




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Queensland Economy, Market Led Proposals

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.58 pm): The shadow Treasurer had so little to say that he left 30 seconds on the clock. Following on from the Queensland Treasury Corporation roadshow, where I received positive interest from international investors about investment opportunities here in Queensland, I am pleased to inform the House after the very sad diatribe we just heard that a very encouraging level of interest has been shown in the private sector in Queensland about our market led proposals policy.

Following on from the release of the new market led proposals policy and guidelines as part of the 2015-16 budget, there has been real interest from the private sector in exploring opportunities to partner with the Palaszczuk government on innovative new projects. Since coming to government we have substantially overhauled the process of considering such proposals and introduced a new project assessment framework. A number of project proponents that have been working up ideas have embraced it as a way of getting clear government direction on the level of interest to proceed. This enables the private sector to submit projects for potential partnership with the state. We want to get the private sector to play a bigger role in promoting growth and investment opportunities and propose solutions to economic and social infrastructure challenges.

The market led proposals framework recognises that, while encouraging competition in selection processes and procurement is always preferable, there are situations where unique proposals can bring beneficial outcomes. Proponents must be able to say how their proposal delivers a government priority outcome in a way that clearly delivers value to the government and cannot be replicated by a competitor. We have streamlined the assessment process to make it easier to engage with government. We have a centralised access point through our market led proposals portal. We want this initiative to make it easier for proponents to submit a proposal, get it through assessment and get it underway and that hopefully will satisfy the member for Surfers Paradise, especially complex proposals with interest from multiple government departments.

I encourage businesses with project ideas to come to Treasury for a confidential presubmission meeting to discuss ways of getting direct feedback on their proposal so that, when they do submit it, it ticks as many boxes as possible from the start. Since we announced this in the budget just two months ago we have had more than a dozen proposals come through the presubmission phase. While the submissions are preliminary and commercial in confidence at this stage, I am very pleased to advise the House that we have not just received infrastructure proposals; we have also received proposals from the tourism and social services sectors as well. So if anyone has projects that may fit—and that is

for anyone in Queensland who has those proposals—we want them to raise them through our straightforward presubmission process.

I look forward to leveraging more investment in Queensland at the Premier's Far North Queensland Economic Summit in Cairns in a bid to attract greater investment from our Asian trading partners. This economic summit will bring together business, industry and potential investors in an effort to facilitate new partnerships, particularly in North Queensland. We continue to hear from the shadow Treasurer, who does not understand some of the figures he is talking about. He is still talking about surveys which are out of date and included some of his own time in government. He is also including things that do not include the national accounts.