



Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Budget

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.51 am): The 2017-18 Palaszczuk Labor government's state budget continues with the implementation of our economic plan to restore confidence, restore front-line services, create more jobs and incentivise stronger growth. Business confidence is up. Debt is lower than forecast under the former government. Unemployment is lower. We have created nearly 60,000 net new jobs since the 2015 election. Despite suggestions from those opposite on Tuesday that the economy had shrunk by \$30 billion, with real gross state product at over \$320 billion our economy is growing.

We know that we need to create more jobs and economic opportunities, particularly in regional Queensland. The combination of jobs programs and infrastructure spending will deliver inclusive growth, and these infrastructure projects will incentivise more investment and more jobs. This budget supports around 40,000 jobs in 2017-18.

What do others have to say about this budget? The Property Council has said—

The Queensland State Budget ... contained several positive initiatives for the property industry ...

On Cross River Rail it said—

... the biggest news of the day was the Government's commitment to go it alone on Cross River Rail ...

...

... the decision to move forward and deliver CRR is supported.

It welcomed the extension of the First Home Owners' Grant and said—

This is a great example of a program not only supporting Queenslanders into their first home, but also leveraging the job generating capacity of the property industry.

The LGAQ has said that councils welcome the state budget's local jobs boost, in particular Works for Queensland, as we have heard from the Deputy Premier. LGAQ chief executive Greg Hallam said—

All up, this is a Budget that is well-considered and well-targeted to helping those regional communities that need it most.

The deputy CEO of Master Builders, Paul Bidwell, said—

We came hoping the treasurer would provide some support, some additional work, for the building sector—and he's done that ...

He gave the budget 7¼ out of 10. Mark Goodsell, acting Queensland director of AIG, said—

From an industry point of view the budget ticks a number of important boxes. In infrastructure, in energy, and also maintaining the social contract is an important underpinning for economic growth ...

The chief executive of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, Daniel Gschwind, said—

The 2017-18 Queensland Budget has recognised tourism's role as a critical driver of jobs and regional development, supported with investment across a range projects and industry development initiatives.

He went on to say—

We are very pleased to see a significant boost to investment in new visitor infrastructure in National Parks with \$35 million allocated over the next two years—QTIC made a strong economic case for this investment which will also support conservation outcomes.

AMA Queensland president Dr Bill Boyd said—

We feel that we're happy with this Budget. We're pleased that the Government has seen fit to significantly increase the Health budget for Queenslanders.

Margy Osmond from the Tourism & Transport Forum said—

In handing down yesterday's 2017-18 Queensland Budget, the Palaszczuk Government sent a strong message that it recognised the potential of the tourism and transport sectors to create jobs, grow the visitor economy and deliver critical infrastructure ...

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia Chief Executive Brendan Lyon said—

The Queensland Government deserves credit for finding the money for the Cross River Rail project—and for lifting general infrastructure funding ...

I could go on and on. There are comments from the Queensland Teachers' Union, Independent Schools Queensland, the Queensland Council of Unions and CCIQ. McCullough Robertson Lawyers got in there as well. The point is: it is not about this government telling people how good the budget is; stakeholders and people in the community are saying how good this budget is. That is the most important measure of all. This budget has to hit the ground, be effective in the economy and, of course, demonstrate that we have listened to stakeholders—something those opposite never did.