




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Working Queensland Cabinet Committee

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): My government is determined to drive employment and economic growth. We are proud of the 71,700 new jobs that have been created in Queensland since the election. We are proud that economic growth in Queensland is forecast at four per cent, which is the highest of any state and, like Malcolm Turnbull, we are proud that business confidence is the highest in Queensland.

My government recognises that employment, economic growth and business confidence have not increased at the same rate across the state. We recognise that there is a need for all levels of government to work together and with the private sector to drive new opportunities, especially in regional Queensland. Following the confirmation—

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Albert, I would urge you to consider your comments.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Following the confirmation of redundancies at Queensland Nickel last month, my government initiated an Accelerated Works Program to fast-track projects within my government's \$10.1 billion Capital Works Program. We also convened the Working Queensland cabinet committee in Townsville on 20 January. The committee resolved a five-point plan: rolling out the Accelerated Works Program; expanding retraining and skills initiatives through Skilling Queenslanders for Work; attracting increased Commonwealth funding; increasing tourism attraction, particularly additional international flights; and facilitating key private sector projects. At the end of January the full cabinet met in Gladstone and considered further projects under the Accelerated Works Program.

Last week I confirmed with the members for Mount Isa and Dalrymple that the Working Queensland cabinet committee would meet in Mount Isa and Charters Towers. I can also confirm that ahead of the budget in June the Working Queensland cabinet committee will meet in Mackay, Cairns, Rockhampton, Maryborough and Toowoomba. The first of these meetings will be in Mackay next week. I thank the members for Mackay and Mirani for their representations ahead of the meeting. The Mackay meeting follows the successful meeting of the biofutures cabinet committee in Sarina this month.

The Working Queensland cabinet committee meetings allow senior ministers and senior public servants to discuss local projects and gain a better insight into local issues. My government is proud of its record driving jobs—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, those comments are unnecessary. If you proceed you will be warned under standing order 253 or 252.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My government is proud of its record driving jobs and economic growth. We are determined to build on that record as part of our positive plan for Queenslanders right across our great state.