




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Record of Proceedings, 16 February 2016

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszcuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (10.25 am): I think the member for Surfers Paradise used the word 'clumsy'. He talked about Queensland's gross domestic product. Just to get the clumsiness part out of the way, it is Queensland's gross state product. If the member for Surfers Paradise is going to be nitpicking, I say to him to get the terminology right.

It is concerning that I have to quote my words from my ministerial statement that I gave this morning in which I said that those opposite are always deriding the state accounts. When the member for Clayfield was the treasurer, in no fewer than six media statements—and I table those statements—did he talk about how important GSP was and how important the state accounts were.

Tabled paper: Media releases, various dates, by the former treasurer and minister for trade, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, regarding the Queensland economy [[145](#)].

Then what happened? Things went bad and he stopped talking about them. In fact, the former government stopped releasing them entirely until the former treasurer received pressure from the opposition to put something back up online. It is very concerning that the members opposite are now flipping and flopping and cherrypicking, as they did when they were in government. Now, they are doing it in opposition.

We have heard a lot from those opposite. They are into their fourth year of talking down our state. On this side of the House, Labor will continue to talk up our economy, because there is a lot to be optimistic about. We have heard a lot of noise from those opposite about what is happening in terms of regional employment. It is worth remembering that when the LNP was in government it had a lack of interest in employment and it had no real employment policy. What did its policies result in? An increase in the unemployment rate from 5.5 per cent when it took over from Labor to 6.6 per cent when it left office. Under the LNP, unemployment went up to 6.9 per cent and, in seasonally adjusted terms, it went up to seven per cent. Right now, we have seen the unemployment rate go down to a two-year low—down to 5.9 per cent—and this has occurred during challenging global economic conditions.

Of course, since the election, we have seen more than 60,000 jobs created here in Queensland. In 11 months, 60,000 jobs have been created. That increase comprises a 22,100-person rise in full-time jobs and a 38,300-person rise in part-time employment. That is around 2,010 full-time jobs created each month.

How does that increase compare to what happened under the former government? Under the former Newman government, on average Queensland lost over 330 full-time jobs each month and, in total, over 11,000 jobs. So while we are creating over 2,000 jobs per month, the former government, over its time in office, lost 300-plus jobs each month. That is a shameful record and those opposite have

the gall to come in here to say that we use figures in a specific way. We are using hard data to tell the real story, which is that there is every reason that people should be very confident about what is happening.

I say to the LNP members that full-time jobs pay for schoolbooks, study expenses, family holidays and home renovations. Full-time jobs strengthen communities. We are about jobs. That is what Labor is about and that is what it is continuing to be about.