



Speech By  
**Aaron Harper**


**MEMBER FOR THURINGOWA**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Townsville, Business Confidence**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.03 pm): With the indulgence of the House, I wish my wife, Amanda, who I know is watching right now with her work mates in Townsville, a very happy birthday.

**Mr Saunders:** How old is she?

**Mr HARPER:** A gentleman never discloses the age of his wife. Needless to say, I am constantly reminded that I will always be older than her. I hear that the flowers have arrived. I hope she has a great day and the kids spoil her. I cannot wait to get home. Amanda, I love you very much.

'Business confidence soars after government stimulus in Townsville'. That is the heading from an article in the *Townsville Bulletin* dated 16 February. I will table that article for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 16 February 2021, titled 'Business confidence soars after government stimulus in Townsville' [407](#).

The article states—

A survey of business confidence in Townsville has recorded its second-highest result in 30 years.

The PVW Partners Townsville Business Confidence Change Index soared 10 points to about 113 in its outlook for the March quarter.

The firm's managing partner, Carl Valentine, said the results were extremely positive.

"Business confidence is at its highest in 14 years. The last time we saw results this positive was right before the Global Financial Crisis in 2007," Mr Valentine said.

That is a remarkable change and I can tell the House why business confidence is soaring. It is because of this Labor government's investment in our regional city of Townsville. It is because of the investment of billions of dollars in infrastructure. It is because of the COVID adaptation grants that were given to 913 businesses to keep their doors open in the past year and that of course resulted in over \$8 million worth of investment. It is because we are investing in CopperString, the stadium and Riverway Drive. It is because we are creating jobs and we are investing in our city.

The article also states—

Mr Valentine said JobKeeper, Cash Flow Boost and grants like HomeBuilder has really helped keep the Townsville business community alive and accelerated the recovery from the business restrictions imposed in response to COVID-19.

Of course, JobKeeper ends on Sunday. I hold grave fears for many people in my community of Townsville who will no longer receive those payments. There will be an impact on our local businesses in Townsville. Again I call on the Prime Minister to do something to ensure that those payments continue in some form or another for our tourism and hospitality industries. It is a great boost of confidence for our city to see that the investment that the Labor government has made is paying off in jobs. It is a huge investment. I cannot wait to deliver some of the commitments from last election such as Riverway Drive stage 2.