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UNEMPLOYMENT FALLS 20% IN YEARS

Ipswich's unemployment rate has fallen 20% in the last five years according to the Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan.

“According to figures prepared by the Parliamentary Library, the local jobless rate has fallen from 8.2% in the December quarter 2000 to 6.5% for the same period in 2005, leaving Ipswich with a figure marginally above the state average,” Ms Nolan said.

The performance has come on the back of a strong statewide economy with Queensland recording Australia's lowest unemployment rate for the first time in 23 years in April 2004.

“The strong economic position proved the State Government's credentials as economic managers.

“When Peter Beattie was elected committing to a 5% jobs target, he was openly ridiculed by the Coalition.

“Now unemployment is much lower and nobody talks about it any more.

“This government is fundamentally committed to Ipswich and its people. We have brought new industry here, we are investing heavily in rejuvenating the CBD and we are building infrastructure like the Centenary Highway extension from Springfield to Yamanto.”