



Speech By  
**Hon. Curtis Pitt**


**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2016

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**State Finances**

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (10.17 am): What a great contribution from the man whose previous greatest contribution was to introduce segways into Queensland! I will correct a couple of things said by the member for Indooroopilly. The CCIQ Pulse survey said that business performance and confidence are noticeably ahead of where they were at this time last year. They are improving. The survey shows that confidence has ticked upwards and there are positive signs ahead. I think the member needs to read the document again.

Yesterday I was handed the report of the Rural Debt and Drought Taskforce, chaired by the member for Mount Isa. I thank him and all of the members of that task force for their work and the consultation they conducted across Queensland. The report contains many recommendations which will be considered by our government. We will provide a response in due course. I highlight this report because it is an example of the approach we take to dealing with the crossbenches. We can actually work with them. We do not get into personal attacks and denigration—unlike the member for Clayfield, who led the attack when in government. On Friday he signalled that his leadership would herald a 'gloves-off response'. Let us wait to see how that pans out for him.

The member for Mount Isa also acknowledged a significant piece of work by this government. That is, we have invested, through QIC, to get an 80 per cent share in NAPCo, one of Australia's largest agricultural enterprises. With its Strong Choices agenda the LNP tried to sell the farm. Labor said that we would work the farm. Last week our government actually bought back the farm. This government invests, showing long-term confidence in the agriculture sector in Queensland. This sets the stage for a series of potential investments in the agriculture supply chain right across our state. This is about paddock to plate and export. That is something this government knows how to do.

This is Queensland investing in Queensland—just like we said we would. The Strong Choices scare campaign was meant to frighten Queenslanders into selling assets and we now know that those opposite have a new campaign. An unnamed source in the *Australian* says that a new asset leasing push is underpinned by 'a succinct and clearer campaign'. Who is running this campaign? Has Crosby Textor been brought back into the fold? Is it doing the work? We have seen repeated media reports that the LNP is interested in selling off 49 per cent of Powerlink. Is this the succinct and clearer campaign that the member for Clayfield as the new opposition leader wants to lead? We know that the opposition leader—it is going to take a bit of time to get used to saying that—oversaw some of the worst conditions in Queensland. Nothing has changed. The LNP is now under old management. It has gone back to just like it was in the Campbell Newman days, with the architect of Strong Choices sitting just one seat aside from the bloke who sat on Campbell Newman's deck and came up with his great plan to bring Campbell Newman into the parliament. Let us hope that he can make a better contribution as the Leader of the Opposition, because he has not made one to date.