

## **Question on Notice**

**No. 101**

**Asked on 4 March 2014**

**MR PUCCI ASKED THE TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE (MR NICHOLLS)—**

### **QUESTION:**

Will the Treasurer outline how the resurgent Queensland economy is easing the cost of living and providing more employment opportunities for residents in Logan?

### **ANSWER:**

Since March 2012, the economic policies of the Newman Government have encouraged sustainable economic growth and supported long term job creation. A strong Queensland economy leads to better employment opportunities which, in conjunction with targeted policy measures, can ease the cost of living pressures on Queensland families.

Thanks to this Government, the people of Logan have benefited from a number of measures aimed at improving the cost of living, including:

- freezing their car registration fees for three years from 2012-13 – saving a family with a 6 cylinder car \$23.85 in 2013-14.
- reinstating the principal place of residence concessional rate for stamp duty, providing savings of up to \$7,175 when buying a home. (Cost \$917 million over four years).
- a one-off water rebate of \$80 to households supplied by the SEQ bulk water grid.
- freezing the standard electricity tariff in 2012-13 saving families an average of \$120.
- the decision to halve public transport fare increases that had been due in 2013 and 2014. (Cost \$158.2 million over four years).
- allowing passengers on the TransLink network to travel free after nine journeys in a week. (Cost \$39 million over four years).

The Government is investing in local infrastructure and supporting local jobs. In 2013-14, the Newman Government's capital expenditure budget for the Logan-Beaudesert region was more than \$380 million and a further \$46.7 million in capital grants. An example of this investment is in health services, including an upgrade to the Logan hospital, expanding emergency department capacity, and the construction of a mental health community care unit in Logan.

Since March 2012, the Queensland Government has been creating the right conditions for economic growth.

To encourage the construction of new dwellings and assist people into their first home, the Great Start Grant provides \$15,000 for first home buyers who buy or build an eligible new home. The Great Start Grant is benefiting the local construction industry by encouraging the construction of new dwellings. The total number of private dwellings approved for construction in Logan in 2013 was 11.6% higher than that recorded in 2012.

In summary, the economic policies implemented by this Government have benefited the people of Logan because they create the right conditions for economic growth while alleviating cost of living pressures on Queensland families. As a result, Queensland is expected to become the fastest growing State by 2014-15. In fact, the latest Queensland State Accounts show that Queensland recorded trend economic growth of 4.1% in the year to September 2013, more than double the rate of growth for rest of Australia.