



Speech By  
**Hon. Curtis Pitt**


**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2016

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements**

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (10.26 am): In light of that contribution by the member for Indooroopilly, who continues to talk down our state, I think it is worth putting some facts on the table that illustrate how well our state is doing. The fact is that some parts of Queensland are adjusting and transitioning faster than others. We have consistently said that is why our government is focused on regional Queensland. We know there are communities doing it hard in regional Queensland.

The member for Indooroopilly has the gall to talk about job losses considering he oversaw 1,972 jobs lost from the Department of Transport and Main Roads when he was minister. While we are talking about job figures, we know that unemployment is down from the 6.6 per cent that the LNP left us at in January 2016 to 6.2 per cent on a trend basis. The member refers to seasonally adjusted unemployment; the bloke sitting next to him, before figures were revised down, saw seasonally adjusted unemployment go up to 7.1 per cent.

In the first 15 months of office we have created 51,000 jobs in Queensland. How many did those opposite create in 15 months under their watch? They created 7,400. We have created almost seven times the jobs than those opposite. That is a record that they should be ashamed of. I cannot believe they get up and talk about unemployment given the damage they did to our economy by deliberately cutting and slashing 14,000 jobs in the first budget of the now opposition leader.

There are very positive figures that we can talk about on this side of the House. In the Westpac Consumer Sentiment Index, Queensland's consumer index rose 7.4 per cent to 94.7 per cent in April. The total trend number of finance commitments, including refinancing, for owner occupied dwellings, trend, in Queensland rose 0.7 per cent in February to be 4.4 per cent higher over the year. Investor finance commitments for construction of new dwellings is \$49 million higher than the same period last year. Queensland housing approvals, total trend dwelling approvals in Queensland, rose 0.8 per cent in March 2016. The member for Indooroopilly is not talking about the good stories. His suggestion that we think that Queenslanders have never had it so good is absolute rubbish. We are working day and night to ensure that we focus our efforts and attention on the parts of Queensland that are not transitioning from the post mining boom as quickly as others.

Those opposite need to start talking up the state economy rather than talking it down. That did not work for them when they were in government and they did damage to our economy by doing it. They need to start listening to reports like those from Deloitte which talks about Queensland's sweet fundamentals and the fact that we have a very diverse economy. We will continue to diversify our economy into important sectors like tourism and agriculture which we know will go through significant growth in the coming years.