




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

Record of Proceedings, 25 May 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Budget

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.50 am): Confidence is king. The third state budget I will deliver on 13 June will continue the implementation of our economic plan that has helped rebuild business confidence in Queensland. Confidence is an essential ingredient in attracting new investment to expand existing industries and to generate new ones. It is also essential to encourage investment in innovation to establish new industries delivering jobs for the future. After slumping under the former government, confidence has made a comeback under the Palaszczuk government. The positive results in a range of surveys show our state is heading in the right direction.

Most recently the Suncorp CCIQ Pulse survey for the March quarter underlined the upturn in the state's economy by pointing to stronger business confidence. The Pulse survey showed business confidence rose 1.7 points to reach 49.4 on the survey's index. This is the highest it has been since December 2014. General business conditions rose by 6.3 points to reach 52.6—the highest since December 2009. The expectations for the June quarter of those surveyed was rated at 51.9, indicating that improving conditions are expected to remain steady. A major aim of our economic plan is to attract investment and innovation, leading to more jobs in our regional communities, so it was encouraging to see in the Pulse survey that 'caution and pessimism' is lifting across Queensland. The survey said that the 'substantial increase' in confidence in the March quarter 2017 followed the 'steep climb' seen in the December quarter 2016. Our government has focused on supporting regional communities and economies, so it is notable that the Pulse survey showed Queensland businesses in regional areas were more optimistic than those in South-East Queensland.

The NAB Monthly Business Survey is another indicator of the strong performance of our economy. It has placed Queensland highest or second highest in the nation on confidence for 26 out of the past 28 months. In addition, the latest Sensis Business Index survey showed confidence amongst Queensland small and medium business owners is at its highest level in seven years. These outcomes show the positive results of our economic plan and the initiatives in our two state budgets so far. These outcomes also show how important it is to any economy to have a government that interacts with business in a consultative and cooperative way. We took that approach in opposition and we have taken that same approach now that we are in office.

We have seen the negative results that flow from taking a panicky approach built around a fake budget emergency. We saw that approach recently here in Queensland as a justification for asset sales and also saw how it hits business confidence. Similarly, at the federal level we repeatedly heard the scare stories about the so-called budget emergency from former treasurer Joe Hockey. That approach is directly linked to the current lack of confidence and the view that the federal government has no coherent economic plan and is just drifting.

The third state budget that I will hand down on 13 June will build on our achievements so far in rebuilding business confidence. The budget will continue the sensible and disciplined economic management seen since the last election. It will continue our focus on encouraging job-generating investment and innovation and it will continue to build the positive relationship between the government and the business community. As I said earlier, all of the survey results show that Queensland is heading in the right direction under our economic plan.