

PAYROLL TAX REBATE SCHEME (JOBS ACTION PLAN) AMENDMENT (EXTENSION) BILL 2015

Bill introduced on motion by Ms Gladys Berejiklian, read a first time and printed.

Second Reading

Ms GLADYS BEREJIKLIAN (Willoughby—Treasurer, and Minister for Industrial Relations) [3.16 p.m.]: I move:

That the bill be now read a second time.

The bill delivers on the Government's election commitment to encourage job creation and further strengthen the New South Wales economy. The bill provides for an amendment to the Payroll Tax Rebate Scheme (Jobs Action Plan) Act 2011 to extend the closure date of the Jobs Action Plan by four years from 30 June 2015 to 30 June 2019. When this Government was elected in 2011 we made a commitment to create 100,000 jobs in New South Wales. A key platform in the delivery of this objective was the Jobs Action Plan scheme. The scheme provides an incentive for businesses to employ new workers and encourages employers to expand their operations in New South Wales.

Since this Government came to office, around 188,000 jobs have been created. Data on the Jobs Action Plan shows that up to the end of April 2015, more than 101,000 Jobs Action Plan registrations have been received.

Rebates paid to date total around \$93 million. In the metropolitan area, the local government area [LGA] of Sydney records the largest number of registrations at 21,814. This is followed by North Sydney at 5,911 and Blacktown at 3,297. I am pleased to say that out of the top 10 metropolitan LGAs, four LGAs are from Western Sydney. They include Blacktown with 3,297, Parramatta with 2,729, Auburn with 2,514 and Liverpool with 2,254. In regional New South Wales the top LGAs include Lake Macquarie with 1,708, Maitland with 1,400, Wagga Wagga with over 1,000 and Orange with 821.

The Jobs Action Plan has assisted in exceeding our target of 100,000 jobs and delivering strong jobs growth to New South Wales. This plan has well and truly had a positive result. Given the success of the existing Jobs Action Plan, the Government committed in the election to extend the scheme for a further four years to 30 June 2019. Extension of the scheme means employers can continue to hire additional staff and receive the benefits of the current Jobs Action Plan scheme. As members would be aware, under the scheme, payroll tax liable employers can continue to apply for a \$5,000 payroll tax rebate for each additional full-time employee, with the rebate pro-rataed for part-time employees based on the number of hours worked compared to the standard working hours of full-time employees.

The rebate will still be paid in two payments, with \$2,000 paid on the first anniversary of the hire of the additional staff member and \$3,000 paid on the second anniversary of the hire of the additional staff. This bill recognises the difficult economic environment many businesses are operating in and

encourages employers to continue hiring additional employees. This bill demonstrates the Government remains committed to making New South Wales the first place to do business and encouraging employers to expand their operation. I note the presence in the Chamber of the shadow Treasurer and I seek the support of the Opposition on this very important piece of legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate adjourned on motion by Mr Michael Daley and set down as an order of the day for a future day.