




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (2.48 pm): One of the distinguishing features between us on this side of the House and those opposite is that we do not constantly talk down the state. We do not ignore the facts and we will not look for any slither of bad news to say that the place is going to rack and ruin. We rely on reports and statistics to talk about how well we are going. Sadly, the full-time job of those opposite has been to talk down our state, and it starts at the top. We know that the LNP is simply too lazy to develop a single economic policy or a comprehensive economic plan. On this side of the House we have recognised that there are some regions in Queensland that are transitioning more slowly than others when it comes to moving from the heights of the mining boom to a post-mining boom economy.

Overall, our economy is doing very well and the facts and hard data prove it, yet the LNP continues to refuse to acknowledge the facts. If you listen to Chicken Little from Clayfield over there—

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, I ask you to withdraw your comment.

Mr PITT: I withdraw. During his last term in government Campbell Newman's treasurer, now the Leader of the Opposition, had one aim then and that continues: to scare people into a need for asset sales. Before the 2012 election the former premier said that Queensland's economy was a 'basket case', and the member for Clayfield did not disagree when his former fearless leader, Campbell Newman, said that the state was on a 'power-dive into the abyss' and that we were like the 'Spain of Australian states'. None of this was true, but that is what he said in Queensland. What did he say overseas?

As I have said this week, I just returned from an overseas trip. When we go overseas we take with us the Queensland Treasury Corporation investor blue book. We know that when we talk to bankers, investors or anyone we stick to the facts. The same blue book that I have was taken overseas by the former treasurer. He said one thing here and another thing overseas. What happened was that he essentially got caught out telling truth, which is an astonishing thing for the member for Clayfield. We know that he will never believe that the Queensland economy is doing well and he continues to talk the place down. When in Queensland the former treasurer said terrible things about Queensland's economy, yet overseas he has used the former Labor government's record to sell Queensland. This is the sort of behaviour we have come to expect, but what would happen if he started using the facts and conceded we have had a turnaround in the economy? We know that in black and white the economy is performing better under Labor than it was under the LNP: debt is lower; unemployment is lower; growth is higher; and we are in budget surplus. Those are things that the Leader of the Opposition could not achieve.