




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (2.12 pm): Since the state election on 31 January last year, the Palaszczuk government has been working hard to create the right economic conditions for job creation in our state. Despite the fact that those opposite are in their fifth year of talking down our economy and cherry picking bad news, our efforts are working. Our economic plan is working.

We are proud to say that since the election 61,300 new jobs have been created in Queensland, including 27½ thousand full-time jobs. That is the number of new jobs that have been created since January 2015, the last month of the failed Newman government. As much as those opposite do not like to hear it, those are the facts. When they were in government they were quite happy to use the election month of March 2012 as the starting point for their government. I have here a statement issued by the former treasurer, dated 6 December 2012, using the election month as their starting point. I table it for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 6 December 2012, by the former treasurer and minister for trade, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, regarding Queensland's unemployment rate [\[662\]](#).

We are proud of our record and our economic plan, which has lifted our economy and employment since voters passed their verdict on the LNP. This government is backing and talking up Queensland, seizing economic opportunities and embracing a pro jobs and pro business approach that generates jobs. It is amazing what an economic plan grounded in positivity and a belief in this state can actually do in terms of realising our economic potential.

By contrast, the LNP's new leader is still offering nothing but negativity. The 61,300 jobs created under this government have helped drive down our unemployment rate to six per cent from 6.6 per cent, where the LNP left it after inheriting a 5½ per cent rate in 2012. Deloitte Access Economics puts us second on economic growth behind New South Wales this financial year and leading the nation in 2016-17 and beyond. The NAB business outlook shows business confidence in Queensland as the highest of all mainland states for 10 months in a row. In little more than one year we have rebuilt business confidence after the LNP shattered it in just three.

The LNP negativity is nothing new. They are in their fifth year of talking down Queensland, and the architect of that negativity is now at the helm. The former treasurer was the only one in three decades to preside over a reduction in the number of full-time jobs in Queensland. On the Leader of the Opposition's watch as treasurer, Queensland shed 12,000 full-time jobs. That is 80 jobs lost every week. The Leader of the Opposition delivered the worst economic growth under any Queensland government in 30 years: an annualised rate of 1.6 per cent.

The new leader of the LNP is continuing the tricks—of talking down Queensland and destroying confidence to scare people into accepting asset sales. Asset sales remains the LNP's one-point economic plan. When the former treasurer was leading the award-winning \$100 million Strong Choices

campaign, he said that Queenslanders had three choices: asset sales, higher fees and charges or more cuts to jobs and services. Now he claims to not be interested in asset sales, even though we keep reading about his plans in various media outlets. For example, we know that the LNP wants to sell 49 per cent of Powerlink. Now it is time for the opposition leader to reveal his fourth option. We cannot have people hiding behind asset leasing, because we all remember being told that it was the same as 'selling the farm'. The Leader of the Opposition must detail what his fourth option is.

We are a government that is about talking up Queensland's prospects. A very important part of our economic plan is being positive about our future. That is what people will continue to hear from the Palaszczuk government.