




Speech By
Christopher Whiting

MEMBER FOR BANCROFT

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ADJOURNMENT

Housing and Construction Sector

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.27 pm): The Queensland housing and construction sector is booming. At dawn in my area of Bancroft, local traffic is nearly all tradies' utes and builders' trucks. In December and January at North Harbour in Burpengary East over 100 home sites were settled, and over the course of 2020 some 250 home sites were settled in this new township. It is the same all over Queensland. New housing approvals are 70 per cent higher now than they were in March 2020. New loan commitments for owner-occupiers are now 51 per cent higher than in March 2020.

We are experiencing the highest investment in new homes since 1994 and this means more jobs for Queenslanders. We have the strongest jobs recovery in the nation, with 224,000 jobs returning since May last year. The total number of full-time jobs has now recovered to pre-pandemic levels. There are now 275,000 additional jobs in Queensland compared to when the Palaszczuk government came to office. This housing and jobs growth is not an accident; it is from the hard work of the Palaszczuk government. The Palaszczuk government's strong health response has been the platform for our economic recovery. We have created an interstate migration boom. Some 88 per cent of interstate migrants, as we heard today from the Treasurer, are coming to Queensland.

Mr McCallum interjected.

Mr WHITING: This is the place for them to be—I take that interjection—and this is fuelling construction and confidence in our great state. We have helped create that confidence through our administration of the HomeBuilder program, our First Home Owners' Grant and our regional Building Boost. That is why consumer confidence is rising in Queensland and that is why our streets are filled with builders' trucks and tradies' utes.

Every time we talk about the economic recovery under the Palaszczuk government we hear members of the Queensland LNP saying, 'Thank you, ScoMo. Thank you, Prime Minister, for that.' Let us give those opposite a reality check. The states have done their fair share of heavy lifting to build our national economic recovery. The state share of national debt will rise from an average of 13 per cent 10 years ago to 29 per cent by 2024. We have borrowed and invested and we have stimulated the economy. We can do this because state government debt was lower before the COVID-19 recession.

During the address-in-reply debate LNP members have constantly bemoaned the size of our debt, yet this was the economic instrument that has built the platform for economic recovery across Australia. Those opposite forget that the federal Liberals doubled the federal debt before the pandemic.