visionary project. They specialise in dealing with ex-service people. They have a whole range of allied health services plus direct medical services. He was saying to me, 'Tim, our business is going to grind to a halt if this tax'—there is no other word for it—'is introduced by the state Labor government.' Fortunately, we have come to their rescue. That will not be happening. Preventing any increase in the cost to go to the doctors ensures cost-of-living relief for people. I cannot remember the last time this House has cut taxes.

**Mr Stevens:** Last time we were in.

**Mr MANDER:** Yes, the last time we were in. Some people go back to the abolition of death duties under Sir Joh's government. He was renowned for that. Look what that did for the state. Everybody wanted to move to Queensland. That could possibly happen again. People living interstate could say, 'I want to build my first home in Queensland. I know that I can save 30 or 35 grand straight-up coming to Queensland and getting the stamp duty exemption.' They are the types of things that we need to help the housing crisis. They are the types of things that we need to stimulate construction and to make sure that we have supply. They are the types of things that we need to relieve cost-of-living pressures. I commend the Treasurer for this.

This is another example of following through on the promises that we made. We are doing what we said we would do, what we promised we would do. We are not doing what we said we were not going to do, despite all the scare campaigns. This is a government that keeps its promises. It has been steady and methodical.

**Mr McDonald:** Calm.

**Mr MANDER:** I like that. It is calm. We are a calm government. I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. This calmness will bring about unbelievable results for this state. I am confident that this government will go down as one of the great conservative governments of Queensland.