




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (10.38 am): It was amazing to hear the member for Nanango talking about crossing swords. She crossed swords with the bloke sitting next to her and took his job. I do not understand where she is coming from.

Last week, when it comes to state final demand, Queensland returned to positive territory. Our domestic economy has turned the corner. This is a body blow to the opposition members. Their credibility is on the line, because this result is a complete repudiation of their scaremongering. I refer to an online ABC article, which I will table, in which the shadow Treasurer claimed that the economy had declined over the past year. That deserves a rebuttal. That is wrong. The current forecast for the 2015-16 year is 3½ per cent growth in Queensland. Where did the members opposite leave it? At 0.8 per cent—below one per cent. The economy is growing.

Tabled paper: Article from *ABC News* online, dated 8 September 2016, titled 'Queensland Treasurer claims new ABS figures show economy is surging' [[1480](#)].

The Queensland domestic economy, he says, has shrunk by 1.2 per cent. I think Mr Emerson, the member for Indooroopilly, needs to look at the bloke next to him and ask him where he shrunk domestic growth. The domestic economy under the member for Clayfield went down by 3.3 per cent in the final five quarters of their government. Shame! Shame! The article also cites the shadow Treasurer where he says the unemployment rate has continued to rise. It has not continued to rise! We brought it down from 6.6 per cent to 6.3 per cent.

He wants to be the Treasurer of this state and he cannot even get three simple facts right. These are three economic indicators and he has got all of them wrong. We know that after two successive state budgets we have seen so much in terms of delivery: front-line services have been restored; more police; more teachers; more nurses; more paramedics. That is what we on this side of the House have done; we have restored things. I am going to take a leaf out of Chris Bowen's book. Chris Bowen said, 'Budget repair that is fair.' Their definition of fiscal repair is to sack everyone. They will not tell us what their plan for asset sales is. The Leader of the Opposition has had 100 days to tell us about his plan for asset sales. He is silent. At the LNP convention he was silent. In the budget reply he was silent.

We do know that he wants to sack 8,000 government workers so he can right-size the Public Service. We know that the Leader of the Opposition has failed as a Treasurer and now he is failing as the Leader of the Opposition. We do know this: the member for Clayfield has had every opportunity to tell Queenslanders what his position is on asset sales but on every occasion he has squibbed it. The voters of Queensland said that Strong Choices were the wrong choices. We know that to be true. The Leader of the Opposition is obviously, very simply, too lazy to learn from his mistakes.