



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 May 2019

**MOTION**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (5.05 pm): I rise to oppose this motion and, in doing so, I am very proud to put the Palaszczuk government's record before the House. More than 192,000 jobs have been created since we were elected in 2015. Over the year Queensland has recorded the third largest rate of annual jobs growth across the country. That has all been part of 30 consecutive months of jobs growth in Queensland. That is a record that those opposite can only dream of.

The LNP had only three policies when it came to training, skills and jobs in Queensland: cut, sack and sell. Unemployment rose from 5.5 per cent to 6.6 per cent and 30,000 more Queenslanders were thrown onto the unemployment queue under those opposite. They were economic wreckers and job destroyers. Small business confidence was rocked by their cuts and chaos. It is also now being rocked by the cuts and chaos created by the federal LNP government, fuelled by their inability to settle on a national energy policy and the dodgy deals they are doing with Clive Palmer.

Despite the circus that is the LNP in Canberra, the Palaszczuk government has been focused on ensuring small business can succeed and employ more Queenslanders. This year's budget ensured Queenslanders pay less tax per capita than the southern states. It included \$40 million for a Business Development Fund; continued delivery of the \$650 million Advance Queensland agenda; \$26 million to extend the payroll tax rebates for apprentices and trainees; and \$3.9 billion to extend the wonderful partnership that we have with CCIQ and the ecoBiz program that makes it easier for small business to manage waste and energy costs.

There are also our small business grants. In every electorate I travel to meeting with local members they are so proud to talk about their small businesses doing their bit to grow jobs in local economies, and it is our small business grants that are helping them grow and thrive. We have assisted 2,400 businesses with them telling us that it will help them create nearly 5,000 jobs. The LNP took small businesses in Queensland for granted. It would have all been at risk with the member for Nanango promising to cut \$1½ million from our Advancing Small Business agenda at the last election. Who can forget they slashed the small business commissioner when in government?

Today's motion shows that the LNP clearly are not the sharpest tools in the shed. This week we marked Back to Work's 19,000th Queenslanders getting a job—19,000 Queenslanders back to work—so they decide this week is the week they want to talk about jobs and the economy. We all know the LNP has had it in for Back to Work since day one. Their election costings scrapped the program altogether. That is 19,000 Queenslanders who would not have a job. That is 12½ thousand young unemployed Queenslanders who would still be in the unemployment queue.

We know that not only did the LNP have it in for Back to Work; it also went to the last election promising to scrap Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Our record is more than \$175 million to continue and expand the Back to Work program. I am very pleased that we also have expanded the Skilling

Queenslanders for Work program, a program slashed by those opposite in government. Deloitte Economics said that for every dollar spent on Skilling Queenslanders for Work \$8 was returned to the Queensland economy. It was a no-brainer. It was a program that worked everywhere across Queensland. Our wonderful NGO partners said, 'Thank you so much for bringing back Skilling Queenslanders for Work and for providing training pathways for young Queenslanders.'

I am pleased to inform the House that since the Palaszczuk government reinstated the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program in 2015 we have assisted more than 40,000 Queenslanders who struggled to find the right opportunity to get the needed skills and training to start their dream career. More than 28,000 participants in a program that members opposite were going to scrap again have a job or are engaged in further training as a direct result of the program. There were 700 jobs in the last month alone. Members opposite wanted to scrap Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work. They have absolutely no plan for the economy, jobs or skills. All they know is cut, sack and sell.