

through incompetence and continual neglect. At a time when the global financial economic climate can be described at best as fragile, Queenslanders are feeling the pain as basic services, such as water, electricity and food costs, continue to spiral way out of control.

Often there is a debate that centres on the issue of affordable housing, yet the more prominent issue is actually affordable living. People should be able to afford to live and that is what should be meant by the basic essential services that every human has the right to have. In my electorate, the majority of the issues raised by my constituents relate to cost of living pressures, whether that is utility expenses, which are increasing at a rapid rate—basic services such as electricity and water—petrol costs since the government scrapped the fuel subsidy last year, council rate increases and excess fees and charges despite the fact that the government's council amalgamations were supposed to reduce duplication and streamline local governments across Queensland, registration costs that are now the most expensive in Australia and the list goes on.

The problem is that this government seems to be in crisis management all the time, whether it is trying to fix issues with the Queensland Health payroll or trying to justify a fire sale of Queensland assets, to name but a few. Waste and mismanagement will be this government's legacy. I know that at the moment taxpayers in the Kawana electorate are feeling the pain, but the government is continually turning the other cheek. The most disadvantaged people who feel the pain are those hardest hit, and that is those on fixed incomes such as pensioners and low income earners.

The Premier always talks about what is in the Labor Party's DNA. As I have said in this place before, D equals debt, N equals negligence and A equals arrogance. This morning we saw that displayed by the Minister for Health, because he could not explain to this House why it is costing \$210 million to fix the mess in a \$65 million project—a mess that was up created by the Queensland Labor Party.

Schoolies Week

Ms JARRATT (Whitsunday—ALP) (11.58 am): It is that time of year again when, after 12 years of formal schooling, year 12 students from right across the state gather at their preferred location to celebrate with their friends the end of their formal schooling. Again this year the Whitsundays has been a favourite destination for schoolies. This week around 3,000 school leavers have gathered in and around Airlie Beach to celebrate their efforts at school and the end of that particular phase of their life. Today I put on record my admiration for those young people. While there have been a couple of incidents and a few people have been given notices for bad behaviour, the vast majority of those 3,000 young people have been on their very best behaviour. They have enjoyed themselves and have made the most of what is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

They really have earned this opportunity to celebrate, and I support them wholeheartedly. What I saw in the main street of Airlie Beach on Saturday and Sunday morning was young people eating, having cups of coffee and spending their money at our local stores. So it is a really positive thing for businesses in our community. I am proud of the Whitsunday community for the way in which they support schoolies week—from the SES to the police, to the Rotary clubs and Lions clubs who all come out to keep these young people safe while they enjoy themselves.

Mr Reeves: The Red Frogs were there.

Ms JARRATT: Yes, the Red Froggers were there as well. They do a mighty job—not in trying to stop the young people from enjoying themselves but in keeping a watchful eye, being there if they are needed and keeping the young people safe. I hope they have a really fantastic time despite the weather up there. I hope it is a time that they will remember for the rest of their lives for all the right reasons.

016

ELECTORAL REFORM BILL

First Reading

Mr McLINDON (Beaudesert—TQP) (12.00 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Electoral Act 1992, the Electoral Regulation 2002 and the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2000 for particular purposes. I present the explanatory notes, and I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Tabled paper: Electoral Reform Bill 2010.

Tabled paper: Electoral Reform Bill 2010, explanatory notes.

Second Reading

Mr McLINDON (Beaudesert—TQP) (12.01 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The introduction of the Electoral Reform Bill 2010 enables important and necessary electoral reforms for Queensland. The bill outlines genuine steps in reforming our present electoral process which is needed in Queensland to ensure we operate in a truly democratic political system that is free from obtrusion and undue influence.

It is fundamental to a democratic society that a citizen possesses the right to choose whether they wish to vote rather than forcing that privilege upon them to undertake that right on a mandatory basis. It is a process that should bestow upon it a sense of duty rather than that of a chore.

One could expect far greater depth in policy initiatives to run parallel with a proactive long-term vision by all political persuasions in order to attract the voter to make an effort to exercise their voting rights. Voter incentive will be based upon the quality of policy proposal and the efforts of the local candidates who intend to champion those policies in their respective communities.

The presentation of personal identification is a simple yet effective way to ensure the integrity of the voting process. This will assist in eliminating the potential for identity fraud and give greater voter confidence to the authenticity of the electoral process.

These reforms enable the political power to be transferred into the hands of the people of Queensland to ensure they are able to vote of their free will in an accommodating environment by using a procedure of best practice. Given the time constraints, I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my second reading speech in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

The compulsory preferential system is the most effective method used to ensure the value of a vote is maximised so that a true reflection of the majority will is elected to the parliament. Full allocation of preferences leaves no room for doubt as to the order of preference a voter has in who they believe can best represent them.

The practice of the passing out of how-to-vote cards is a primitive form of last minute conversions which can often be an intimidating, and in some cases, offensive, procedure. This practise also has the potential to cause conflict between polling booth workers and the voters. It can also be argued that undue influence can be exerted in tactics used to coerce the voter's decision. It will also assist in the prevention of an enormous amount of resources used from the environment.

Election material should not be deemed appropriate on State owned property as it presents in itself a conflict of interest. State owned land should remain 'neutral' to political association and interference at all times where possible. Candidates have the freedom to promote themselves on private property at the consent of the landowner which should be the most acceptable course of campaigning.

Debate, on motion of Mr Dick, adjourned.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hoolihan): Order! The time for private members' statements has expired.

~~WATER AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL~~

~~Second Reading~~

~~Resumed from 26 October (see p. 3801), on motion of Mr Robertson~~

~~That the bill be now read a second time.~~

~~**Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (12.03 pm): I am pleased to make a contribution on behalf of the opposition to the consideration of the Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2010. The Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill addresses a number of issues. However, the issue I will address my initial comments to is the framework that the bill puts in place to manage the groundwater issues concerned with the coal seam gas industry. Initially I will make some comments about the coal seam gas industry generally and reiterate my support for this industry, which has already contributed a huge amount to my electorate and is on the cusp of a huge development that will contribute a huge amount to the electorate of every member who sits in this House and every Queenslanders generally.~~

~~The coal seam gas industry has the potential to be a huge industry in Queensland, and the benefits to the Queensland economy and generations of Queenslanders to come have been spoken about in the parliament many times this week by the Premier and ministers and, indeed, many times in the past. The CSG industry is often portrayed as something new and unknown and therefore is something scary or uncertain. It certainly is not for me in my role as member for Callide or for many of my constituents who as landholders have coexisted, and continue to coexist, with the industry and who, in many cases that I am aware of, have benefited in a very significant way from their coexistence with the coal seam gas industry.~~