




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.36 am): It has been a busy year for my government. Upon taking office in February I promised Queensland we would be a government for all Queenslanders, and we are delivering on that promise. My government is committed to Queenslanders and supporting economic growth and especially creating jobs. We have seen a total of 43,800 jobs created since the election. We have seen a priority on job creation through specific measures such as reinstating the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program and also through the budget and its \$10.1 billion infrastructure spend, supporting 27,500 jobs throughout our state.

In recent weeks we have seen a series of major resource sector developments and projects announced for Queensland—projects and developments worth \$8 billion in expenditure and involving many thousands of jobs for our state. Our growth forecasts are on track. We are set to record nation-leading economic growth both this financial year and next.

We have restored our vital front-line services and returned fairness to the workplace. Our first budget included record spends on health and education, including 400 new nurses and 4,000 new graduate nursing placements, as well as 875 extra teachers.

Our much praised Advance Queensland initiative will see \$180 million invested over four years as part of our plan to diversify the economy and create the knowledge-based jobs of the future. We also established Jobs Queensland, an independent statutory authority providing strategic industry led advice on skills demand and long-term workforce development.

We are also delivering on our commitment to reduce the state's debt. Through our Debt Action Plan, general government debt will be \$7.5 billion less this financial year than was forecast by the previous government.

We have been proactive in securing investment and new endeavours for the state. The Northern Queensland Economic Summit, held between 4 and 6 November, attracted around 270 international and Australian delegates. The summit showcased the benefits of previous investments in northern Queensland and highlighted the prospective new investment opportunities in infrastructure, tourism, resources, agriculture, research and innovation. We intend to build on the summit and back-in investment opportunities that will grow the economy across Queensland.

Speaking of economic growth, my government released the draft Infrastructure Plan to manage future growth and deliver a long-term program of infrastructure projects and investments for Queensland. We will work cooperatively with the federal government to secure proper funding for key infrastructure projects. Canberra's commitment to Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 exemplifies the cooperative approach in considering vital infrastructure. There will be \$200 million for Building Our Regions program, with the first round of projects awarded later this month. I am very pleased to report

that with around 850 days until the opening of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games progress preparations are on time and, most importantly, Minister, within budget. The Commonwealth Games and associated projects will inject \$2 billion into Queensland's economy and create up to 30,000 jobs. My government is also proud that our initiatives to protect the Great Barrier Reef were recognised by UNESCO earlier this year. Significant progress has been made by banning capital dredging of ports through amendments to the Sustainable Ports Development Act. We look forward to reporting to UNESCO on the positive gains made through Reef 2050's actions.

A Queensland free from domestic and family violence is a vision worth striving for, but government cannot achieve this alone. Domestic and family violence is everyone's concern. All Queenslanders must work together to stop the behaviours that trivialise, excuse or perpetuate this violence. This year my government has taken some important first steps in realising this vision, including increasing penalties for breaches of domestic violence orders; trialling a specialist domestic violence court on the Gold Coast; establishing two new DV crisis centres, one each in Townsville and Brisbane; establishing the Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council to oversee implementation of the domestic and family violence strategy; and responding to the *Not now, not ever* report and allocating an additional \$1.2 million to DVConnect.

We must also remember that drought affects more than 80 per cent of our state. The toll of this drought has been felt through the economy, the environment and most importantly by families and their communities. While we all hope the drought ends this wet season, my government is committed to continuing to support primary producers and local communities by providing \$52.1 million in the budget for drought assistance over the next four years. In the coming year we will continue the vital work we have started and we will strive diligently to serve all Queenslanders throughout our great state.