




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Jobs

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.52 am): From the start the Palaszczuk government's prime objective has been to create jobs. We have ensured that Queensland is open for investment. I am very proud to be Treasurer in a government that has talked up the prospects of our economy and that has worked with business to create jobs. The government's initiatives to attract investment to Queensland have already paid dividends. The \$40 million Business Development Fund is part of the Palaszczuk government's \$405 million Advance Queensland suite of programs designed to create knowledge-based jobs of the future.

Today I am proud to announce that the Palaszczuk government has made another investment in an innovative emerging business through the Business Development Fund. An investment of \$1.05 million was made into the Miner Group on 10 February. The Miner Group is an emerging firm located in Hendra that has developed an online platform which enables customers to hire plant and equipment. Their system has been designed to connect governments, councils, large contractors and insurance companies. Their business model is based on collecting a small percentage fee of the transactions conducted through the platform. Launched in 2013, the Miner Group has grown from small beginnings to around 45 full-time staff. Within the next two years they hope to add a further 20 Queensland staff to manage the growing business. The investment provided by the Palaszczuk government through the Business Development Fund will assist the company's expansion into the subcontractor and possibly international markets.

The Business Development Fund has invested in eight innovative businesses with investments totalling \$9.425 million—ideas that now have legs, ideas that have turned into commercial reality and businesses that can grow and hire. Today I am also pleased to report another milestone in the Herston Quarter project. On 23 February 2017, Australian Unity and Metro North Hospital and Health Service executed contractual documentation. Last year, after a competitive procurement and negotiation process led by Queensland Treasury working with Queensland Health, Australian Unity was appointed as the preferred master developer for the project. Australian Unity will transform the currently vacant site into a vibrant health related, mixed-use community. Australian Unity and Metro North Hospital and Health Service have now executed contractual documentation and works on site are expected to commence soon. The \$1.1 billion project will support over 700 full-time-equivalent jobs annually over the 10-year construction period and hundreds of full-time jobs annually in operation.

This is all part of our successful Market-Led Proposals initiative—our partnership approach to delivering private sector investment and jobs. The five announced projects are valued at more than \$700 million—that is \$700 million of activity in addition to our \$40 billion infrastructure program. These projects offer the potential to support more than 1,600 jobs during construction and generate more than \$2 billion worth of economic activity in Queensland. The Business Development Fund, Market-Led Proposals and the Herston Quarter are more proof of the Palaszczuk government's determination to work with business to create more jobs for Queenslanders.