




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Jobs

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.05 pm): As I said to the people of Queensland during the election campaign and ever since, Labor is focused on jobs. We know that we inherited a tough task from those opposite. Unemployment now stands at 6.6 per cent, up from 5.5 per cent in March 2012, but we have a plan to address unemployment and create jobs. Already our signature Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is underway. \$240 million will be allocated over four years to help fund projects across the state that will hire youth workers, mature age workers and long-term unemployed workers.

We have also shown that we are determined to work with the private sector to unlock the capital they want to invest in Queensland. We have already provided approvals for major projects like the Pacific View Estate on the Gold Coast, Yeerongpilly Green in Brisbane and the Mount Emerald Wind Farm. We are also in the final stages of the Queens Wharf bidding process, and we have worked with proponents to find a solution for the disposal of capital dredge spoil at the Abbot Point coal terminal, which will help unlock the Galilee Basin.

I also had the pleasure last week of joining executives from Woolworths to help open the Everton Park home improvement centre. This is a \$50 million facility that created 1,000 construction jobs and is expected to create 600 ongoing retail jobs. As I said on the day, that facility will be not only a shopping hub for that local community but also a jobs generator for years to come. We were also able to discuss Woolworths' pledge to invest a further \$100 million on Queensland projects over the next 12 to 18 months. This investment alone will create an extra 2,000 jobs for Queenslanders.

Creating jobs is about having a positive, constructive relationship with the business community so private investment can flow. That is why I was pleased to see Queensland record a 10.7 per cent increase in the Westpac-Melbourne Institute's consumer sentiment index in May—the second highest of any Australian state and higher than the national average of 6.4 per cent. I have made a direct commitment to the business sector to work with them on this front, and I will continue to do that.