



Speech By  
**Hon. Curtis Pitt**


**MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2017

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Jobs

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.52 am): This week's state budget is part of our economic plan that is delivering jobs for Queensland. We promised to generate jobs now and for the future. The ABS figures released yesterday show we are doing that. The figures for May show a net 69,300 jobs have been created under the Palaszczuk government's economic plan since the state election. That equates to 2,470 jobs on average each month.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate for May remained steady at 6.3 per cent, where it has been since January, based on figures revised by the ABS. On the more volatile seasonally adjusted measure, the rate was 6.1 per cent—down from 6.3 per cent in April. The unemployment rate for May is still lower than the 6.6 per cent this government inherited from the former government. The LNP promised a four per cent trend rate over six years. Instead, they watched Queensland's trend unemployment rate rise 1.1 percentage points from 5.5 per cent in March 2012 to 6.6 per cent in January 2015. The former LNP government had the wrong economic plan and the wrong policies to achieve that goal. It simply gave up its target as being too hard.

All three state budgets I have delivered have several things in common—funding employment support programs and initiatives that encourage economic growth and business investment to generate jobs. There is one thing I have never included in any of them—that is the loss of 14,000 jobs. We said there was a better way, and with this week's budget we have proved it again. The latest ABS figures are proof. The 2017-18 state budget is estimated to support 40,000 jobs across the state in 2017-18.

What we have seen in trend terms in the ABS data is our state growing by 5,900 in the month of May—a rise of 0.2 per cent. Trend full-time employment was up by 3,600, or 0.2 per cent. Trend part-time employment was up by 2,300, or 0.3 per cent. In annual terms there were 31,100 more jobs in May 2017 than in May 2016. Overall we have created a net 69,300 jobs—that is more than double the 29,100 jobs created by the LNP in their first term in office. In fact, we have created more in the last year than they did over their entire term. This is contrary to the LNP's alternative facts which say we have lost 30,000 jobs.

These figures all confirm the Palaszczuk government is on the right path with a comprehensive range of programs in the 2017-18 state budget and the first two budgets including: \$42.75 billion over four years for job-creating infrastructure across the state and supporting regional economies; \$4.8 billion for infrastructure allocated to Mackay, the outback, Far North Queensland, Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Darling Downs and Townsville that will directly support 14,500 jobs; more than \$3.8 billion for roads and transport projects; \$2.8 billion to start the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project; \$604 million for school facilities; and \$916 million for Health capital works. All of these projects, together with our targeted jobs programs like Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work, are aimed at creating more job opportunities, more growth and economic activity right across our state.