




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 3 December 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Murrumbidgee Electorate

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (2.55 pm): I rise to inform the House that consumer confidence, business confidence and job creation are booming in Murrumbidgee under the Palaszczuk Labor government. North Lakes and Murrumbidgee businesses are riding on a wave of consumer and business confidence as we approach the biggest Christmas we think for seven years.

The Treasurer saw this when he spoke prior to the opening of stage 2 of North Lakes Westfield Shopping Centre. This \$140 million project has involved 3,000 jobs during construction and creates a 113,000 square metre shopping centre with 280 retailers. It will mean 500 jobs in Murrumbidgee.

The Treasurer also witnessed the rapid progress of the North Lakes IKEA. It will be ready in the second half of 2016. Some 150 jobs were supported during construction and it will create around 250 new jobs. The opposition may want to talk down the economy, but in Murrumbidgee consumer confidence is building; business confidence is building. It is not just in Murrumbidgee that we are seeing this. There are projects like the North Lakes Westfield popping up all over the state that show that business and consumer confidence is here and bringing in jobs for Queenslanders.

There is the \$2.6 billion Rio Tinto bauxite project near Weipa that will provide project work for 1,100 people, work for 1,400 workers in Weipa, work for 2,000 workers in refineries in Gladstone—jobs for 40 years. There is the QGC \$1.7 billion Surat Basin project, with 1,600 construction jobs. There is also the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf development which will deliver \$1 billion to the state, 2,000 construction jobs and 8,000 operational jobs.

The list goes on. There is the \$800 million pipeline between Mount Isa and the Northern Territory creating 560 construction jobs. That is \$8 billion in investment in total.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr WHITING: You would love to be on this side delivering that news. Put that on top of \$35 billion in investment over four years in the budget for infrastructure.

As the Treasurer said, when it comes to the economy, confidence is king. These project announcements show business and consumer confidence under the Palaszczuk government is headed in the right direction, and that is supported by a range of surveys. According to the Sensis Business Index, the confidence index for small-to-medium businesses in Queensland was plus 25 points in the August quarter. According to the NAB business survey for the September quarter, our business confidence was the equal highest in the nation. We have led the nation on business confidence for four straight months according to the NAB.

I will remind everyone again: when confidence goes up, job numbers go up. Some 43,800 jobs have been created since the election, including 9,000 full-time jobs. That is 1,000 full-time jobs created every month. Contrast that to the LNP's record of shedding 310 full-time jobs every month. All this business confidence, driven by consumer confidence, adds up to more jobs for Murrumbidgee residents.