



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) (2.20 pm): The value Queenslanders place on keeping government owned corporations was made clear at the ballot box last year. That is why we are keeping our GOCs in public hands and keeping the revenue streams the LNP still wants to offload in a fire sale. We are investing in Queensland rather than selling bits off cheaply. We are backing Queensland. We are backing jobs.

While the LNP talks down Queensland, we are talking up economic opportunities and backing business—and our approach has worked. Unemployment is down under Labor. The LNP left us with a trend jobless rate of 6.6 per cent; it is now 6.2 per cent. Since the election, 51,000 new jobs have been created in Queensland, including 18,100 full-time jobs. By comparison, the member for Clayfield was the economic manager when the Newman government created only 7,400 jobs in their first 15 months. It was the member for Clayfield who saw Queensland shed 12,000 full-time jobs on his watch—or 80 jobs lost every week. That is his and the LNP's legacy. If he had spent less time pushing asset sales and more time developing a sensible economic plan, as we have, the outcome may have been different. Job losses have never worried the LNP, as was proved when the Newman-Nicholls government deliberately cut the jobs of more than 20,000 government workers. That was one plan they hid from voters.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Ministerial statements in this House are supposed to be about the ministers that make up the executive government reporting to the parliament about their activities. If the minister seeks to attack opposition members then we cannot be expected to sit here and not respond.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Callide. I call the minister.

Mr PITT: We are putting the facts on the table today. It is obviously very important. We saw proof yesterday when the member for Clayfield deliberately misled Queenslanders and members of the defined benefit super fund. He wrongly yet very deliberately says the government is 'raiding' or 'stealing' what he claims is 'someone else's money'.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to rule on the content of ministerial statements. There are plenty of opportunities in the House for amateur theatrics later in the day. This is ministerial statements. We expect to hear from the ministers that make up the executive government about the government's achievements or policies, not to use ministerial statements as an opportunity to attack opposition members.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Callide.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I know you are all willing. I would like silence while I am taking advice from the Clerk. Members, I will quote from our rules. Standing order 62, headed 'Ministerial statements' states—

(1) A Minister during the time allotted by Sessional Orders, or any time during Government Business so as to not interrupt a debate of a matter, may make a statement relating to matters of Government policy or public affairs.

Member for Callide, I have not refused anyone the opportunity to make an interjection during the contribution by the minister. If an interjection is reasonable I will allow it, but I will not allow members to simply talk over the top of the person who is making a ministerial statement.

Mr PITT: This is a very important ministerial statement because what we are doing is putting the facts on the table. We heard terms like 'raiding' and 'stealing' being used yesterday by the Leader of the Opposition. He said that 'raiding' and 'stealing' happened in the previous budget too—which is absolutely untrue. Statements by current and former QSuper officials—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr PITT: You may wish to hear this. Statements by current and former QSuper officials and others have made it clear that the surplus in the defined benefit scheme—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members of the opposition, if you want to make an interjection that I can hear, I would urge you to allow one person to make the interjection instead of everyone talking so I do not hear any interjections but simply a lot of gabble.

Mr PITT: It is organised chaos. I will say that again: statements by current and former QSuper officials and others have made it clear that the surplus in the defined benefit scheme is not members' entitlements. The defined benefit scheme is overfunded and the scheme members will receive their entitlements in full as and when they want them in accordance with legislation.

The member for Clayfield must admit to being an incompetent who should know the facts. This is about peddling untruths. I call on him here today to withdraw and apologise for deliberately misleading the House. The member for Clayfield was also the architect of the worst economic growth under any Queensland government in the last 30 years, with an annualised rate of 1.6 per cent.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! The member for Clayfield has not raised an interjection or a point of order, so I do not think he needs your assistance, member for Nanango.

Mr PITT: I was referring to the economic growth, the annualised rate, under the former treasurer which was 1.6 per cent. We are looking to lead the nation in economic growth under the Palaszczuk government.

Despite the rejection of asset sales at the last election, it continues to be part of the conversation. We know that they want to sell 49 per cent of Powerlink. We on this side of the House as government policy are continuing to keep our assets in public hands and we are unequivocal about that. That is what this statement is about today: making sure that people understand the facts, that there is no raiding and no stealing and such inflammatory language is not on. We are about ensuring that we keep our assets in public hands. We will use all of our assets, including our financial assets, to deliver good outcomes for Queenslanders, including regional Queenslanders, and jobs.

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, I urge you to refer to the member for Clayfield as the Leader of the Opposition in future contributions.