




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Record of Proceedings, 20 April 2016

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Innovation and Investment Summit; Bayles, Mr HJP

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (2.13 pm): A key part of our economic plan is our Advance Queensland initiative supporting innovation, developing new industries, building on traditional strengths and creating jobs now and jobs for the future. Next week the Premier will host the Advance Queensland Innovation and Investment Summit in Brisbane, showcasing the potential for new jobs and new investment through innovation.

Another key element of our economic plan is the work we do with the private sector to foster ideas for innovative projects or services to benefit Queenslanders and create jobs. An essential part of that approach is our market-led proposals initiative that I announced in the 2015 state budget. It is appropriate that in parallel with the Advance Queensland summit we will be hosting a market-led proposals forum in Brisbane next Wednesday. The Brisbane forum follows similar events I have attended and spoken at in regional centres including Townsville, Cairns, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast. Those events have attracted about 250 potential proponents and more than 120 are booked in to the Brisbane forum next week.

The MLP initiative operates a staged process for initial assessment, detailed assessment, approval and, finally, delivery. So far, three significant projects worth a total of \$650 million have moved from initial assessment to detailed assessment and I can tell honourable members there are others very much soon to follow. Those progressed so far are the \$100 million Brisbane international cruise terminal, the \$100 million Queensland aquarium and Maritime Museum at South Bank and the \$450 million Logan Motorway enhancement. Together it is estimated they will generate around 1,600 jobs.

This government wants all Queenslanders to have the opportunity to participate in our state's growth and to secure jobs. Our consultative and cooperative approach extends to Indigenous Queenslanders and potential private sector investment in remote Indigenous communities. To that end I was pleased to host an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander investor forum in Cairns last week to discuss new economic opportunities in North Queensland. The market-led proposals initiative was one avenue explored at the forum for developing business opportunities and jobs in the north across sectors including tourism, agribusiness and education, to name just a few. The investment forum last week showed there are already many successful Indigenous business operations that could be expanded or serve as inspiration for new ones—businesses like Ingan Tours, which is wholly owned by the Grant family in Tully who are Jabanbarra Jirrbal rainforest people from the Davidson River valley between Cairns and Townsville. Ingan leads rainforest tours on foot and in kayaks to provide tourists from around the world with a unique view of the lands and waters of the Jabanbarra Jirrbal people. The Mossman Gorge gateway centre is a new ecotourism development, with tourist walks and a gallery showcasing the local Kuku Yalanji artists. Some 90 per cent of its employees are local Indigenous people.

The Oikola people are leading tours through their land north-west of Cairns, which was finally returned to them 18 months ago. The Oikola Aboriginal Corporation is also looking at other ventures which leverage its connection with the land. They include ventures like carbon credits for early burning of the land and cattle farming. I will save the presentation by Colin Saltmere, which was very entertaining but obviously shows the enormous potential of the use of spinifex, for another day.

There is a range of business opportunities in which Indigenous Queenslanders and their communities could be involved. I must say that it was great to have very senior government officials including the Under Treasurer as well as Damian Frawley from QIC to present and show just how serious this government is about investment in Indigenous communities. Market-led proposals can help build on all of those ideas and make them realities and of benefit for all Queenslanders.

I want to take a few moments to pay tribute to 'Tiga' Bayles, who died at the weekend. Tiga was well known for his persistent and passionate advocacy on Indigenous issues and also for his practical approach to improving the lives of individuals and communities. He was a true legend of Australia's media and political landscape. His passing is a profound loss for our state and for all Queenslanders, not just Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. For decades he was a strong, loud voice on crucial issues that might otherwise have gone unheard. Our entire nation has been enriched by his life and his service. I pass on my condolences to his family and his friends.