




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Record of Proceedings, 15 July 2015

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Budget

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.51 pm): Such negativity from those opposite! I would like to provide an update on how the 2015-16 budget was received by those who are actually willing to give it a go and, of course, I am talking about business, industry, non-government organisations, unions and the broader community. The feedback is that the Palaszczuk government's first budget is being well received across many sectors of the community. AMA Queensland Chair, Shaun Rudd, said, '... the 2015-16 Budget delivers for the health system on many fronts' and—

... when it comes to frontline staffing, the health budget is excellent. Employing more nurses, nurse graduates, and paramedics as well as providing millions of dollars for preventative health measures is very welcome.

On the \$180 million Advance Queensland policy, Jemima Dunn from the Australian Industry Group said—

We believe this is going to go a long way, particularly in the long-term, diversifying the economy and building a smart, initiative and knowledge-based economy in Queensland.

The Local Government Association of Queensland stated—

Local Communities have done well out of the Palaszczuk Government's first Budget, with more funding for road projects and a solid commitment to boosting local jobs, training programs and infrastructure programs.

The Property Council said—

Unsolicited proposals have the potential to deliver a very broad range of social and economic benefits to Queensland. This announcement by the QLD Government is a step in the right direction in terms of unlocking private sector investment across the state.

Of the Advance Queensland initiative, the CCIQ said—

The state government has got it right when it facilitates industry, universities and government to work together to take great ideas and turn them into reality, attracting investment and creating jobs.

Of the budget more broadly, the CCIQ said, 'We think that it is a budget that invests in Queensland's economic future'.

Of the budget as a whole, AgForce has said—

This budget comes hot on the heels of the Federal Government's Agricultural White Paper and we believe it shows both levels of government are listening to people in rural Queensland.

The Housing Industry Association welcomed our policy to provide payroll tax rebates to larger employers to engage apprentices and trainees in vocational training. They noted—

Other measures in the Budget like the spending promised on maintenance of Government assets like schools will also benefit tradespeople in the industry.

The list goes on and on. I would ask for an extension of time to go through them. However, I will say that I understand there have been a few reports of many people talking about exactly how this has gone. The Leader of the Opposition is absolutely deceitful in saying that we have in any way departed from our election commitments. We said we would pay down debt without selling assets, without cutting the Public Service and without raising taxes, fees and charges and introducing new ones. As I look across the chamber today, I see a lot of very unhappy people on the other side. However, I see one person who is happy and that is the member for Chatsworth. The member for Chatsworth is even cutting his hair a little shorter these days.