



Speech By  
**Tim Mander**


**MEMBER FOR EVERTON**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Unemployment**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.13 pm): Today's unemployment figures show that once again Queensland has lost the interstate contest. Under the Palaszczuk government 178,000 people in Queensland are looking for employment. This is the highest figure in Queensland history. Queensland's unemployment rate is 6.6 per cent compared to the national rate of 5.3 per cent and our New South Wales and Victorian counterparts rate of 4.5 per cent and 4.8 per cent respectively. These figures speak for themselves.

It is no wonder that unemployment is as high as it is in this state. Under the Palaszczuk government, for the last five years they have introduced or increased 10 taxes, taking \$3.5 billion out of the economy. This affects confidence and a lack of confidence means there is a lack of business investment, which means there is a lack of jobs. These figures are astonishing. We have been now stuck around 6.5 or 6.6 per cent for month on month on month. That is simply not good enough.

There are other figures that are extremely alarming. Over the past year Queensland has also had the largest increase in the number of long-term unemployed residents of any state in this nation. While the number of Queenslanders who have been looking for work for more than a year has increased by 13 per cent over the last year, the number in New South Wales has decreased by 19 per cent and the number in Victoria by 18 per cent.

These figures are damning and they speak to the economic performance of the Palaszczuk government. This government is the least popular government with small and medium size businesses. They are sick of the government changing the goalposts. They are sick of the length of time it takes to get approvals. They are sick of the undue influence of trade unions.

We now have the highest unemployment rate in the country. We have passed Tasmania and the ACT, which held that disgraceful position before these last figures. Only the LNP will stimulate the economy and create the jobs that Queenslanders are desperately looking for.