




Speech By
Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE

Record of Proceedings, 28 October 2022

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Labour Force Data

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.48 am): Queensland's economic performance continues to demonstrate the strength of our ongoing economic recovery. Nowhere is this borne out more clearly than in yesterday's release of regional labour force data by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Ms Palaszczuk: Tell us about it!

Mr DICK: I will; thank you, Premier. In the year to September 2022, many regions of Queensland have experienced big surges in jobs growth and big falls in unemployment. Even as the number of people in the labour market surged by 3.7 per cent, unemployment in Townsville has halved to 2.6 per cent. That means an extra 11,800 people in Townsville have a job today compared to a year ago, an increase of 10 per cent.

In Cairns it is a similar story, with the number of people in jobs rising by over 10,000. On the Sunshine Coast, with an extra 8,500 people in jobs, unemployment is down to 2.9 per cent. On the Gold Coast, the number of people in work is 15,100 higher than it was a year ago. This strong jobs growth is also being seen in outer suburban areas as well. In Moreton Bay North, employment growth is almost 11 per cent, with 11,500 more people in work than in September 2021. In good news for ministers de Brenni, Fentiman and Enoch and the members for Macalister, Logan, Jordan and Scenic Rim, I am very proud to say that our community, Logan-Beaudesert, has experienced the strongest jobs growth in Queensland. There are now 17,800 more people in work in Logan-Beaudesert than there were in September 2021, an increase of 11.1 per cent.

Queenslanders know the best way to tackle the rising cost of living is to get a job or find a better job. For those who need more assistance, our government has invested in a program of \$6.8 billion in concessions, an increase of more than 10 per cent this year alone. Our government delivers these concessions because it is the right thing to do. We can deliver these concessions because of the strength of our economy. The Palaszczuk Labor government is proud to have delivered the strongest performing economy in the nation. Our record jobs growth, the highest of any state or territory, is backed up by our record budget surplus. As the federal Treasurer made clear on Monday night, the path ahead is not smooth. Geopolitical and economic storms lie ahead—and actual storms too as we approach a third successive La Nina event. For whatever lies ahead Queenslanders are battle hardened. We are ready. Queenslanders know the Palaszczuk Labor government will be with them every step of the way.