



Speech By  
**Hon. Curtis Pitt**


**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2017

**PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Jobs**

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.28 am): Our No. 1 priority since coming to office has been job creation. We have said that clearly every week we have been in this place. We are working with businesses to create jobs and grow industry. We inherited a 6.6 per cent unemployment rate from those opposite. The latest figures show the rate is at 6.4 per cent, a 0.1 per cent increase on the previously revised month. I have consistently said that we should be judging progress on trend figures, not the seasonally adjusted data. Why? Let me read to the House a statement someone made in January 2013 about the ABS jobs data—

... the seasonally adjusted estimates seemed volatile and it was important to look at trend figures ...

The same person again in March 2013 stated—

I have always maintained the seasonally adjusted series is volatile. It's important to look at the trend figures ...

Who said that? Campbell Newman's treasurer and now Leader of the Opposition, the member for Clayfield, and on this occasion I agree with him. I table the seasonally adjusted figures to show the volatility that we are dealing with.

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated February 2017, graph titled 'Queensland Trend Unemployment Rate (%) Persons' [\[444\]](#).

It did not take the former treasurer long to start cherrypicking and highlighting the seasonally adjusted or trend data, whichever suited him better as treasurer. We heard the member for Kawana say, 'Let's not let the facts get in the way of a good story.' Let us talk about some facts. On their preferred seasonally adjusted measure, unemployment got up to 7.1 per cent and it stayed at 6.7 per cent for four consecutive months in late 2014. That is what we are dealing with. They are hypocrites on the other side. The shadow Treasurer, the member for Indooroopilly, has learnt from the best. When it comes to the ABS data, he looks at the data that gives the worst possible impression. One month it could be trend; the next month it could be seasonally adjusted.

Campbell Newman compared us to Spain, but what those opposite clearly are all about is actually a little bit like *Little Britain*. It is as though the shadow Treasurer is channelling Vicky Pollard, 'What's this? The unemployment rate? Well yeah, but no, but yeah, but no. It's sumthin' or nuffin'. Trend, but seasonally adjusted? But trend, you know, whatever!' We know that is what they are about. They flip-flop between measures as it suits them.

The *Little Britain* similarities do not stop there. Every time we try to put something positive into this House we have a vote and then we hear from the Chief Opposition Whip. What does he say? 'The LNP says no.' That is all we get: negativity. It was the same situation during their time in government. They may be the only government we have ever had that was more negative about the economy when they were in government than when they were out of government.

What we need is for those opposite to get on board, get a plan together and actually get their federal colleagues to start doing some heavy lifting. Right now it is the state government that is doing all the heavy lifting when it comes to job creation. We on this side of the House are dedicated to job creation. We are going to continue to do that each and every day that we are in office.