



Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**


**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 September 2021

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

### **Job Creation**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (10.15 am): Once again, economic data has revealed that Queensland continues to lead the nation thanks to our strong health response to the delta strain of COVID-19. The confidence of consumers has never been more important as federal vaccine supply finally allows us to contemplate reducing restrictions as we recover from COVID. It means Queenslanders have confidence to go out for dinner, for a drink or to see a live performance, while keeping their loved ones safe. It means the businesses those consumers support are confident they can invest in new projects and hire more workers.

Yesterday, the Westpac-Melbourne Institute Consumer Sentiment Index showed that Queensland was again leading the nation. Our index level is 111.6, which, I am pleased to advise the House, is the highest in the country. That index level rose by 8.4 per cent on the August level—the highest increase in Australia. Compared to September 2020, consumer sentiment in Queensland rose 18.7 per cent—again, the biggest increase in the country.

Businesses are also optimistic about Queensland's recovery. The latest NAB Monthly Business Survey shows that Queensland business conditions are a remarkable 19 points above the national average. Queensland business confidence remains above neutral, which is higher than the national average, and well above the New South Wales figure of negative nine points. When people have the confidence to go out and spend and businesses have conditions conducive to investment that means more jobs.

Since the pandemic started, 95,000 more people in Queensland have jobs. That is a 3.7 per cent increase from March 2020. No other state or territory has created more jobs than Queensland. In fact, New South Wales has seen employment go backwards compared to March 2020. In Queensland, we understand and have demonstrated that the best health response leads to the best economic response. Queenslanders know this and remain confident that the recovery remains on track. The challenge ahead is tough, but if we continue to work together and continue to get vaccinated, we will pull through this, stronger and better than before.