



Tim Mander MP

Deputy Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Treasurer

2 April 2020

Hon. Jackie Trad MP
Deputy Premier
Treasurer
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Via email: deputy.premier@ministerial.qld.gov.au

Dear Deputy Premier

I am writing to you on behalf of the overwhelming number of mum and dad investors, businesses and other property owners who are struggling to meet land tax payments during this unprecedented health and jobs crisis.

While I welcome the Queensland Government's announcement to implement the National Cabinet's decision for a moratorium on evictions, this measure should not be undertaken unilaterally without an accompanying support package for property owners.

Property owners want to do the right thing by tenants so that businesses can continue operating and residents aren't evicted, but to do that they urgently need assistance themselves. Land tax concessions will help property owners pass relief on to small business owners and residential tenants.

Without a relief package for owners, the financial security of thousands of Queenslanders who have worked hard to build a retirement nest egg is put at risk. State land tax is a significant cost for many property owners, particularly when they are exposed to a loss of cashflow from tenancy agreements.

In the last two budgets alone Queensland property owners have been slammed with six new or increased taxes including:

- Increase in the 'additional foreign acquirer duty' from 3% to 7%
- Increase in the land tax surcharge from 1.5% to 2% for 'absentee' landowners
- Extension of the land tax surcharge to include foreign companies and trusts
- Increase in the rate of land tax for holdings over \$10m from 1.75 to 2.0 cents (individuals) and 2.25 to 2.5 cents (companies)
- Further increase in the rate of land tax for holdings over \$10m, this time from 2.5 cents to 2.75 cents (companies)
- Increase in the rate of land tax for holdings over \$5m from 2.0 cents to 2.25 cents

Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia have already announced measures to reduce the immediate burden of land tax on households and businesses during this time of crisis. Queensland cannot afford to yet again be the last jurisdiction in Australia to provide this desperately needed relief.

Stimulus and support during this unprecedented time cannot be set and forget. The Federal Government have announced multiple packages to date along with several other state governments.

To protect Queensland jobs and businesses, more needs to be done.

To ensure relief can be delivered as soon as possible, I am available to meet at any time to develop in a bipartisan way a concession framework for immediate implementation.

If your office would like any additional information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Reith Parker, Policy Advisor, in my office on 3838 6704.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tim Mander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

TIM MANDER MP
Deputy Leader of the Opposition
Shadow Treasurer
Member for Everton