




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) (2.22 pm): We are serious about job creation in Queensland and we are spending more than \$40 billion on public infrastructure over the next four years including a \$10.7 billion capital program for 2016-17 which will support 31,000 jobs. Contrary to the agenda of those with a vested interest in selling our prized state owned assets, the Queensland government has retained our assets and is doing the heavy lifting on infrastructure spending.

It is interesting when you compare total general government sector infrastructure spending between Queensland and New South Wales. Obviously there is going to be a difference given Queensland's population is around 4.8 million people and New South Wales is around 7.5 million people. It is more appropriate to compare infrastructure spending on a per capita basis. The latest budget projections including the midyear updates show that Queensland in 2019-20 will spend approximately \$1,177 per person on infrastructure in the general government sector. That is more per capita than every other state—\$170 per capita more than New South Wales and almost double Western Australia. That is a sustainable pipeline of infrastructure.

The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of creating jobs and growing our economy. The Premier and Minister for Education announced today that we will bring forward \$200 million in capital investment to fast-track state school infrastructure throughout Queensland. The Advancing Queensland Schools program will deliver for families with a works program including 98 school infrastructure projects with the construction and improvement of school halls a priority.

I also welcome Shell Australia's announcement yesterday that its QGC joint venture was investing in Queensland with Project Ruby, which is set to expand QGC's operations in the Surat Basin. Project Ruby will underpin 350 new and existing jobs in regional Queensland during the 16-month construction phase. We are either funding or backing large and regionally significant projects with economic benefits across the state including the \$21.7 billion Carmichael mine, with the potential to generate up to 10,000 jobs; the \$250 million North Queensland stadium, with 750 jobs generated; the \$512 million Logan Motorway enhancement project, with 1,300 jobs generated; the \$420 million Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2, with 934 jobs generated; the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf development with 2,000 construction jobs and 8,000 operational jobs generated; the \$1.1 billion Herston quarter redevelopment and health precinct, with 700 jobs generated per year; \$15 million towards Glencore's Mount Isa Mines smelter rebrick funded from the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, with around 400 jobs saved. The State Infrastructure Fund also has commitments of \$1.35 billion including \$850 million towards the Cross River Rail project, \$300 million for the Priority Economic Works and Productivity Program and \$180 million for the Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program. Well done, Deputy Premier!

Queensland is moving forward. The latest Deloitte Access Economics' *Investment monitor* shows \$152.2 billion worth of known projects in Queensland in the December quarter 2016. This ranks Queensland higher than New South Wales, with \$132.2 billion in projects and \$68.2 billion in Victoria. The Queensland government is growing the state economy, creating jobs and making sure Queensland remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.