




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Record of Proceedings, 17 September 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Business Confidence

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (2.37 pm): I want to discuss two developments in my area that illustrate growing consumer and business confidence in my area and throughout Queensland. Recently, we had the launch of the Moreton Bay Regional Council Innovation Awards at the Narangba Innovation Precinct. These are new awards from my local council that will recognise, reward and support innovation, invention and commercialisation by local businesses. Many new and innovative businesses in the area are now showing they have the growing confidence to enter these awards and the growing confidence to expand their operations.

One of the other notable developments in my area is the initiation of the North Lakes Sports Club by the Caboolture Sports Club. This club will provide substantial financial and in-kind support for local sports clubs, schools and community groups. The club will cover four blocks of land over 1.6 hectares, and I table an article about that.

Tabled paper: Article in *North Lakes Times*, dated 7 August 2015, titled 'Caboolture Sports Club will replicate its business in new club at North Lakes'. [[1122](#)]

The background to this great news is that business is booming, riding on rising consumer confidence under the Palaszczuk government. The other side claim that it is all doom and gloom, but they cannot argue about the wide range of statistics painting a picture of rising confidence. Queensland consumer confidence has risen to the highest level in almost two years according to the Westpac-Melbourne Institute Survey of Consumer Sentiment. State consumer confidence has risen significantly by 12.2 percentage points, the highest consumer sentiment of any mainland state. Queensland business confidence is the highest of all mainland states for the second month in a row according to the NAB Monthly Business Survey. Queensland housing investor finance commitments have hit a near-eight-year high in Queensland. Investor housing finance for the purchase of existing dwellings hit \$4.8 billion in the July quarter. Investor housing finance for the purchase of new dwellings rose to \$745 million in the July quarter.

That is \$450 million higher than the same period last year, and the good news keeps coming. ABS labour force statistics show that Queensland added 28,500 extra jobs since the Palaszczuk government took office in February. This is a strong collection of positive economic indicators that cannot be denied—cannot be talked down—and it is a positive. Yesterday the member for Surfers Paradise talked about the Sensis survey relating to confidence in Queensland. I looked at it and guess what it said? It said that all metropolitan areas except Hobart displayed higher confidence than in the last survey and, relative to the previous quarter, confidence levels were higher in regional Queensland. That says that confidence levels in Queensland are recovering after the turmoil of the Campbell Newman government. There has been a strong turnaround in consumer and business confidence since

the election of the Palaszczuk government and a contributor to that growth in confidence comes down to the budget. CCIQ director of advocacy, Nick Behrens, said that confidence in the Queensland economy has improved on the back of a balanced state budget delivered on 14 July.

(Time expired)