




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Record of Proceedings, 13 October 2016

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Business Confidence

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (10.19 am): I am very pleased to follow on from the member for Indooroopilly—certainly someone who has never been guilty of exceeding expectations. There has been a lot of talk about the backpacker tax and the impact that might have on the fruit-picking industry. There is one person who is not affected by the backpacker tax, and that is the member for Indooroopilly, who is the nation's greatest cherrypicker. He is the No. 1 cherrypicker who can find a positive statistic and turn it sour. He always finds the cloud in the silver lining. He is able to do anything to be so negative. He has never said a good word about the Queensland economy. One thing I know is that, in 19 months, they have had no policies and no plans.

To specific points, he talked about the Property Council Survey. The Property Council Survey follows more widely based surveys that show—

Mr Emerson: Shoot the messenger again.

Mr PITT: No. I will come back to that. The National Australia Bank Monthly Business Survey shows that again we are equal top in terms of business confidence in the nation.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr PITT: I take that interjection. We are the only state that achieved an increase in business conditions in the last month. It follows the Westpac-Melbourne Institute Consumer Sentiment Index. Queensland is leading the nation in terms of consumer sentiment. It is the highest level since November 2013. It is well above the national level. This is the fourth month in a row that we have seen an increase in consumer confidence in Queensland. The latest Sensis small business survey shows confidence is up in Queensland. We have seen an increase in growth in state final demand for the last two quarters following eight consecutive quarters of negativity under their government which commenced in the December quarter 2013. It is very sad, but we know that at least under this government the economy has turned the corner. The economy is on the right track as opposed to what they would have done if they had continued to be in office.

Getting back to the Property Council survey, the Property Council itself has said the survey results are outdated. Why is that the case? They are outdated because they do not take into consideration the wonderful announcement that this government has made in terms of providing details around Advancing our cities and regions. This has been welcomed by the Property Council. We know that that is the case. To quote them, they said that this is the 'shot in the arm' that is needed. There is no denying that the Property Council has concerns about the foreign property buyers surcharge. They have also said that, whilst they continue to express their opposition, the Property Council has welcomed the consultation. True to our word, we said we would do it. We have developed a set of guidelines which will help grow the economy and particularly so in regional Queensland. I do not think the member for Indooroopilly has ever been to regional Queensland. If he has, he was not very welcome.