




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Newman Government, Employment

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (3.05 pm): The labour force figures for August released today are yet another indictment on the Newman LNP government. In August Queensland experienced the largest fall in full-time jobs in the nation, with 11,100 full-time jobs lost, seasonally adjusted. Some growth in part-time employment has not been enough to offset this massive fall in full-time jobs. The overall fall in jobs of 5,100 was also the largest fall in jobs in the nation. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has increased from 5.9 per cent in July to six per cent in August. When the Newman government was elected it was just 5.5 per cent.

It is on full-time jobs that this Newman government is definitively a 'no-can-do' government. Since the LNP government was elected in March 2012 there has been a loss of 8,900 full-time jobs in Queensland. This is the largest fall in full-time jobs over this period anywhere in the nation. That is 8,900 fewer full-time jobs with more than 100,000 additional people living here. That record is nothing short of disgraceful.

Members of the Newman government who laugh this off do so at their own peril. While Queensland under this Premier has lost 8,900 full-time jobs and not created a single additional full-time job, the rest of Australia has created 42,700 additional full-time jobs despite the falls in Queensland. That increase in unemployment and fall in full-time jobs is particular to Queensland and has occurred since the election of the Newman government. The participation rate or percentage of people looking for work has also fallen by 1.2 per cent since the election. If the participation rate had not fallen, the unemployment rate would now be in excess of 7½ per cent. Queenslanders are fast growing tired of silly games being played by the point and blame Newman government—a government that is trying to fool Queenslanders into thinking they have grown the economy after slowing it, just as they continue their attempted deception on the unemployment rate.

The Treasurer has been crowing all week about a state final demand result of 2.5 per cent trend over the year to June. The Treasurer told the media that it 'goes to show that the Queensland economy is a stand-out economy' because of the Newman government. Over the year to the March quarter 2012, this was under a Labor government, state final demand was growing much faster at 8.5 per cent. Growth of 2.5 per cent over the year to June quarter is less than a third of the state final demand growth recorded under the last year of a Queensland Labor government, when the Treasurer was calling the economy a 'basket case'.

Treasury pointed out that the state final demand figures included a fall in dwelling investment of 7.2 per cent and weakening household spending reflecting 'weaker employment levels, modest wages growth and weakening consumer sentiment'. The saving grace was an increase in business investment over the year of seven per cent. However, this is attributed by Queensland Treasury to 'three major CSG to LNG projects'—projects which all commenced under the previous Labor government.

Never in my time in this parliament have I seen a Treasurer so disconnected from reality. We in the opposition are not talking Queensland down—the Queensland economy down. We are optimistic about the future but we will not talk balderdash and blind propaganda as the Treasurer and Premier do day in and day out.