already on the economic ropes. There was the notorious payroll system—a $1.25 billion black hole—and the opposition continues to refuse the critical documents that might assist the people of Queensland to get their money back. In last Saturday's *Courier-Mail* noted journalist Des Houghton quoted Dr David Slaughter, recently retired Medical Superintendent of the Royal Children's Hospital, who said that the hospital industry believes the real cost of the new Queensland Children's Hospital will eclipse $2 billion after land resumptions, roadworks and necessary upgrades to satellite hospitals are factored in. Some $2 billion later and all we have, and I quote from Dr Slaughter, 'is just a bad plan'. Some $2 billion later we have a hospital built for purely political reasons. So thanks to Labor we have a payroll system that has wasted well over $1 billion and a bad plan for children's health services that is effectively up to a $2 billion waste.

One would have thought federal Labor should be saying sorry—putting its money in to say sorry for what Labor has wasted at enormous cost to Queenslanders, the health of Queenslanders and the jobs of Queenslanders. But, no. At a time when the Newman Queensland government is leading the country in injecting money into Queensland Health and our public hospital system, Wayne Swan has deserted the people of Queensland by pulling the plug on the state's health system. One can talk about statistics until the cows come home. I am reminded of the old story that statistics are like prisoners: you can torture them and in the end they will spill the beans. What we have heard from those opposite today is an attempt to actually squeeze statistics to deny the people of Queensland the health services that they so desperately need. The specifics of what Mr Swan has squeezed from the people of Queensland is that, when we look at the 2012-13 Commonwealth budget brought down in May 2012, Queensland's national health reform funding has been reduced by the federal Treasurer to the tune of $63.3 million in the forthcoming financial year and the size of Wayne Swan's national health reform cuts increased to $95 million in 2015-16, with total funding to be reduced by at least $342 million over four years.

Adjustments to national health reform funding are due to the federal Treasurer's desperate attempt to balance the federal budget by tinkering with the figures. The Commonwealth is rebasing the population estimates for the 2011 census and using updated Australian Institute of Health and Welfare measures of growth in health costs. This sneaky reduction in national health reform funding by the federal Labor government is made worse as the federal government is taking an additional $40 million reduction to the National Healthcare Special Purpose Payment in 2011-12. This is also caused by the Commonwealth rebasing the 2011 census population figures and using updated Australian Institute of Health and Welfare growth in health cost measures. Fortunately, we have a health minister who is going to take this federal Treasurer to task. Indeed, a number of states and territories, including Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, have identified concerns with the methodology used to recalculate the population estimates and it is likely the Victorian Minister for Health will initiate an agenda item for discussion at the next Standing Council on Health meeting on 9 November 2012. This move will be supported by Minister Springborg as he is concerned about a situation where the federal Treasurer can seem to retrospectively cut millions of dollars out of the Queensland Health budget.

As if this was not bad enough, Treasurer Swan has also announced sneaky changes to the Medicare Benefits Schedule to restrict eligibility to telehealth services to those patients for whom distance is the most significant barrier to accessing specialist care. In particular, patients living in outer metropolitan areas and major cities will no longer be eligible. This is outrageous in a decentralised state such as Queensland. And if the attacks on health in our public hospital system were not enough, not just public health was given a touch-up but private health as well. Treasurer Swan has announced two measures to reduce the cost of the private health insurance rebate by recalculating the indexation method and removing the rebate on the lifetime health cover loading component of private health insurance premiums. Such changes could have a potential impact in reducing private health insurance coverage and increasing demand on the public health system. I commend the motion to the House.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 72—Barton, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Douglas, Dowling, Driscoll, Elmes, Flegg, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Hopper, Johnson, Judge, Katter, Kaye, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Walker, Watts, Wellington, Woodforth, Young. Tellers: Menkens, Smith

NOES, 7—Byrne, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Trad. Tellers: Miller, Scott

Resolved in the affirmative.

022 Sitting suspended from 1.05 pm to 2.30 pm.

COMMERCIAL ARBITRATION BILL

Introduction

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the conduct of commercial arbitration, to repeal the Commercial

Arbitration Act 1990 and to make consequential amendments to the acts mentioned in schedule 1. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Commercial Arbitration Bill.

Tabled paper: Commercial Arbitration Bill, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Commercial Arbitration Bill 2012. The Newman government is committed to updating and modernising Queensland's commercial arbitration law in line with national and international best practice. Arbitration is intended to provide parties to disputes with cost-effective, expedient access to an enforceable determination as an alternative to lengthy, expensive and public court proceedings. Industry frequently uses commercial arbitration to settle disputes, with resolution taking the form of an award which is enforceable by the court.

The bill adopts the provisions of a model bill developed by the former Standing Committee of Attorneys-General—SCAG. The model bill combines the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration and domestic commercial arbitration provisions. By replicating the model bill, Queensland's domestic commercial arbitration law and practice will align with all other Australian jurisdictions except the Australian Capital Territory and with the Commonwealth International Arbitration Act 1974. Progressing these reforms may also increase opportunities for Queensland arbitrators and arbitration facilities to compete for and facilitate the resolution of commercial disputes with flow-on effects to the local economy.

There is strong stakeholder support for the passage of the bill. Broadly, the bill applies to domestic commercial arbitration only and expressly recognises that the Commonwealth act governs international commercial arbitrations; defines the form and scope of arbitration agreements; provides for the selection, appointment and challenge of arbitrators; sets out an arbitrator's powers; contains procedural provisions; applies a confidentiality regime to the parties and arbitral tribunal alike but contains a consensual opt-out provision; addresses the making of awards and termination of proceedings, including costs and settlement; outlines preconditions for applications to a court to have an award set aside or to appeal on a question of law; and recognises interstate awards as binding and allows applications to a court for their enforcement.

The bill promotes autonomy and participation of parties, finality of binding awards, protection of confidentiality and access to alternative methods of dispute resolution. Parties can have a greater say in how proceedings are structured. If they cannot agree, the decision about procedures defaults to the arbitrator. Concerns about an arbitrator's impartiality, independence or qualifications can found a challenge to his or her appointment to be resolved by agreement or in default by the court. Interim-measure powers allow arbitrators to make decisions about discovery, the preservation of evidence and provision of security for costs. They are binding and enforceable upon application to the court.

The finality and binding nature of awards is strengthened through confining the grounds for court challenges. An optional appeals mechanism on questions of law cannot operate without the parties' consent and court's leave. Applications to set aside awards are restricted to specific grounds. They include incapacity, invalidity, breaches of natural justice, public policy or the arbitration agreement as it concerns the award or tribunal's composition and court decisions regarding the legality of arbitrating a particular dispute's subject matter. The bill protects the finality of awards made interstate by recognising them as binding and providing for applications to court for enforcement of such awards. A statutory duty of confidence protects confidentiality of arbitration and award information. The parties can opt out and specific exceptions also apply. Arbitrators can allow disclosure after parties have been heard on the issue and a court can make decisions on disclosure in some circumstances.

The bill provides for procedural matters not present in the existing act, such as a requirement that parties provide statements of claim and defence in commencing proceedings and powers for arbitrators to make an award on settlement and to appoint an expert.

In conclusion to this exciting introduction of this exciting piece of legislation, I would like to respond to the matters raised by the former Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee in its report of 16 February 2012 recommending the passage of the lapsed Commercial Arbitration Bill 2011. I support the former government's recommendation that in future agreements of the Standing Council on Law and Justice and all proposed uniform legislation be tabled in the Legislative Assembly either immediately following the relevant agreement or at the time of the introduction of the relevant bill at the latest. I note that such documents pertaining to uniform commercial arbitration legislation were tabled before the former committee reported.

I also note the former committee's recommendation that the former Attorney-General should review the effectiveness of clause 5 of the bill, which states that the court must not intervene in the arbitration process unless expressly allowed under the act. In line with the former committee's recommendations, the department sought the Solicitor-General's advice on this clause. I am satisfied that the provision is appropriate from a constitutional perspective. I commend this bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.36 pm): 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.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Cunningham): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

GOLD COAST WATERWAYS AUTHORITY BILL

Introduction

Hon. SA EMERSON (Indooroopilly—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.37 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the establishment of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, and to amend this act, the Public Service Act 2008, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995, the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994 and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Gold Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2012.

Tabled paper: Gold Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2012, explanatory notes.

I am pleased to introduce the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2012. This bill will re-establish a Gold Coast Waterways Authority, which was abolished in 1990. Its re-establishment will deliver on the government's commitment to return control back to the local community. Through its re-establishment, the Gold Coast Broadwater and nearby waterways will no longer suffer from the previous Labor government's neglect. The Newman government will act to improve access to Gold Coast waterways by investing $30 million to re-establish the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. The overarching goal is to help restore the Broadwater and surrounding Gold Coast waterways as a hub for recreational and tourist activity.

The operation of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority is essential to support tourism as one of Queensland's four economic pillars. The former authority was established under the Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 1979 to manage and control the waterways and all harbour works within its legislated area. Following its abolition, a range of new planning and environmental arrangements emerged. The former authority's functions were dispersed across state and local government, with some of these functions subject to more red tape and regulation. The purpose of re-establishing the Gold Coast Waterways Authority is to provide the best possible navigational access, boating infrastructure and waterways management for the people in the area.

The authority will operate at a reasonable cost to the community and government. The authority will act as a local waterways manager. It will oversee the sustainable use and development of waterways. It will achieve this without burdensome costs and excessive bureaucratic red tape which burdens local businesses and the community.

023 The Gold Coast is recognised as a key national centre for production of recreational craft. Much of this advantage derives from extensive waterways and accessibility to the ocean. Recreational boating has a strong appeal to the Gold Coast; some 40,000 of the state's 240,000 registered recreational vessels are held by Gold Coast residents with more than half of our registered recreational vessels in the state's south-east region. Water temperature and a perfect boating climate are not only attractive for recreation, but highly suitable for fibre glassing which further supports the Gold Coast's national and international profile as a producer of pleasure craft. The location makes it an ideal place for storing, servicing and enjoying such vessels. Much of this industry is concentrated around the Gold Coast marine precinct, Coomera River, Sanctuary Cove and the Broadwater. A recent survey identified almost 650 actively trading marine industry businesses on the Gold Coast. It also estimated these businesses generated almost $420 million in annual revenue. It is estimated that last year tourism generated annual revenue of almost $1.4 billion. This was created through almost 2,500 actively trading businesses identified in the local tourism industry. We are working to deliver better Gold Coast waterways and provide certainty for local businesses, recreational users and those concerned with the sustainability of the Broadwater. This requires improving access to Gold Coast waterways, whether it is planning for the