




Speech By
Hon. Curtis Pitt

MEMBER FOR MULGRAVE

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Jobs

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.04 am): Through our economic plan and three state budgets we are continuing to deliver on our commitment to boost growth, restore confidence, encourage innovation and investment and create jobs. ABS figures show our trend unemployment rate was steady in July at 6.3 per cent, which is down from the 6.6 per cent we inherited and the 6.7 per cent peak it hit for four months in 2014 under the former LNP government. The big take-out message is that the latest figures show 94,500 net new jobs have been created since the last election. This means that the number of jobs created by the Palaszczuk Labor government is more than three times the number created under the Newman-Nicholls LNP government. I will repeat that: the number of jobs created by the Palaszczuk Labor government is more than three times the number created under the Newman-Nicholls LNP government. That means that 3,150 net new jobs have been created on average each month since January 2015, including 500 full-time jobs.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members who have props, you will be warned under standing order 253A if I see any more of those. I would ask you to keep those on your tables or put them elsewhere. It is not on. I am not going to turn this into a circus.

Mr PITT: The latest Queensland State Accounts show Queensland's trend GSP growth at 1.2 per cent in the March quarter, or 3.9 per cent higher over the previous 12 months. Trade figures show a record \$65.9 billion in merchandise exports over the year to June, which is well over \$1 billion a week. This is important, because one in five Queensland jobs are supported by exports. While exports contribute to our strong and growing economy, our state's domestic economy is also rebounding and a vital ingredient in growth—business confidence—has been rebuilt. The NAB Monthly Business Survey shows our state with the highest or second-highest confidence levels in the nation for 29 of the past 31 months.

We will continue to create and support jobs through initiatives such as our \$42.75 billion Capital Works Program over the next four years. Our Works for Queensland program, Building our Regions and our Jobs and Regional Growth Fund are helping to create jobs in regional communities. Programs such as our Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund, market-led proposals and the Business Development Fund are playing their part right across our state. Last week in Townsville the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland and the members for Townsville and Thuringowa joined me to welcome news that SeaLink's \$56 million market-led proposal for a new ferry terminal has been advanced to stage 2 under our assessment framework. There are now eight MLPs that have progressed to stage 2 or final approval, worth a total of more than \$1 billion and generating more than 1,800 jobs in construction.

Our Business Development Fund has so far seen the government invest \$14.9 million in 13 firms. This has been matched by private sector co-investors to help them take their bright ideas to markets in Australia and around the world. Firms like legal software developer Lawcadia, the online school literacy platform developer Intrepica Group and Tritium, the maker of electric vehicle chargers, are all creating jobs of the future.

Our Back to Work program has expanded to South-East Queensland and supports employers who hire unemployed jobseekers, including those aged 15-24. Back to Work had an original target of 8,000 jobs over two years, but it has seen more than 6,500 Queenslanders secure jobs since July 2016. Thanks to our \$20,000 Back to Work Youth Boost—which has been extended to 31 October—Gordonvale State High School graduate Shalissa Pryor is now working with IFYS Foster Care as a business administration officer after completing an Australian Training Works traineeship. When I was in Rockhampton with Minister Grace Grace we met with Matt McGuire, who has started a whole new career with metallurgical consultants A&B Mylec. A Cairns legal firm, Law Solutions, has set up a new business called Nexus Labs and taken advantage of our Back to Work incentives to help staff it. The business creates apps, websites and other platforms to bring to life and to market innovative ideas. It was great to meet employees Jamie, Trent and Jordan, who have all finished their final year of technology studies at James Cook University's Cairns campus and immediately landed on their feet.

Our economic plan is working to lift growth, build confidence, foster innovation and investment and generate jobs—not just jobs now but also jobs for the future. We recognise there is more to do, particularly in our regional communities, to ensure that our growth is more inclusive as our state transitions to a post mining boom economy. I can give Queenslanders a commitment that the Palaszczuk government will continue its job-creating efforts each and every day.