




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.17 am): It gives me great pleasure to follow the shadow Treasurer, who clearly loves selectively quoting. They will do anything to suggest that this government has no economic plan, when in fact their only economic plan was to copy ours. That is the worst part about it—they have no plan and they cannot even be convinced.

I sat across the table from the global heads of Standard & Poor's. I know what their view of our budget was. I have had that direct conversation and they are impressed with what we have done. They are impressed with the budget. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition continues to talk about the fact that their non-financial public sector measure of debt is the measure. Let me be clear: if he thinks that the general government sector debt is not the important measure, if he thinks an operating balance is not the important measure, he should go and tell Mike Baird and every other state and territory in Australia, which uses the same measure that this government is using.

If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had paid attention, he would know that last week we held the Northern Queensland Economic Summit, which brought together nearly 300 delegates. A large number of them were international investors and Queensland based companies, together with mayors and federal government agencies—all coming together to focus on economic opportunity in Queensland. We saw high net worth individuals; we saw local people like Rod Lamb from the Ella Bay resort; we saw start-ups all coming together. Those are the opportunities that are going to help create future opportunities in Queensland. There was an exchange of ideas. I can say that when the Leader of the House went to Darwin he spoke very clearly about what we were doing in Queensland and it was remarked to him that Queensland has set the bar through exactly the sorts of conversations we need to develop Northern Australia.

The Northern Queensland Economic Summit was an unqualified success according to all across-the-board. Those opposite should start asking some people who used to be members of their party at a federal level who said that they had never seen anything as good as this. I think those opposite have to ask themselves some real questions. They are a rabble. They have no idea where they are going. A few things we did last week: QIC organised—

Mr Nicholls: Who? Tell us who. Tell us who.

Mr McArdle: Who was it?

Mr PITT: Would you like to know who that was? I will tell the honourable members later. I do not think they will be very happy. The QIC agribusiness strategy was launched, which of course is about

ensuring that we can continue to develop our beef industry for which we know there is growing appetite throughout China, Japan and Korea.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr PITT: INQ in Townsville, a very important start-up platform—all of these things are intrinsically linked, all coming off the back of the very successful Northern Queensland Economic Summit.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr PITT: Those opposite are just wallowing in the fact that they failed in their three years and they added \$14 billion of debt when we are paying down \$9.6 billion. They just do not like it.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Currumbin, I inform the member for Chatsworth that at this stage it is looking like he may be the first person on the list to be warned under standing order 253A. I would urge you to be more careful in your interjections. I now call the member for Currumbin.