



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 5 September 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Jobs**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.55 am): Since 2015, 164,500 jobs have been created in Queensland. We have well and truly turned around the fortunes of Queenslanders when under the LNP 14,000 public servants were sacked and key job programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work were axed. We have proven that with our investment in employment and training Queensland can power the nation's employment growth. For more than 20 months in a row we have seen positive employment growth in our state. We have powered this growth with programs like Back to Work. With more than \$175 million in this year's budget, we will continue Back to Work until 30 June 2020 and continue to support local employers with the confidence to grow and create jobs through Back to Work. Almost 16,000 jobs have been supported under this program.

Through our Advancing Queensland Priorities the Palaszczuk government has committed to directly supporting more than 60,000 jobs every year, and we are well on our way thanks to the ongoing investment in this year's budget. The Palaszczuk government has delivered on our election commitments to boost Skilling Queenslanders for Work—and we have heard today from the Premier about how successful that program is—and of course to continue Back to Work, both programs slated for the chopping block under the LNP's election costings. We have also laid out \$45 billion in productivity enhancing capital works over the next four years. The \$11.6 billion alone is estimated to directly support 38,000 jobs. Investments over the four years include flagship projects such as Cross River Rail, the Cairns Convention Centre, upgrades to the M1 and the Townsville stadium. We are going to make sure it is Queenslanders continuing to fill these jobs.

This year TAFE has once again worked with the Queensland government to offer the Advance Queensland—TAFE Queensland Pathways Scholarships program. It is a two-year, \$300,000 initiative designed to encourage students to complete both a TAFE Queensland qualification and a university study in STEM related careers that includes nursing, engineering, science and technology. These are skills that we know Queenslanders will need to fill the jobs of the future. Whether it is TAFE scholarships, free TAFE, Skilling Queenslanders for Work, payroll tax rebates for apprentices and trainees or Back to Work grants, the Palaszczuk government is making sure Queenslanders have the training opportunities and skills to get the jobs we are creating right here in Queensland.