



Speech By  
**Hon. Curtis Pitt**


**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 July 2015

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### State Finances

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.30 pm): In accordance with its 2015 election commitment, the government directed Queensland Treasury to undertake a review of the state's finances for publication as part of the first state budget of the term. The review commenced in March 2015. This report is, in effect, a high-level fiscal review. It is not intended as a comprehensive policy review covering matters of service, delivery and performance. Comments on policy are largely restricted to those areas required to support implementation of the government's fiscal principles and strategy. Consistent with the government's election commitment, I table the review report.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Treasury: 2015 Review of State Finances [735].

Section 11/1 of the Financial Accountability Act 2009—the FA Act—provides that from time to time the Treasurer must prepare and table in the Legislative Assembly a charter of fiscal responsibility giving details of the government's fiscal objectives. Revised fiscal principles were recommended as part of the recent review of state finances. The drafting of the 2015-16 budget has occurred on the basis that fiscal documentation will report against the fiscal principles recommended in the review of state finances. In order to maintain consistency between budget documentation and the official charter, I table the revised *Charter of fiscal responsibility* in parliament.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Budget 2015-16: Charter of Fiscal Responsibility [736].

As I announced last week, the review of state finances identified that there is capacity to increase the gearing levels of the network businesses towards more commercial levels. This view was further supported by benchmarking analysis prepared by KPMG in relation to the energy network businesses and their peers, particularly gearing levels and dividend payout ratios. Consistent with the government's commitment to being open and accountable, I table the benchmarking analysis prepared by KPMG.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Treasury Corporation: Electricity Network Recapitalisation Strategy: Gearing and Dividend Benchmarking Analysis—Summary, July 2015 [737].