



Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.21 pm): With less than three weeks to go to the 2017-18 state budget, a range of indicators confirm the strength and growth of the Queensland economy. The improved position of the Queensland economy is reflected in the Queensland State Accounts. The December quarter 2014 result, under the LNP, was 0.8 per cent growth over the previous year. This was the poorest performance since the global financial crisis and a legacy of the Newman LNP government. Under Labor, our economic plan to stimulate economic activity, create jobs and innovate is delivering results. The December quarter 2016 shows 2.6 per cent growth in trend gross state product over the previous year. This result is higher than the 1.8 per cent recorded in the rest of Australia.

State final demand was up 1.6 per cent over the year. This was the fourth consecutive positive quarter after eight consecutive negative quarters. While GSP takes into account our trade performance, state final demand does not so it is a good measure of the health of our state's domestic economy. When it comes to looking at business investment, significantly, there was a 0.5 per cent growth in business investment. This is the second consecutive rise in business investment after 11 quarterly falls. This is a good result for Queensland and one that we will continue to update Queenslanders about.

While Tropical Cyclone Debbie is estimated to have caused around \$2 billion in economic losses, the resilience and diversity of our state economy means we are still forecast to experience strong statewide growth. Our state's export performance is also evidence of our strong and growing economy. Higher coal prices drove nominal merchandise exports to a record high of \$59.3 billion in the 12 months to March 2017. That is a record. It is more than \$1 billion a week in export earnings.

The state's LNG industry continues to deliver real growth in overseas exports. Importantly, our strong export performance is not confined to resources, agriculture and other merchandise. We see more opportunities for tourism and education, in addition to the growth we are already experiencing. Queensland is increasingly seen as an attractive tourism destination in the growing Asian market. We all know how great Queensland is, and more and more people want to come and see Queensland for themselves. We also know the Queensland economy is undergoing an economic adjustment following the once-in-a-lifetime resources investment boom. This transition is not without challenges, particularly in regional Queensland. That is why our economic plan has been critical in supporting economic growth and seeing confidence return to Queensland households and businesses. That is why we have a suite of initiatives to promote Queensland, with more jobs and more economic opportunities, particularly in regional Queensland. This includes our Back to Work program, the regional jobs and growth program and Works for Queensland. We on this side of the House will continue to focus on job creation and on supporting regional communities and economies. I can assure Queenslanders that the state budget to be delivered on 13 June will be a budget for all Queenslanders, no matter where you live.