



Speech by
**Mr DENVER
BEANLAND**

MEMBER FOR INDOORROOPILLY

Hansard 20 October 1998

UNEMPLOYMENT

Mr BEANLAND (Indoorroopilly—LP) (12.28 p.m.) In the few minutes remaining, I rise to comment on the current unemployment situation in this State. It is rather ironic that after four months in which this Government has been in office, we face a situation where unemployment in Queensland has risen considerably to 9.2% for September. Of course, prior to the Government taking office, all we heard from the Labor Party was jobs, jobs, jobs. Each morning the Premier, then the Leader of the Opposition, told us that the first thing he would be thinking about each morning when he woke up was jobs, and the last thing he would be thinking about each night before he went to sleep was jobs. Of course, very little more has been heard about the situation since that date.

Instead of getting on with creating jobs in the State, we have seen a blow-out in the jobless figures. It is quite alarming when one considers that unemployment in Queensland has risen from 8.6% in August to 9.2% in September, which is 0.3% higher than the 8.9% figure recorded in 1996 when the former National/Liberal coalition Government came to office. That Government generated more jobs than anywhere else in Australia. In fact, 39.2% of new jobs generated in Australia were generated in Queensland. During the coalition's term of office between February 1996 and May 1998, some 94,000 jobs were created in Queensland. Nationally, some 239,600 jobs were created. During Labor's term of office from June 1998 to August 1998, the number of employed persons in Queensland actually decreased by some 1,800 people, while nationally the number increased by some 65,000.

The point is that this Government has turned its back on the jobless in this State. We have seen that already after its four short months in office. How soon it forgets its election commitments and undertakings to the people of this State. If the Premier had been serious about this matter, instead of being a media junkie, trying to get a headline at every turn and making statements in the media, he would have got on with the job of encouraging the private sector to create long-term jobs. The Government's Capital Works Program is \$25m less than that contained in the former coalition Government's May Budget Capital Works Program. From this Government we are seeing a lack of commitment to long-term job creation at a time when we should have such a commitment. The former National/Liberal coalition Government had that commitment. As the jobless figures blow out, we see that this Government lacks that commitment.
