




Speech By
Jennifer Howard

MEMBER FOR IPSWICH

Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2019

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Ipswich Electorate, Jobs

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.03 pm): I want to talk about the great work being done by the Palaszczuk government to boost employment prospects for people in Ipswich. Our government is one that looks after workers and looks after those who need a helping hand getting into the job market. I know that many people in my electorate want more jobs or need more hours of work to get by, and we are delivering on that front. Under the Campbell Newman government, unemployment in Ipswich peaked at 10.7 per cent. Under the Palaszczuk government, unemployment in Ipswich has dropped to 8.7 per cent. In 2014 Ipswich's youth unemployment was a scandalous 19.3 per cent. Our government has reduced that to 12 per cent.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms HOWARD: Yes, both are still too high, but it is significant progress. It is a significant amount of progress in the jobs market and I for one am very proud to see unemployment go down. We still have a way to go, but it is clearly progressing.

Today more kids in Ipswich are finding jobs because of fantastic employment initiatives put in place by our government such as the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. In my own electorate I have seen how young people are benefiting enormously from that program through projects such as the Get Set for Work project which the Ipswich Community Youth Service and TAFE deliver. This is a program that the LNP twice wanted to scrap. I want to take a moment to thank Amanda Margerison and her team from the ICYS for doing a wonderful job supporting and guiding hundreds of young people in Ipswich and giving them a second chance. In the recent round of funding, ICYS, Ipswich Community Youth Service, has been able to expand its Get Set for Work program to 41 places. Since reintroducing Skilling Queenslanders for Work in 2015, the program has supported more than 1,600 Ipswich people and I truly believe that the program has directly resulted in the large drop in youth unemployment in Ipswich.

Our government is also delivering jobs for workers in Ipswich by attracting big name projects in defence, manufacturing, construction, logistics, health and education. Ipswich is projected to be one of the top job growth regions in Queensland, with 18,200 jobs set to be created in Ipswich by 2023. That is a growth rate of 11.3 per cent.

Rheinmetall will generate more than 450 local jobs to build the 200 Boxer CRVs at Redbank and the Palaszczuk government is again supporting Rheinmetall's new bid for a \$15 billion contract to deliver phase 3 of the Land 400 program in Ipswich. If successful, this project will support thousands of jobs in Ipswich until at least 2032.

Some 200 jobs will be based at the new TAE Aerospace facility currently being built in Bundamba. Australia Post will bring in 500 jobs when it opens its new distribution and sorting centre at Redbank. This level of investment in Ipswich is unprecedented and a credit to this government. I want to thank

the Premier and the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development as well as the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Cameron Dick.