




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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MOTION: VEHICLE REGISTRATION

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.39 pm): I am not surprised to hear the LNP talking about adopting a pledge. Let us all be clear: we have heard this before. Those opposite may want to forget it, but we remember the 'Contract with Queensland'. I table a copy of that for the House.

Tabled paper: Contract with Queensland by Mr Campbell Newman, LNP Leader [804].

I will be talking very much about pledges because that is exactly what the LNP are claiming they will deliver on. What we know is that this document says, 'Keep this contract so you can hold us to account.' That was one of my favourite lines. We all know what voters did in the 2015 election. They did just that. Their 'contract' was full of pledges. By the last election, voters knew that the LNP just tears them up when it suits them.

Let us look at what the pledge from the LNP is worth. The LNP's No. 1 pledge in their contract with Queensland was to reduce unemployment to four per cent over six years. What actually happened? They inherited a trend unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent. It hit a high of 6.7 per cent under the LNP for four months, and they left it behind at 6.6 per cent. What happened to their pledge in their contract to reduce unemployment to four per cent? It was all too much hard work for the then treasurer, who dismissed it at as 'a stretch target'. He just gave up. Instead of putting in place programs like our Back to Work program and many other job-creating programs, he did not even bother trying—too lazy, no ideas, not interested.

On the other hand, we have created a net average 2,190 jobs a month where the LNP created just 830 a month. Remember they pledged no government worker had anything to fear from an LNP government. The first thing they did—

Mrs Frecklington: What about registration?

Mr PITT: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango, because what she is trying to do is deflect from the fact that this is all about the core issue of a pledge. This is about a promise. There is no point talking about a pledge when that pledge is not worth the paper it is written on.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Deputy Leader, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr PITT: Madam Deputy Speaker, I took the member's interjection. I was certainly replying to her. I am happy to repeat that. A pledge is only worth the paper it is written on. When it comes to the LNP we know that a pledge is not worth the paper it is written on. They pledged no government worker had anything to fear from an LNP government. The first thing they did was break the pledge and sack 14,000 people in their first budget. They pledged to extend the payroll tax exemption from \$1 million to \$1.6 million each year over six years. They stopped after year one. That was another pledge made and then broken.

Let us keep going through the pledges in their 'contract'. Another pledge was that the LNP would establish a Commission of Audit to get us back to a AAA credit rating. Is it too late to get our money back? First they chose a Liberal Party life member and the advocate and architect of the Howard government's assets sales, Peter Costello, to head up the so-called independent commission. Surprise, surprise—the commission recommended assets sales plus mass job cuts and cuts to front-line services. The only thing that the Commission of Audit delivered was a negative outlook applied to the state's credit rating after the 2012 state budget. It took a Labor government to get us back to a stable outlook. Our economic plan has seen that happen.

The next LNP pledge was to return the budget to surplus by 2014-15 and lower debt. Debt was higher by the end of their term and the budget was nowhere near surplus. Under Labor, debt is lower, our unemployment rate is down and growth is up. I have delivered two budgets in surplus, even before a spike in coal royalty prices, and I aim to do it again in the next state budget.

We also remember the cost-of-living pledge in their 'contract'. What really happened? There was a 43 per cent price rise in electricity bills, after promising everyone would save \$120 a year on their electricity bills. We have taken action. We have kept prices to a minimum 1.2 per cent per annum, below inflation, since we came to government.

The LNP 'contract' pledged to revitalise front-line services. They took an odd approach to that—sacking front-line workers and cutting services. They pledged to 'restore accountability'. They lifted the trigger point for declaring political donations from \$1,000 to \$12,400. Remember they changed the budget estimates process to have as many hearings at once just to make it difficult for the media and public to scrutinise them.

Yes, this is all about a pledge, but it is also about the indexation rate and it is also about car registration. Guess what was in the 2014 midyear fiscal review? There was a 3.5 per cent indexation policy across the forward estimates including car registration. What does that mean? That means that we are talking about an indexation of 3.5 per cent which is an LNP policy! They are trying to change history and change their own indexation rate and are asking us to do it for them. We said that we would adopt their policies because they built them into the forward estimates. It is the second or third time we have had this debate. They are complete political opportunists. No-one can trust a pledge the LNP put forward because it is not worth the paper that it is written on.