




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Jobs

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (6.28 pm): All I can say is that the member for Kawana certainly knows how to clear a room. They all left as soon as he finished his contribution.

Ms Palaszczuk: They couldn't wait to go.

Mr PITT: They could not wait to go. Some of them have handed their internships in after hearing that!

As Minister for Sport, I am a little concerned about the member for Kawana. If he thinks that soccer fields in Kawana can fit more than 36,600 people, which is how many people have come into jobs in Queensland since we have taken office, they have some big soccer fields on the Sunshine Coast. We might have to have a look at that.

I have touched on this earlier today and I see it again. This motion is nothing but a stunt and anyone worth their salt would know that. This House should reject this motion on the premise that it is false. It is false to suggest that we are not creating jobs in this state, when all of the data shows that we are outpacing the LNP in terms of job creation by a factor of more than two to one on average each month. They were able to create 800 jobs per month on average; we have been creating 2,100 jobs per month on average since coming to office. The numbers say it all. That is something that I know the shadow Treasurer has struggled with and I hope he is going to have a good look at this. When we have the alternative treasurer and the alternative premier coming into this place talking the economy down, it is little wonder that they start believing their own information. It is very concerning.

Let me put a few other facts on the table. This government is very focused on job creation; we are not focused on job-destroying policies like we saw with the former government. We know that in the first Nicholls budget—and this has been touched on before—there were 14,000 jobs gone. The Newman-Nicholls government is very responsible for the economic growth slowdown we saw in this state, when it got down to 0.8 per cent growth in 2014-15. That in itself is a big problem.

Those opposite have criticised this side of the House for creating jobs in the public sector. I remember the former premier saying that the only real job is in the private sector, which no doubt added to the other terribly inflammatory comments he made about public sector workers in our state. In relation to the jobs that we have been creating, upwards of 86 per cent of the jobs that we have created in the public sector since coming to office have been in front-line services. Why? It is because we obviously value front-line services and we needed to restore them after the previous government tore things apart. It is also because those jobs are vital.

We are having to restore front-line services, but those opposite are constantly claiming that we have 8,000 too many staff in the public sector. What will the first LNP policy be if they take office under

a government led by Tim Nicholls? Obviously it will be to sack 8,000 staff. That is clearly their line of thinking. That would be a case of *deja vu* and then some.

I have also heard the former treasurer, now opposition leader, say that one of the best predictors of future behaviour is past behaviour. If we take that logic, we know what will happen if there is an LNP government in Queensland again. They have already said that we have 8,000 too many staff in the public sector and that we should not have hired them and that we should not be providing front-line services to people. We also know that the same rhetoric that we have heard time and time again from the member for Clayfield will be coming through into an LNP government if they took office. That would mean there would be only three choices—massively raising taxes, fees and charges; cutting jobs and services; or selling assets.

We have apparently had some of those ruled out. The \$8 billion black hole that is being created each and every time the member for Clayfield and the member for Indooroopilly stand on their feet is because they refuse to back the government's approach. The government's approach has been to very sensibly go about our business, to restore confidence in the state, to make sure we are creating jobs and to make sure we have an economic plan which is laid out very clearly in the budget. That plan is about investing in infrastructure, getting an additional investment into the state and having a focus on innovation.

The announcement today was a great one. We have a very clear view, including our biofutures roadmap, in terms of a very big future in renewables and biofuels in this state. Those jobs are jobs that the LNP did not even think of. When I heard the US Navy's Tom Hicks today directly reference the leadership of this Premier as the reason why they were there, as the reason why the US Navy wants to come and actually be a very significant customer of this state, I could not have been prouder. It reinforces the motto that the Premier says time and time again: 'This government is about jobs, jobs, jobs.'