




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 10 May 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Job Creation

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.54 am): At the outset, I associate myself with the comments of the Premier and the Attorney-General in relation to the government's response to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce report—an important investment by our government; the sort of investment our government can make because of the strength of the Queensland economy and everything we have been able to do to recover from COVID-19. I am proud to be part of a government that is attacking the scourge of domestic and family violence wherever it appears, including in the City of Logan.

Each week we see more evidence of the strength of Queensland's nation-leading economic recovery from COVID-19. Labour force figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics for the month of March show that Queensland added 8,000 jobs in that month. That is more than any other state or territory. Those 8,000 jobs take the total number of Queensland jobs created across the two years of the pandemic to 160,700. That is also more than any other state or territory, and it is more than New South Wales and Victoria combined.

Time and time again, we see Queensland punching above its weight. Queensland business conditions and confidence—as measured by the NAB business survey—have rebounded from their pandemic depths two years ago. In the March quarter 2022, the National Australia Bank found Queensland business confidence was the second highest in the nation. It also found that Queensland business conditions led the national average.

Queensland has achieved these results because of the hard work and dedication of Queensland businesses and Queenslanders themselves. They did what had to be done to get us through the pandemic and now we are reaping the rewards of the rebound. We have done that despite the toxic twosome we have been relentlessly served up by Scott Morrison across those two years. Scott Morrison has comprehensively failed to deliver Queensland our fair share of funding for vital infrastructure and services such as health. At the same time, Scott Morrison has taken every available opportunity to take cheap shots and denigrate our health response and our strong borders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: The LNP may laugh, but almost every week during the pandemic we faced criticism and condemnation from Scott Morrison and the federal coalition because of our strong health response. It is precisely because of our strong health response that we now lead the nation when it comes to economic recovery. Queensland's economic strength has been achieved despite Scott Morrison and the LNP, not because of them. Imagine what we would be able to do as a state, what we would be able to achieve with a supportive, consultative, constructive Albanese Labor government in Canberra, working with Queensland and not against us.

Mr Nicholls: When did you join the Left faction?

Mr Dick: And I'm the Treasurer and you're not. How did that work for you?

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Clayfield, you are warned under the standing orders. Treasurer, you are warned under the standing orders. Let me remind ministers that ministerial statements should not be party political. They should also be very much about matters of public interest. I reiterate that for the benefit of all ministers.