



Speech By  
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**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Unemployment

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (6.30 pm): Today, the Australian Bureau of Statistics delivered the news that we did not want to hear but the news that this government's policies would always lead us to. Sadly, the official Australian Bureau of Statistics data for July showed seasonally adjusted unemployment in Queensland of 6.8 per cent, up from 6.3 per cent last month. The official numbers tell the real story and it is a very disturbing story.

In Queensland, unemployment is skyrocketing under the Newman government and it has no plans to arrest the climb. The 6.8 per cent recorded in July was the highest since June 2003. Not during the global financial crisis or in the aftermath of the devastating natural disasters did Queensland's unemployment rate reach those heights. On both a seasonally adjusted and trend basis, unemployment is higher than it has been for a decade.

This means that in July 12,600 jobs were lost. Of those job losses, 12,000 were full-time jobs. There are now 14,200 fewer full-time jobs than when the LNP was elected in March 2012. Despite the Treasurer's desperate attempts to spin the story for his own political benefit, the participation rate has also decreased to 66.2 per cent, which means more people are giving up looking for work. The unemployment rate was 5.5 per cent when the Newman government was elected. It promised to lower it to four per cent, yet in July it was 6.8 per cent.

You simply cannot expect households and businesses to spend and employers to employ if the state and federal governments continually spew forth their doom and gloom scenarios. You cannot attack confidence and then expect people to be optimistic about the future. You cannot cut nearly 20,000 government jobs, hammer businesses with record electricity prices, slash funding to community employers across the state and then expect jobs to be created.

Today we hear the Treasurer say, 'I have the answer to this jobs crisis: let me sell your assets and jobs will be created'. When Campbell Newman made his contract with Queenslanders and promised a four per cent unemployment rate, there was no mention of it being conditional on asset sales, not even in the fine print. The reality is that if you sell assets jobs will be lost from those businesses. If you sell assets the revenue will be lost from those businesses, which means jobs will have to be cut from other government areas. Even if you do invest some of those proceeds into new infrastructure, that is over a period of six years. Apparently, the Treasurer is promising 25,000 jobs over six years. Queensland lost 12,600 jobs in the last month alone. Not even this Treasurer could mouth those words with a straight face, pretending that was the answer to the unemployment crisis he and his boss have created.

With Tony Abbott and Campbell Newman in charge, Queenslanders do not have a federal or state government that is interested in creating jobs and protecting quality working conditions. Only Labor has put forward comprehensive jobs policies such as Jobs Queensland, Skilling Queenslanders for Work and our payroll tax rebate for employers of apprentices and trainees, just to name a few.

This week the LNP has been focussed on crime statistics, but has spent the past two years not focused on the unemployment figures. The Premier's four per cent jobs target is in tatters. The LNP is not missing it by a little bit; it is missing it by a country mile. Apparently, the four per cent stretch target is now reliant on privatisation. At the next election the choice will be clear: an LNP government that focuses on asset sales or a Labor government that focuses on jobs.