




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Record of Proceedings, 8 August 2017

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL:
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (3.32 pm): I can tell the member for Mermaid Beach that that is not what racing industry participants say to me. They reckon that I am probably one of the best racing ministers they have seen in recent times. I can tell the House that we are delivering in spades. No matter how much spin the member for Mermaid Beach puts on it, the reality tells a different story, because that track was laid when the LNP was in government. Dale Monteith's report clearly states that government funding cutbacks to the program was one of the major reasons they had to compromise. It started with the grass, the sand and the maintenance, when we were not even in government. The member should not come in here and put the blame for the Eagle Farm track on me as minister. Members should read that report, which is available publicly. What it says is the complete opposite of what the member for Mermaid Beach said. I will stake my reputation on getting that track back on track, the way that Labor does things, that is, sensibly, through listening and by getting in the experts. By the end of it, we will have a first-class Eagle Farm track because we will deliver on expert advice, rather than on cutbacks and the shambolic ad hoc arrangements such as were put in place by the previous LNP government.

The LNP members' questioning at estimates and their statement of reservation in the final report show just what a lazy and incompetent opposition they are. They are an opposition that is still in denial about their abysmal jobs record. I would love to have seen the member for Kawana's enthusiasm for jobs when they were in government. It is interesting that they come in here and talk about jobs, jobs, jobs, yet their record is disgraceful, sacking 14,000 public servants. They cherrypick figures. They say, 'You've lost this many jobs' or 'You've lost that many jobs', but the substance of their argument is pitiful. There is no substance whatsoever in what they say.

The figures and the percentages are undeniable. For their benefit, I remind them of the facts. According to the ABS, in trend terms, 77,300 new jobs have been created in Queensland since we were elected in January 2015. If you take the figure when we started and the figure as it stands now, the difference is 77,300. Maybe the member for Kawana can take note of how to do those figures properly. That figure is more than double the figure of 29,100 from the LNP's whole term in government. They come in here crying that the ALP is doing nothing about jobs. They have more front than Myer to come in here and talk like that after their abysmal record. In fact, over the past 12 months, 43,300 new jobs have been created. In trend terms, in June 2017 employment rose by 7,000 jobs. The really good-news stuff that they do not want to cherrypick is that, of those 7,000, 5,100 were full-time jobs.

Our Back to Work program is all about secure full-time and permanent part-time positions. So far, 6,234 jobs are being supported under the program. The member talks about youth. Do members want to know how many jobs we are providing for youth under that program? It is now 3,462 jobs. Because of its success, we have brought the program into South-East Queensland. You cannot make those opposite happy: when it was a regionally based program, they would complain that we had not

brought it into South-East Queensland; now that we have brought it into South-East Queensland, they complain that we have done that. However, I am not here to make those opposite happy. I am here to do what Labor does best, that is, deliver for Queensland, employ people and get them into jobs, and we are doing that in spades.

We have a great multicultural policy. The CALD community is obtaining jobs. Our charter and our action plan are delivering for those in the multicultural community. The racing community has never had it so good, even though the LNP left me with one of the worst 30-year deals. Who does a 30-year deal these days? I will tell members who: the LNP! That is one of the reasons they are sitting over there. The fact is that we have delivered the Racing Infrastructure Fund and racing will only go from strength to strength.

(Time expired)