



Speech By  
**Hon. Curtis Pitt**


**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 30 August 2016

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Queensland Economy, Jobs**

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (10.43 am): What we have just heard from the member for Everton is an admission that the LNP's laws—the laws which we currently have in this state—are failing.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! We are not going to have a shouting match or I will start naming members and you can leave the chamber. I call the Treasurer.

**Mr PITT:** He has all but thrown the member for Kawana under a bus in terms of the laws that he brought in; that is what we have heard from the member for Everton this morning.

I am here to talk about some good things for Queensland. The good news is there are great reasons to be confident about the Queensland economy. We have the best resource of human capital in the Southern Hemisphere, which of course is supporting the high-knowledge jobs of tomorrow. We are blessed with natural resources that support our agriculture and mining sectors. We have a spectacular natural environment which is the envy of the world and supports and attracts tourists to our shores, and all of this is on the doorstep of the biggest middle class in the world: Asia. Yet those purveyors of doom opposite are again talking down the Queensland economy, and of course they are asking us not to shine a light on what happened during their time in office. Of course they would, because under Labor 40,000 jobs have been created in this state in 18 months; under the LNP only 26,900 jobs were created in almost three years. That is more jobs in half the time under Labor. When it comes to creating jobs, those opposite seem addicted to negativity. They just do not know what to do.

When they came to office in 2012, those opposite inherited a trend unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent. They promised to bring it down to four per cent. The first step of the now opposition leader was to sack 14,000 government workers in his first budget. His answer to slowing employment growth in the public sector was a complete overreaction. It was like trying to trim a bonsai with a chainsaw. He took a chainsaw to the public sector, and of course it was no surprise that unemployment went in the wrong direction. It was no surprise that regional economies in particular closed their wallets and stopped spending. That is why we saw GSP come down to 0.8 per cent in 2014-15. Those opposite inherited a GSP of 5.8 per cent in 2011-12 when they came to office, and the member for Clayfield—the now opposition leader—when he was treasurer oversaw that coming down to 0.8 per cent. He dragged it down. As they say in the classics, you reap what you sow.

We know there was a bitter harvest of sustained negativity which really damaged our economy. It is funny that you do not hear much about asset sales from those opposite anymore. When the opposition leader talks about hard choices he is slipping because he is really talking about Strong Choices. We know what his No. 1 plan is for the state; it is his only plan. The member for Clayfield should be held to account, as should all of those opposite, for the damage they did to Queensland during their time in office.