




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Record of Proceedings, 16 March 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Market-Led Proposals

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (2.12 pm): I take this opportunity to inform the House of major developments under the Palaszczuk government's job-creating market-led proposals initiative. I have previously outlined the two major proposals that have been advanced to the detailed assessment stage of the MLP process: the \$450 million Logan Motorway Enhancement Project, estimated to support more than 1,300 jobs during construction, and the proposed \$100 million Brisbane cruise ship terminal, estimated to create around 300 construction jobs. I am pleased to advise that the proponent of the Logan Motorway MLP, Transurban Queensland, has short-listed two firms, CPB Contractors Pty Ltd and John Holland Queensland Pty Ltd, to compete for the design and construction of the project.

As we heard from the Premier, this morning I was able to join the Premier, the tourism minister and the Deputy Premier, in her capacity particularly as the local member, to announce that a third major proposal has reached the second stage of assessment. The proposed \$100 million project would see the redevelopment of the Queensland Maritime Museum at South Bank and the establishment of a world-class aquarium. A project like this could be expected to generate up to 300 jobs during construction. It is the latest proposal to be advanced through the Palaszczuk government's market-led proposals framework. The proponents of this project indicate that it has the potential to attract up to 750,000 visitors each and every year into Brisbane and generate \$200 million a year for the Queensland economy. As I said, the proposal has now advanced to stage 2. It will undergo detailed proposal development and assessment.

Our call for market-led proposals has been embraced by business and more than 40 proposals have been lodged since we announced the initiative in last year's budget. In fact, more proposals for job-creating, private sector projects were received in three months than were received in the previous three years under the former government. More than 30 projects were deemed suitable to undergo initial assessment to determine their progress through further stages.

Our market-led proposals is just one way that our government is working with business to deliver job-creating projects. This project takes the potential private sector investment under the MLP framework to \$650 million. We have introduced our \$40 million Business Development Fund to partner with business and turn bright ideas into commercial reality. The positive response to these initiatives underlines the high level of business confidence in Queensland. For the past eight months the National Australia Bank's Monthly Business Survey has shown Queensland to have the highest business confidence in the nation. That is confidence that even Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has remarked on in federal parliament, even though his state counterparts continue their four-year campaign of negativity to talk down Queensland's economy. Their destructive approach has one aim: to support their one-point plan of asset sales.

Last month I spoke to more than 200 Queensland business operators and investors at forums on the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast and in Townsville. In stark contrast to the LNP members, those delegates were positive about Queensland. They are enthusiastic about the opportunities this government is providing through market-led proposals and our economic plan. Business operators understand that they are now being treated seriously and that their ideas are being taken seriously, unlike they were under the former government. Business knows that they are dealing with a government that wants to promote the strength of the Queensland economy, promote opportunities and harness good ideas, not talk them down. Business is now dealing with a government that is always looking for ways to say yes, rather than find excuses to say no.