

**NOTE: There could be differences between this document and the official printed *Hansard*, Vol. 314**

**WEDNESDAY, 7 MARCH 1990**

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Mr SPEAKER (Hon. J. Fouras, Ashgrove) read prayers and took the chair at 2.30 p.m.

**PETITIONS**

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

**Resiting of Classes at Corinda State School**

From **Mr Innes** (553 signatories) praying for the resumption of construction of buildings to enable resiting of junior classes of Corinda State Primary School to the senior annexe in the Lower Cliveden Avenue.

**Annual Land Valuations**

From **Mr Burns** (422 signatories) praying for an end to annual land valuations and for the institution of a fairer system.

**Cigarette-advertising**

From **Mr Burns** (369 signatories) praying for a ban on cigarette-advertising and for alternative funding for sporting and cultural activities.

**Daylight-saving**

From **Mr W.K. Goss** (122 signatories) praying that summer daylight-saving continue on a permanent basis.

**Concessional Allowances on Public Transport for Unemployed**

From **Mr Burns** (52 signatories) praying for immediate action to be taken to ensure concessional allowances on public transport for the unemployed.

**Proposed Marinas at Wynnum and Tingalpa Creeks**

From **Mr Burns** (90 signatories) praying for rejection of marina proposals at Wynnum and Tingalpa Creeks.

Petitions received.

**PAPERS**

The following paper was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed—

Report of the Public Trustee of Queensland for the year ended 30 June 1989.

The following papers were laid on the table--

Reports--

National Crime Authority for the year ended 30 June 1989

Legal Aid Commission of Queensland for the year ended 30 June 1989

Perpetual Trustees Australia Limited and Perpetual Trustees Queensland Limited for the year ended 30 June 1989

Builders' Registration Board of Queensland for the year ended 30 June 1989

Orders in Council under--

Integrated Resort Development Act 1987

City of Brisbane Act 1924-1987  
State Housing Act 1945-1989  
State Housing (Freeholding of Land) Act 1957-1984  
Grammar Schools Act 1975-1989 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982-1989  
Education (General Provisions) Act 1989  
Surveyors Act 1977-1987  
Regulations under--  
Local Government Act 1936-1988  
Rental Bond Act 1989  
Local Government (Chinatown Mall) Act 1984-1989  
Local Government (Queen Street Mall) Act 1981-1987  
Bail Act 1980-1989  
Ordinances under the City of Brisbane Act 1924-1987  
Proclamations under--  
Prisoner (Interstate Transfer) Act Amendment Act 1987  
Bail Act and Other Acts Amendment Act 1988.

### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

#### **Willows Paceway, Townsville**

**Hon. R. J. GIBBS** (Wolston—Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing) (2.35 p.m.), by leave: I wish to draw the House's attention to the true situation regarding the Willows Paceway in Townsville, which was referred to last night in this House by Mr Stoneman.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr GIBBS:** Opposition members will be laughing on the other sides of their faces when this matter is finished.

Mr Stoneman and other previous political administrators in Queensland do not appear to wish to recognise the diabolical situation in which the previous administrations have left the harness racing industry in this State.

Firstly, let me clarify the specific responsibilities of the entities that are involved in that whole unfortunate mess in Townsville. I want to do that because, from Mr Stoneman's remarks, from paid advertisements in newspapers and from other reports in the media, it is quite apparent to me that the information that the public is receiving does not truly represent the realities of the situation.

The entities involved in this issue are, firstly, a harness racing club known as the Willows Harness Racing Club; secondly, a trusteeship known as Trustees of the Willows Paceway; and, thirdly, a racing control body known as the Queensland Harness Racing Board. Each entity has its particular function. If those functions are carried out correctly, the whole system should work properly. However, when parties have a significant input in more than one of the entities, their judgment as to what is right may be biased, with the result that poor management decisions are made. Those circumstances have prevailed in harness racing in general, particularly in Townsville.

When I became the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing, the Queensland Harness Racing Board comprised Mr Peter Burge, Mr Kevin Seymour, Mr Stan Fyfe and Mr Kevin O'Keefe. The trustees of the Willows Paceway were Mr Kevin O'Keefe, Mr Dan Gleeson, Mr Dave Carmichael and Mr Peter Arnold. The committee of the Willows Harness Racing Club comprised Mr Kevin O'Keefe—it is amazing how his

name keeps coming up—Mr David Carmichael, Mr Johnson, Mr Barr, Mr Zander, Mr Cox, Mr Hewett and Mr Fahey.

I refer honourable members to an advertisement that appeared in this morning's *Courier-Mail* and *Townsville Bulletin*, which was paid for by "the former trustees and committee men of the Willows Harness Racing Club". The question is: do Mr O'Keefe and Mr Carmichael believe that their responsibilities as trustees are separate from those of their involvement with the harness racing club? I believe that this is a classic case. Talk about not understanding the concept of the separation of powers!

For the past two years, Mr O'Keefe has been lobbying Racing Services, attempting to make cases that either racing industry funds, which belong to the whole industry, or taxpayers' money should be used to prop up the ailing white elephant—the Willows complex—whose creation he was actively involved in since day one. He has utilised his positions on the club, the trusteeship and the board to gain a privileged amount of funding for the Willows. But the complex has continued to be a financial disaster ever since its inception. That shows its inept management and apparent complete lack of forward planning. The rule of thumb simply was: "You want more money, you lobby the Racing Minister, you get support from your cronies, you pretend you are doing this for the little fellow, and drum up an emotive argument that is not based on good business principles." The solution is: get more money and throw good money after bad.

What is my solution and that of the Government? Our solution is good management. My belief is that clubs must live within their means and apply good financial management strategies. Any race club in Queensland that can demonstrate responsible financial management will have my full support.

It is plain and utter stupidity to make statements such as those that appeared in this morning's paid advertisement which question the manner in which the Auditor-General portrayed the financial position of the Willows trusteeship. Indeed, the trustees' own independent accountants have verified that the trustees' accumulated debt was \$2,097,307. Even though the advertisement insinuates that the auditor did not present the proper picture, I would like members to note that on 19 December 1989, Mr Kevin O'Keefe himself certified that the financial statements, including the balance sheet, present a "true and fair view" of the trustees' financial position.

I draw honourable members' attention to Mr O'Keefe's questionable financial and management practices. A letter, which is on record in Racing Services, dated 2 March from Mr O'Keefe to fellow trustee Mr Arnold admits—I repeat "admits"—that meetings were not official due to a quorum not being available. That exemplifies the concerns of the Auditor-General regarding the legality of decisions made at such meetings. At the conclusion of my statement I will table that letter.

In reply, Mr Arnold writes that he is perplexed to know why he has never received any of the following: notice of meeting; minutes from meeting; audited financial statements. He writes that, as far as he knew, he attended all three—get that, "all three"—of the trustees' legal meetings between 1985 and 1989. Is it coincidence that the Auditor-General also expressed concerns that the trusteeship was not being conducted with even the most basic semblance of accepted meeting procedures?

The various interests of Mr O'Keefe were a concern to at least one of the trustees, who incidentally was not a signatory to this morning's advertisement. Mr Arnold asked that the rental arrangements be reviewed and that Mr O'Keefe not participate in the debate because of his apparent conflict in representing both the club and the trust. That letter is also available. I advise Mr Veivers to read both letters.

I want to make reference to accusations that the Willows is somehow disadvantaged in its share of the yearly profits generated through the TAB system. The fallacious argument, which incidentally also failed to convince my two immediate predecessors—and I notice that Mr Randell has nodded in agreement—is typical of the coercive, challenging and emotive manner in which Mr O'Keefe—

**Mr RANDELL:** I rise to a point of order. I take exception to those remarks. I did not nod my head. I ask the honourable member to withdraw them.

**Mr GIBBS:** I withdraw the remark.

As I was saying, it is typical of the coercive, challenging and emotive manner in which Mr O'Keefe attempts to gain further favours for Townsville. In 1988-89, the Willows, like every other club in Queensland, received its TAB distribution, which amounted to \$382,970 reimbursement on prize money paid out of \$459,660.

In spite of its parlous financial position, the Willows Harness Racing Club increased its prize money pay-out from \$430,301—an increase of \$29,369. That increase was condoned by the Harness Racing Board, in spite of the fact that departmental records show that in this period constraints on prize money increases were being recommended by the Harness Racing Board.

I understand completely why there would not be such a large tote turn-over at the Willows—the public is unlikely to want to put money on races in which some horses have no chance. I point to comments in today's *Townsville Bulletin* in which top Townsville trainer Jack Rix said—

"I told the club last year that unless you changed the programming you'll have no horses.

Nothing was changed and I had to get rid of five horses because the programmes gave us no chance to run them in their own classes.

It got to the point where in some races certain horses had the ability to win and the rest had no hope.

Many a time I started three horses in the one race whether they could win or not, simply to make sure the club could make up a race."

That, in itself, is an illegality and is cheating the public of a genuine chance to bet on horses that are supposed to be competitive. In other words, the punter can be backing horses that have no chance of winning, whereas the smarties who program such races are aware of the best chances.

That, honourable members, is program-fixing, to which I referred in *Hansard* on Thursday, 1 March, when I said—

"I am firmly convinced that certain people in top areas of the administration in this State were actively involved in what can be called program-fixing of races. . ."

I did not point the finger, although a number of people seem to want to see if the cap fits.

A Racing Services memo headed "4-horse race at Willows on 12th August 1989" states—

"A 2 y.o. conditioned race over 1 609 metres programmed for 12th August 1989 was approved by the Chairman of Stewards on 15th June 1989.

I can vividly recall Mr O'Keefe's decision to run this race in spite of only four acceptances as I was working with the Accountant on a budget for the Club that day. Shortly after acceptances had closed I ascertained from the Chief Steward for North Queensland, who is stationed in Townsville (Mr Daryl Griffiths) that there were six races planned. However some two hours later I learned from the Board Handicapper (Norm Torpey) that there were seven races on the programme including a 4-horse 2 y.o. race (Race 1). I was not happy about the situation, nor was the Board's Chief Steward for North Queensland. The decision to programme the race was made by Mr O'Keefe and no mention was made to me or Mr Griffiths at the time that it was to be sponsored."

The names of the four horses in the race were: Trusty Lad, Gatwick Calling, Moonstruck and Fast Toots. Guess who won the race? Fast Toots! And guess who owned the horse? Mr Kevin O'Keefe! What a wonderful coincidence!

Mr Stoneman is quite right when he says that the Harness Racing Board has the responsibility to approve programs and, again, he is quite right to ask how program-fixing could have taken place. It could not have taken place without the Harness Racing

Board's condoning it. Unless somebody condoned them, I certainly cannot explain why programs were changed at the last minute at the Willows Harness Racing Club.

As far as I am concerned, the tragedy of the Willows at Townsville is at an end. I have appointed an administrator. I have got rid of a board that was incompetent and was not doing its job. I am happy to say to you that harness racing in Townsville will survive.

*Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the documents referred to.*

#### **MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

##### **Removal of Mr A. George from the Port of Brisbane Authority**

**Hon. D. J. HAMILL** (Ipswich—Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development) (2.47 p.m.), by leave: Mr Speaker—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr HAMILL:** I can assure honourable members opposite that they are not going to enjoy this.

I rise to address the lies, distortion and deliberate misrepresentation of facts by the Opposition relating to the removal of Alan George from the Port of Brisbane Authority.

**Mr Borbidge** interjected.

**Mr HAMILL:** The honourable can take his time; I have plenty.

In particular, I will answer two falsehoods which have been presented to the people of Queensland as fact and which have been reported as such by some media outlets. These are: that waterside workers used their connections with this Government to have Alan George removed from his position; and that Alan George was an efficient manager who boosted port profits.

On the first point—much has been made by those opposite that there was a sinister motive behind a meeting between Ministers of this Government, including myself, and representatives of the maritime unions on 22 January. They have attempted to link that meeting with the Government's action on 25 January to remove Alan George from his position as executive chairman of the Port of Brisbane Authority. Nothing could be further from the truth.

I pride myself on my availability to all groups involved in the transport industry. Since becoming Minister, I have held wide-ranging discussions with most major groups involved with shipping and the waterfront.

**An Opposition member:** So you should.

**Mr HAMILL:** So I should, and indeed, that is what I have done.

Those groups include the Chamber of Shipping, the Port Authority Association, and major corporate clients of the Port of Brisbane Authority. Naturally I was keen to also talk with the maritime unions, and that took place on 22 January.

Let me assure honourable members opposite that such meetings will continue as the Government is committed to waterfront and shipping reform, and to a consultative process to achieve those goals.

There were four key matters discussed at that 22 January meeting—

The Inter-State Commission report relating to the reform of work practices on the waterfront and crewing levels on shipping—reforms that this Government fully supports.

Concerns regarding maritime services to Torres Strait following the collapse of the John Burke operation, which the previous Government had a part in engineering.

That is a matter in which the member for Cook has a particularly keen interest and in respect of which he has made representations to me.

**Mr Katter:** It was a disgraceful service.

**Mr HAMILL:** The honourable member had a disgraceful role to play in the collapse of John Burke. The matters discussed at that meeting included—

The Government's already announced plan to review the operation of port authorities as a part of our total review of Queensland's public sector, in order to streamline activity at the ports and improve their economic efficiency.

Port operations in Townsville with respect to the movement of nickel ore—a matter which was discussed in this Parliament last year.

There was no discussion about Mr George. In fact, there was no discussion at all about any individuals who are or were members of any port authority in Queensland. Dare I say it—there were more important issues to discuss, issues affecting the Queensland economy and our competitiveness in international commerce.

When I checked the detailed notes that I made at that meeting I did, however, find one interesting statement made by Mr Tas Bull, the general secretary of the Waterside Workers Federation of Australia. Mr Bull said—

"The last time I met with the Queensland Government it was the meeting with Mr. Ahern who was then Premier and he actually congratulated us on the good work our joint ventures are doing in north Queensland and encouraged us to come south and get them started in Brisbane . . ."

I wonder what plot was being hatched by Tas Bull and Mike Ahern at that meeting? I wonder whether Mike Ahern was trying to seek union suggestions on how to unload Max Hodges from the Port of Brisbane Authority? Whatever the case, no union had any involvement in the removal of Alan George as executive chairman of the Port of Brisbane Authority on 25 January.

The Government moved promptly to dismiss Alan George from his position when it learned that he intended to deliberately and provocatively breach a ministerial direction at that day's scheduled meeting of the board. I had directed the executive officer of the Port of Brisbane Authority, Alan George, that no changes in senior management should occur without my approval, particularly as the operation of the Port of Brisbane Authority and all other quangos would be reviewed by the Government. It was after that advice was received that Alan George placed the matter of changes in management on the agenda for a board meeting scheduled for 11 a.m. on 25 January.

The Goss Labor Government also learned that Mr George was preparing to table a supplementary agenda item at that meeting, to have his own contract—that is, the contract that he had signed and witnessed himself—ratified by the board. Alan George, the man being painted by those opposite as some sort of folk hero, was prepared to deliberately countermand my instruction—a legal instruction from me under the Act which I had the responsibility to administer. There is no democratic Government anywhere in the world that would tolerate such disobedience.

In marked contrast to our predecessors—those opposite should sit quietly now—who allowed two successive executive chairmen of the Port of Brisbane Authority—not one, but two—Max Hodges, the former National Party Minister, and Alan George, to write and approve their own contracts, this Government insists on absolute propriety by all of its employees. That is why this Government moved swiftly to remove him from the board. Swift, decisive and proper conduct in Government is a totally remote concept for those opposite. They allowed the port of Brisbane to be run the same way that they ran the Government in this State for 32 years, and the people of Queensland gave their judgment on those methods on 2 December.

I will now address the second great falsehood—that Alan George was responsible for the rise from \$3.9m to \$17.1m in the 1987-88 profit of the port of Brisbane. Profits certainly did rise that year. An extra \$7.2m was raised in revenue because that was a

record trading year for the port, with trade exceeding 15 million tonnes for the first time. But the second reason had little or nothing to do with management. The operating expenses for the year dropped \$6.7m—the largest single contributing item being a depreciation review of Fisherman Islands assets. In other words, they were book-keeping changes, not management initiatives, not waterfront reform, not increased productivity. The authority changed the way in which it kept the books.

As for Alan George's contribution—I must point out that in 1987-88 it could only be described as negligible. He was there hardly long enough to sign his own contract. Mr George spent just four and a half months of that financial year as executive chairman. Any increased revenue was actually generated under the chairmanship of Max Hodges, the man Mike Ahern hounded from the position after he knifed Bjelke-Petersen.

As for the much-heralded reforms of work practices which have been attributed to Alan George—the truth again is far different from the illusion created by those opposite. In two areas of reform relative to dedicated crane-drivers and the cleaning of containers, something the Opposition made much of in this place yesterday, initiatives for change were being pursued by the Port of Brisbane Authority long before Mr George arrived on the scene. Those and other matters were discussed with members of the Inter-State Commission in 1988 and with relevant employer and union groups well before that. Those reforms did not occur because of Alan George; they continued despite him.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The House gave leave to the Minister to make a ministerial statement. The Chair has no authority concerning how long the Minister speaks in making a ministerial statement. I warn members of the Opposition that making a lot of noise will achieve nothing.

**Mr HAMILL:** Those are the facts. We will never apologise for acting swiftly to remove Alan George as executive chairman of the Port of Brisbane Authority. It was the right and proper decision for this Government to take. I hope that members of the Opposition will check their facts before raising such matters again, but I certainly will not hold my breath.

#### **QUESTION UPON NOTICE**

##### **Labor Party Policy on Aboriginal Land Rights**

MR COOPER to ask the Minister for Land Management—

"With reference to the Labor Party's policy on Aboriginal land rights, which includes ownership of mineral rights, and to the comments made by his colleague, the Minister for Family Services and Aboriginal and Islander Affairs on the ABC 7.30 Report on 26 February, to the effect that the land rights policy was a matter of principle for the Labor Party—

(1) Does his Government's intention involve transfer of existing reserves from deed of grant in trust tenure to inalienable freehold title, a move which could jeopardise its availability to future generations as well as protecting thousands of sacred sites of historical or cultural significance around the State?

(2) Does it involve the establishment of a Lands Tribunal type body to adjudicate on future Aboriginal claims to land and how much land does he estimate could be claimed by Aboriginals in this State?

(3) When is the Government likely to implement this practice and has he any estimate on what level of compensation the State may face in handing land back to Aborigines?

**Mr EATON:** (1 to 3) In response to the question asked by the Leader of the Opposition—it is true that the stated policy of the Goss Labor Government is to increase and improve the security of land tenure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

in Queensland. The appropriate Minister is presently consulting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in relation to the process to be followed. When completed, of course, my department will be involved in recommending amendments to the Land Act where and if appropriate.

The other questions asked by the Leader of the Opposition are outside my ministerial responsibilities.

#### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

##### Introduction of Poker Machines; Political Donations from Poker Machine Lobby

**Mr COOPER:** I refer the Premier to his reply to my question on 1 March relative to past donations from the poker machine lobby received by the honourable member for Mackay, who is now a member of his Cabinet, in which he indicated that he was not aware of such donations, and I ask: in accordance with his stated commitment to a so-called strict code of ministerial conduct, has he now made himself fully aware of the secret donations to a slush fund known as Caspalp? Is it true that this fund name is derived as follows: "Cas" for Casey, the honourable member for Mackay, "p" for poker machines and "alp" for the Australian Labor Party? Is the Premier aware of any close association which may have existed between the honourable member for Mackay and sections of the poker machine lobby and, if so, does he agree that such association, either past or present, represents a clear conflict of interest, given that his Cabinet is now required to make a series of decisions relating to the introduction of poker machines in this State? Finally, does the Premier express his full confidence in the Minister and his past actions and does he consider that he is a fit and proper person to hold Cabinet rank under the standards that the Premier allegedly espouses?

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** It is somewhat difficult to answer questions without notice comprising multiple parts, but I will do my best. The answers are: no; I do not know, but it sounds like a good guess; no; no; yes.

**Mr COOPER:** We will be pursuing it for months.

**Mr Mackenroth** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the House will cease talking across the Chamber.

**Mr COOPER:** They are getting out of hand.

##### Queensland Economy

**Mr COOPER:** I draw the Treasurer's attention to the fact that only two weeks ago he went to Japan to sign a loan agreement at a most competitive interest rate. This was made possible because of the State's high credit rating, which has been assessed as the best of any State Government in Australia. I also draw his attention to the fact that he was accompanied by Sir Leo Hielscher, who went as his adviser to negotiate the final loan agreement, and I ask: firstly, would the Treasurer explain how he can argue that Queensland's economy is in a parlous state, when only a few days ago he was talking to bankers in board rooms in Tokyo and Hong Kong in the company of Sir Leo Hielscher, the architect of Queensland's State Budgets for the past decade, and stating the Queensland's economy is the best performed in Australia and its debt position and future prospects ensure that it attracts the most competitive interest rates in Australia? Secondly, will the Treasurer accept that his so-called economic statement today is blatant political posturing in light of the Federal election, and will it not jeopardise this State's hard-won international credit rating and reflect wrongly on the professional ethics of Sir Leo Hielscher and every officer of the Treasury Department?

**Mr De LACY:** I do not know where the Leader of the Opposition got his information from about what I did or did not say in Tokyo or Hong Kong. When I am overseas I do not take the opportunity to score points or criticise the Federal Labor Government, unlike the Leader of the Opposition's predecessor who did so on many occasions. When I am overseas I put the best possible light on both the Queensland and Australian economies, and I will continue to do that. The Leader of the Opposition is jumping the gun. I suggest that he waits in breathless anticipation and later on this afternoon I will tell him what is wrong with the Queensland economy.

**Statements made by Mr H. D. J. Fraser**

**Mr PREST:** I ask the Premier: has his attention been drawn to a statement by former State National Party Minister, Huan Fraser, who claims that the former National Party Government was not corrupt, that it just did a few favours for developers and that corruption was not as bad if it did not involve public funds? I also ask the Premier: does he believe that Queenslanders, in particular voters in the Federal seat of Rankin, would believe that the former National Party Government was not corrupt, and does the Premier believe that a person such as Mr Fraser—who believes taxpayers were not disadvantaged by the deep-rooted, systematic corruption which was rife within the former Government—is a suitable person to sit in Federal Parliament?

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** All honourable members, the people of Queensland and in particular the electors of Rankin should be very concerned about the quality of representation that this State would have in the Federal Parliament from members of the National Party, particularly former Ministers in the Cooper Government who have such appalling standards when it comes to the integrity of their positions as members of Parliament and Ministers.

It has been drawn to my attention that the standards of former National Party Ministers are apparently reflected by the statements made by Mr Fraser in two interviews, one in the *Courier-Mail* and the other in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. If honourable members have not read his comments, they should look closely at them because, if Queensland is to move ahead on a program of reform—and this Government is committed to a program of reform—and if public confidence in and respect for this State's major public institutions is to be rebuilt, then this sort of attitude must stop. People like Mr Fraser and his friends opposite, his former ministerial colleagues, must do two things: firstly, they must admit their responsibility and culpability for the base corruption that grew and flourished under their administration in this State; and secondly, they must join in a positive way in the program of reform that has to be undertaken to clean up the mess that they left in this State. It seems that these people and Mr Fraser have learnt nothing from the past or from the Fitzgerald report.

Mr Fraser offers such gems as the following statement to the people of Rankin whose support he seeks—

"The other point people in Queensland and the people of Australia ought to realise—nowhere were the public disadvantaged or any funds taken off them.

It was officials of companies making offers to facilitate certain services for that company but nowhere were public moneys involved."

This is the brown paper bag which became so famous under the National Party administration.

The serious problem that is overlooked is that when \$1 of public money more than is necessary is used to pay a company—Mr Fraser referred to them as "officials of companies making offers to facilitate certain services"—that is \$1 of public money that is not available for police, nurses, teachers, schools, etc. Every time one of these companies brought in a brown paper bag and got a special deal from the members opposite, that special deal was done at a cost to the public. This must be understood and acknowledged by the members of the Opposition. There is a cost of corruption; a cost to the public. It may fill National Party coffers or the coffers of certain individuals who want to engage

in that practice for their personal profit, but the bottom line is that the public suffer a cost.

A recent article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* referred to the former professional Deputy Premier, Mr Gunn, and stated—

"Mr Gunn admitted that Queensland voters had given the Nationals a 'kick in the pants', but they were now sorry.

'In my own electorate, they have come to apologise,' he said."

In conclusion I pose the following question to the House: given that the latest Morgan poll indicates an increase of 4 per cent in Labor support since the election, what are they apologising for? Are they apologising for voting Labor or are the people in Mr Gunn's electorate, having seen what has happened, apologising because they voted National? Perhaps Mr Gunn will tell us.

#### **Roma Residents' Concerns Over Misuse of Ratepayers' Funds**

**Mr PREST:** I ask the Deputy Premier and Minister for Local Government: is he aware of any concern in Roma about the misuse of ratepayers' funds? Can he report to this House on what he proposes to do in response to any expressed concern?

**Mr BURNS:** Today I received a copy of the Opposition Leader's report, "Volume I. No.1", in which he states—

"Contrary to popular view, there was not a landslide to the Labor Party."

The Labor Party only got 57.64 per cent of the two-party preferred vote! I understand the National Party's way of doing things. A landslide for the National Party is 23 per cent. I suppose it is very difficult for the Leader of the Opposition to recognise that 57.64 per cent might be a landslide victory to the Labor Party. As the Premier has just said, there is another 4 per cent swing coming along. I wonder what the Leader of the Opposition will say in No. 2?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister will come to the point.

**Mr BURNS:** Yes. The answer to the question is that the material was posted from Roma in an envelope and bears the notation—

"If not claimed within 14 days, return to Roma Town Council, Post Office Box 116, Roma, QLD, 4455."

**Mr Cooper:** Answer the question.

**Mr BURNS:** I will answer the question. The Leader of the Opposition should repay to the ratepayers of Roma the money for the envelope. If the Leader of the Opposition thinks that corruption was ruled out last time, he is wrong.

I say to the people who live in the Roma electorate that I will not refer this matter to the Criminal Justice Commission or to the police. I will ask the Leader of the Opposition to go to Roma and give back the money.

#### **Reduced Working Hours for State Government Employees**

**Mr INNES:** In directing a question to the Treasurer, I point out that today he signalled on ABC radio that the State's revenue base is contracting and that Queensland is facing tough economic times. I ask: can he tell the House the cost to the Queensland taxpayer of his Government's support for the Australian Railway Union's claim for a reduction in working hours from 40 to 38 for 17 000 railway workers? What other sectors of the public service will also have working hours reduced by this Government? If he has not estimated the costs that will be borne by Queensland taxpayers, will he undertake to give the House by tomorrow projections of the cost of shorter working hours for public servants for the next three years?

**Mr De LACY:** I thank the honourable member for Merthyr.

**Opposition members:** Sherwood!

**Mr De LACY:** I am sorry—the honourable member for Sherwood. I understand that a case has been made out to the Industrial Commission and that the matter will be determined by the commission in due course. If the member wants a cost estimate, I imagine that that will be presented to the commission. However, I am prepared to supply a cost estimate to him and I will advise him accordingly.

#### **Cooke Inquiry Recommendations**

**Mr INNES:** I ask the Premier: as the head of the inquiry into trade union corruption, Mr Marshall Cooke, QC, has forecast that reform of the trade union movement is urgently needed in the light of evidence that union funds were grossly misused and grossly misrecorded in accounts, will he today in this House commit himself to accepting each and every recommendation that Mr Marshall Cooke, QC, may make to protect rank-and-file unionists' funds from the gross misuse exposed by the inquiry? If he will not give this guarantee, could he explain why the Cooke inquiry is in any way different from the Fitzgerald inquiry, bearing in mind that he continually attacked the previous administration for failing to carry out all Fitzgerald report recommendations?

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** Presumably, there will be recommendations made by the Cooke inquiry for reforms in respect of funds of members of unions that are administered by unions, and other aspects of administration of unions. My Government will certainly take on board any recommendations made by the commission and will make a decision on reforms or recommendations that should be enacted.

As far as my Government is concerned and as far as the industrial relations community on both sides of the fence is concerned, the problem with the ongoing process is that concurrently there is a process under way for implementation of the Hanger report recommendations. Some overlap has occurred and that will have to be resolved as the process evolves.

The Government will take a close look at whatever Mr Cooke recommends. In terms of giving any absolute guarantee, I think it would be foolish and premature to do so at this stage, and I do not give it. However, I give the assurance to the honourable member and to the House that this Government is firmly committed to whatever steps are necessary to ensure the honest administration of unions in this State and the honest administration of funds by unions. Furthermore, as I have said repeatedly, if there is any recommendation of prosecution against any union official for criminal conduct, or any other offence in respect of the findings made by the inquiry, that person will be prosecuted with the full force of the law.

**Mr FitzGerald:** He will get 12 months' Labor Party suspension.

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** Any person who is prosecuted will go into the dock, along with the former colleagues of the member for Lockyer. When it comes to crooks, this Government makes no distinction. They will all be sent down together.

#### **Misuse of Government Subsidies for Sport**

**Mr PALASZCZUK:** I ask the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Racing: is he aware of any evidence supporting the statement attributed to the Leader of the Opposition in today's *Courier-Mail* about his lack of knowledge, while Police Minister, of the abuses of sports subsidies?

**Mr GIBBS:** This morning's *Courier-Mail* rightfully shows that deception and the ability to mishandle the truth are still alive and well within the National Party, particularly

in the case of the Leader of the Opposition. Let me read out what is stated by the Leader of the Opposition in today's *Courier-Mail*—

"Last night, Mr Cooper said he recalled the letter but could not remember if he had acted on the allegations . . . Mr Cooper told a press conference he had no knowledge of the allegations.

He said last night: 'At today's press conference I just couldn't recall this information.

'The latest information I have on it is that Mr Littleproud spoke to Mr Borbidge, who was Police Minister, in August and an investigation was instigated.' "

Last night, on the 7.30 *Report* on television, we had the spectacle of the former Minister for Sport saying that he was not aware of any of those rorts taking place until August last year. However, lo and behold, what do we have? We have a letter dated 10 April 1989, marked "Private and Confidential" and signed by Mr Littleproud, which stated—

"All of this leads me to the difficulty which has been ongoing for some time in relation to the operations of certain centres of the Queensland Police-Citizens Youth Welfare Association.

. . .

My Division of Sport has received numerous complaints from State Governing Bodies of Sport and has been concerned for some time over the applications and claims being submitted by the Q.P.C.Y.W.A. Clubs.

. . .

Russell, as the Minister responsible for the Police Department, I felt it appropriate that I advise you of the course of action being taken and the reasons for such action, on a confidential basis."

Last night on television, Mr Littleproud said that until August 1989 he had no idea that that was taking place. Some five months earlier he wrote to the then Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Honourable T. R. Cooper, yet he has denied knowledge of it.

The Leader of the Opposition has deliberately misled and told untruths to the people of Queensland. He stands condemned for it. In a frenzied attempt to get himself out of the mess, he dropped a bucket on his own deputy leader and tried to pass the responsibility on to him. He stands disgraced.

#### **Role of Australian Federation of Air Pilots in State Election Campaign**

**Mr PALASZCZUK:** I ask the Minister for Transport: is he aware that the President of the Australian Federation of Air Pilots has authorised a leaflet which canvasses issues in the current election campaign? Is it true that the leaflet raises the issue of corruption in Queensland? Will he inform the House whether the Australian Federation of Air Pilots or its spokesman took a public stand on corruption during the State election campaign?

**Mr HAMILL:** I am aware of a pamphlet that has been authorised by one B. McCarthy, Suite 13, Argyle Place, which I understand is the office of the pilots federation in Queensland. I assume that the same McCarthy is the president of that organisation.

In that dodger, Mr McCarthy stated—

"We Queenslanders have recently managed to rid ourselves of a State Government that we considered to be corrupt and incompetent."

That is wonderful praise coming from the pilots federation! It is obviously a reference to those who sat on the Government side of the House prior to the election.

I am intrigued that, over the many years in which the public of Queensland organised to try to remove a corrupt, incompetent Government from the Treasury benches in Queensland, Mr McCarthy and his cohorts were nowhere to be seen. In fact, throughout the whole period of the State election campaign Mr McCarthy's contributions were not to actually support the removal of the corrupt National Party administration, but, rather, he was running up and down the coast seeking opportunities to pose for photographs with the person who is now the Opposition Leader in this place. He would be the same Mr McCarthy who has been supporting actively the campaign of the Federal Opposition Leader, Mr Peacock.

**Mr Gibbs:** They are the ones who are going to bring in a strike-free airline.

**Mr HAMILL:** They are the people who are going to bring in the strike-free airline and force Australian Airlines to return to the negotiating table, a table which had been left by Mr McCarthy and his organisation, the same organisation which refused to abide by the rules in the decent conduct of industrial relations in Australia.

All I can say is, to use the old saying of a former National Party Leader here—let it be a warning to Mr Peacock, Mr Cooper or, indeed, Mr McCarthy—"If you fly with the crows, you will get shot with the crows."

#### **Alleged Slush Fund Operated by Minister for Primary Industries**

**Mr BORBIDGE:** In directing a question to the Premier, I refer to the secret slush fund known as Caspalm operated by the then member for Mackay, whom the Premier selected to join his Cabinet under the guidelines of conduct established for such positions. I ask: does he condone the operation of such a secret fund by any member of Parliament for the purpose of receiving political donations? Would he condone action by a member of Parliament directing, permitting or allowing a public servant employed in the member's office to become involved in the operation of such a fund? If not, what action would he take against the member under his own guidelines for parliamentary and public service conduct?

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** The situation in relation to Mr Casey that has been referred to has been well canvassed on the public record.

**Mr FitzGerald:** You didn't know anything about it the other day.

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** That is quite inaccurate. The honourable member should read *Hansard* so that he will understand the position.

**Mr FitzGerald:** You said it—you couldn't recall.

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** I said that I had no knowledge of such a donation. However, I said that, if the Leader of the Opposition or whoever asked the question was referring to an incident that occurred some years ago, well before I entered this place, it is well canvassed on the public record.

I repeat that today. It is well canvassed on the public record. I do not see the necessity for any further action. I do not see the necessity to answer a hypothetical question about public servants being involved in political activities or the soliciting of donations.

Perhaps what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr Borbidge, is referring to is the disgraceful conduct of his former leader, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, when an officer of the Premier's Department was listed as the contact point for political donations. If that is what he is talking about, he should have a go at Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen.

I do not know what the honourable member is talking about. Unless he is more specific, I will not take the matter any further. If the honourable member has a matter that he wishes to raise, I invite him to do so.

**Alleged Slush Fund Operated by Minister for Primary Industries**

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I am pleased to do so. I refer the Premier to the secret bank account named Caspalp which, in the past, was utilised to deposit secret donations from the poker-machine lobby. I ask: who were the signatories to the secret bank account? Will he tell the House if one of the signatories was a public servant who has now been assigned to a senior position in the Department of Tourism, Sport and Racing and whose strenuous advocacy for the poker-machine lobby is well documented and who will now play a major role in decisions related to their introduction and operation in Queensland, including the allocation of Government poker-machine revenue to sporting clubs?

**Mr W. K. GOSS:** There are two questions there, I think. The answer to both of them is that I do not know. However, let me add this: the members of the former National Party Government, the members opposite, set the police loose to conduct a complete investigation into this matter and the police found nothing warranting any action. In fact, no action was taken.

In relation to the public servant—this mysterious question contains no reference to detail. I do not know who the honourable member is talking about, and I have said that. If he is referring to a member of the staff of the then Leader of the Opposition back in the seventies or whenever this occurred, then I presume that that person was discharging his duties as a member of the staff of the then Leader of the Opposition and, as far as I am aware, there is no impropriety. If there is some impropriety, the honourable member should detail it or shut up.

**Cooperation Between State and Federal Governments Regarding Protection of Environment**

**Mr McGRADY:** I ask the Minister for Environment and Heritage: is it true that the best way to ensure the protection of Queensland's and Australia's environment is to maintain a cooperative approach between the State and Federal Governments? Is it not also true that in the past, when this cooperation has not been forthcoming, the Federal Government has had to use its external affairs powers and the Foreign Investment Review Board to ensure the protection of the environment?

Can the Minister outline to the House what would be the effect on environmental protection if these powers were diluted, subverted or done away with?

**Mr COMBEN:** Clearly, it is my belief that we need to have cooperative arrangements between the Federal Government and the State Government. For years the Opposition has said that it is necessary that there be a federation, a balance, and that is what cooperative arrangements in the Federal sphere are all about.

We on this side of the House have already developed a number of policies in cooperation with the Federal Government, and I am proud of what we have done. This Government has set up the Cape York land use study. It has got rid of the court cases concerning the wet tropics. Members of this Government are cooperating with their Federal colleagues and, as good Australians, are acting in a decent way. In the past conservative Governments have used the export licence powers of the Federal Government to save Fraser Island. My Federal colleagues have saved the Franklin River. They have used external powers. I am very proud that the Federal Government is working cooperatively because I know that there would be a great diminution of that power in Australia and in Queensland if we were to get a Federal Liberal Government.

Under a Federal Liberal Government we would not have environmental protection; we would have environmental vandalism. The Liberals have already said that they will take away a range of powers. There would be unrestrained foreign investment. The Foreign Investment Review Board would be abolished. We have seen also that the Liberals will not use any external powers. If the Liberals get into power there will be no cooperative arrangements; there will be no more funding for endangered species in

Queensland; there will be no funding for the wet tropics; and there will be no funding for the Cape York land use study. All of Queensland will suffer. Members of the Opposition support that.

#### **Joint Federal/State Cape York Land Use Study**

**Mr McGRADY:** I ask the Minister for Environment and Heritage: is he aware of any plans by the Commonwealth to pull out of the planned joint Federal/State land use study? What would be the effect on this study and the future protection and management of Cape York if the Federal Government abandoned its responsibility and withdrew from the joint land use study?

Can the Minister outline to the House the state of negotiations between this Government and the Federal Government in relation to a Cape York land use study?

**Mr COMBEN:** The Cape York land use study was a major commitment of the Premier himself prior to the election on 2 December. At a Federal conference of the ALP he moved that there be a major land use study of the cape to consider all the issues—the wilderness, the developmental proposals and the rights of the traditional people—to see what could happen. That commitment—that promise—was accepted by the people of Queensland.

I am totally unaware of any suggestion that the Federal Government is not going to cooperate. Next week—Thursday or Friday, I think—officers of the Federal Government will be meeting with officers of my department to work out the parameters of the study. This Government will be telling the Federal Government that there is a need to establish where the wilderness areas are, what the mining interests are, what the interests of the traditional people are and what development there should be. It is a multimillion-dollar plan; it is a multimillion-dollar exploration of the cape.

My colleague the Minister for Resource Industries has already promised many staff to carry out a detailed mapping process of the mineral areas. A 1 to 100 000 mineral map of the area will be prepared. The departmental officers of my colleague Ms Warner are talking to my departmental officers about the traditional owners—the traditional inhabitants—of that area. My own department is establishing a conservation strategy for Cape York.

This Government is going to ensure that Cape York is planned properly. The conservatives have said, "We will not fund you dollar for dollar." We are talking about a multimillion-dollar plan, a plan which is essential and which will go ahead.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The time allotted for Questions has now expired.

#### **ADDRESS IN REPLY**

##### **Third and Fourth Allotted Days**

Debate resumed from 6 March (see p.213) on Mr McGrady's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, to which Mr Cooper had moved an amendment.

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer and Minister for Regional Development) (3.30 p.m.): Today I have to tell the Parliament and the people of Queensland that we have been the victims of three great myths. We have been misled.

For many years successive National Party Governments have misrepresented the truth and perpetrated the following three great myths—

- the balanced Budget myth;

- the low debt myth; and
- the strong investment myth.

I make this statement for one reason only, namely, to set the record straight so that Queenslanders know where they stand at the start of this Government's term of office. I have no hidden agenda. I will not be announcing draconian action because of the truth that this Government has uncovered since coming to office. These days, new Treasurers in new Governments are almost expected to chill the spine with fiscal horror stories—to unfold tales of losses piled on top of debts, littered with outrageous waste and undermined by extravagant commitments. I am not going to play that game.

There is generally a cynical reason for telling those horror stories, namely, to manufacture an excuse to break promises and wriggle out of undertakings. Honourable members only have to ask anyone from New South Wales what happened to the Greiner Government's promise to hold down Government charges in that State.

That is not the way that Labor intends to go about the Government of Queensland. This Government has promised accountable and responsible Government, and that is what it intends to deliver.

For too many years Queensland's Governments have been misleading Queensland's citizens. There has been too much manipulation of the figures and facts, too much deception, too much half truth and too much untruth.

**Mr Ahern:** Why won't you debate it with me on TV tonight?

**Mr De LACY:** Because I do not have time to debate with backbenchers. If anybody else would like to debate with me, that is okay.

Queenslanders now need from their Government some straight answers to some very basic questions. These are the questions I am going to answer today—

- How good is Queensland's economy?
- How much has the State Government borrowed?
- Is our Budget really balanced? and
- What does this mean for Queenslanders?

The Government needs to set the record straight. Queenslanders need to know where they stand.

This entire exercise would be totally unnecessary if it were not for the fact that over many years the National Party in Government deliberately and systematically misled the people and the Parliament of Queensland. I believe that it was a wholly cynical and calculated process.

**Mr Ahern:** Why did the Auditor-General sign the statement?

**Mr De LACY:** If the honourable member waits, he will find out.

As I was saying, that process expressed deliberate contempt for the people of Queensland. National Party Governments misled Parliament and Queenslanders on the most basic issues. They misled Queensland on the Budget. One does not have to take my word for that. Take it from the former Premier and Treasurer who is now the Leader of the Opposition. Two weeks ago, on 20 February in the *Courier-Mail*, he said—

"Successive National Party Governments deliberately underestimated stamp duty receipts."

If honourable members think that sounds like no big deal, I ask them to think it through. The former Premier and Treasurer admitted baldly that it was the deliberate practice of successive National Party Governments to falsify the Budget.

**Mr COOPER:** I rise to a point of order. I have no intention of sitting here and listening to such drivel and lies.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! What is the honourable member's point of order?

**Mr COOPER:** My point of order is that I find the remarks false and offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition finds the remarks false and offensive and seeks their withdrawal.

**Mr De LACY:** With due respect, I quoted the member from the *Courier-Mail*. Does he wish to withdraw what he said in the *Courier-Mail*?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! If a member finds another member's remarks offensive, that member must withdraw them.

**Mr De LACY:** I withdraw them. In fact, I withdraw them on behalf of the people of Queensland, because I am sure that they also find them offensive.

That was an outrageous admission. What was the motive? What was so vital that successive National Party Governments felt the need to practise such deception? Let me finish the quote from the Leader of the Opposition. May I finish the quote?

**Mr Cooper:** Yes.

**Mr De LACY:** The Leader of the Opposition stated—

"Successive National Party Governments deliberately underestimated Stamp Duty receipts to provide a buffer in the Budget allowing flexibility on spending and reducing the chance of deficit Budgets."

That is the full and direct quote. National Party Governments falsified the Budget so that they could fiddle the books.

**Mr COOPER:** I rise to a point of order. The member has stated that we have said that we falsified the Budget. We did not falsify the Budget at any time. I find those remarks offensive.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. A collective statement such as that is not against Standing Orders.

**Mr De LACY:** It is funny how people get so touchy about their own statements.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** Mr Speaker, in regard to your ruling, I draw your attention to Standing Orders 119 and 120. The Treasurer has just indicated that the immediate past Treasurer of this State and his predecessor acted improperly and falsified the Budget documents. That is a most serious allegation. Under those Standing Orders the Leader of the Opposition is perfectly entitled to raise the matter as a point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Standing Order 119 states that a member shall not use unbecoming or offensive words in reference to another member of the House. The Treasurer will withdraw those words relating to the falsifying of books.

**Mr De LACY:** Mr Speaker, I will defer to your ruling.

May I just repeat the quote and then I will put it to rest? Mr Cooper said—

"Successive National Party Governments deliberately underestimated stamp duty receipts . . ."

I rest my case on that.

Now that the Labor Government has examined those books it has discovered many areas in which the Budget was falsified. I will detail some of the most important areas later in this statement. Firstly, it must be realised that cooking the Budget was only one part of the story of misrepresentation. Most importantly, the Government has been misled about the State's debt.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** Mr Speaker, the Treasurer is continuing in his speech to use words that he was ordered to withdraw on your ruling.

**Mr WELLS:** I seek leave to speak to that point of order. Standing Order 119 states—

"A Member shall not use unbecoming or offensive words in reference to another Member of the House."

**Mr BORBIDGE:** Mr Speaker, the honourable member for Murrumba may not speak to my point of order. It is up to you to give a ruling.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! On the point of order raised by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I rule that if the former Treasurer finds that words such as "cooking the books" are offensive to him, he has every right to seek their withdrawal. I advise the Minister to take that into account as he continues with his speech.

**Mr COOPER:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have asked for the withdrawal of those offensive words on at least two occasions but the Minister continues to use them. I find them offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn. I will not tolerate their being repeated.

**Mr De LACY:** Mr Speaker, may I say that I have a right to point out that the previous Government misled the people of Queensland and I intend to prove that in this speech. I do not believe that Standing Orders contain anything which prevents me from doing that.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I call on the Minister to continue his speech.

**Mr COOPER:** Mr Speaker, you said that you would ask the honourable member to withdraw. He has not yet withdrawn. You said you would ask him to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Would the Minister withdraw the words, "cooking the books"?

**Mr De LACY:** I will withdraw the words, "cooking the books".

We were misled about the money borrowed by the Government in the name of the people of Queensland. But National Party Governments refused to tell Queenslanders how much they had borrowed in their name. When they were challenged, by the Labor Party and many others, the figures they revealed were less than one-third of the real amount. Just consider what would be the fate of any one of us, as private citizens of Queensland, if we misrepresented our true financial position in such a manner. I will come back to the question of debt in a minute.

I want to set the record straight about Queensland's economy. This is the most basic example of how the people and the Parliament of Queensland were misled by the previous Government. The process was both simple and predictable. It told us all the good news about Queensland's economy that could be found or fabricated and at the same time suppressed the bad news. In one sense this was puerile, just like children boasting, but in another sense it was dangerously foolish, because Queensland should have begun making big changes eight or 10 years ago. The alarm bells should have been ringing and getting louder.

There was no alarm because the National Party Government had, in effect, taken all the clappers out of the bells and sent the bell-ringers off to write advertising brochures.

The Queensland Treasury, which has some excellent economists and analysts on its staff, was quite simply censored. Businessmen who spoke out were denigrated and then ostracised. This bullying continued right up to last year's election. The present Leader of the Opposition was quick to threaten and to hold honest Queensland businesses to ransom.

I am pleased to inform the House that the clappers have been reinstalled and that the bell-ringers are back at their proper posts. I can give no better example of what this means, in terms of accountable and responsible government, than to release today and seek leave to table in this House Queensland Treasury's *Review of the Queensland Economy* of February 1990.

Leave granted.

*Whereupon the honourable member laid the document on the table.*

**Mr Lingard** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Fassifern will cease interjecting.

**Mr Borbidge** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Surfers Paradise will cease interjecting. I will warn him in a moment.

**Mr De LACY:** There is a sobering comparison to be made between this review and another document titled *The Queensland Economy 1988-89*, which was tabled in this House at Budget-time last year by that former National Party Premier and Treasurer sitting opposite who is not now the Leader of the Opposition. The honourable member should now explain how he can reconcile the two documents.

I believe that this latest review gives an excellent overview of both the strengths and the weaknesses of the Queensland economy. It tells us without bias where Queensland has performed extremely well—and why—and it tells us where we have done badly. I regard it as an extremely important document, because anyone who reads it should be able to hear the clang of warning bells. It tells us very clearly where our economy has weaknesses and it tells us what we must do to get out of the rut Queensland's economy has dropped into.

There is no doubt that in the areas of employment and labour force growth, building and construction activity, and exports, the Queensland economy has performed relatively strongly. But the unemployment rate has remained unacceptably high, household incomes and average earnings have been well below the national average and living standards have not kept pace with those in the rest of Australia. Most importantly, our great weakness is a fundamental lack of investment.

Over the past decade, Queensland's private sector has been consistently earning strong profits, but profits have not flowed through into investment. This State now has only 12.2 per cent of Australia's private sector investment, compared with almost 17 per cent of the work force and over 16 per cent of private sector profits. Only between 1981 and 1984, during the so-called resources boom, was Queensland's investment high enough to stop the State's economy contracting in comparison with the national economy.

**Mr Elliott** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Cunningham will cease interjecting.

**Mr De LACY:** While Australia's investment record has had its problems, Queensland's has been derisory. The result is that Queensland's economic growth has not kept up with its population growth. Once an adjustment is made for population growth, it becomes clear that Queensland's output—our gross State product—has fallen behind that of the rest of the country.

The only way Queensland will get out of this rut is through higher private sector investment in the State. By this I mean real investment, investment in processes that add value to our products, investment in people and in training and investment in Queensland's future. That is the task facing all Queenslanders. This Government's role is to set the stage to encourage the greatest possible investment in Queensland. Business is not blind to the opportunities for long-term investment in Queensland. The State has a number of major new investment prospects—genuine developments, not phantom projects which, for the last decade, were chased away by the previous Government. They include both new and expanded coal mines, major mineral projects, manufacturing plants and tourist developments. But potential investors in Queensland have been reluctant to commit themselves without a stable and predictable investment environment.

Investors require a level playing field, not favourable treatment for a handful of cronies of the Government. Creating this investment environment will be a priority for our Government, our means of rectifying the problem. Part of the process is making sure that the State's laws and regulations offer every incentive for productive investment. It is for this reason that the Queensland Government will soon initiate a broad-scale review of non-bank financial institutions and the structure of taxation in this State.

Another, and I believe most important, part of this process is telling the truth about what happens in this State. It is my duty today to set the record straight, to tell Queenslanders as precisely as I can where the State stands financially. From today on, our Government will assume the responsibility to keep everyone up to date through regular publications which, like this *"Review of the Queensland Economy"*, pull no punches. Each quarter, we will be releasing a progress report on Queensland's economic affairs and the finances of the Government, which will concentrate particularly on Treasury's own research and analysis—the sort of information no-one else can provide—and tie that in with national and international developments of particular importance to this State.

Debate interrupted.

#### PRIVILEGE

**Mr INNES** (Sherwood—Leader of the Liberal Party) (3.47 p.m.): I rise on a point of privilege, and I do not do it lightly. The Minister has tabled a very important document of a budgetary nature. When the Budget debate takes place in this Chamber copies are normally circulated. On two occasions I have asked the attendants for a copy of that document, but it is not available. I suspect that the document has been circulated to people in the press gallery.

It is part of the dignity of this House that important documents that have been tabled and referred to should be available to members of the House—certainly as quickly as to members of the press gallery and people outside.

**Mr Cooper** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I warned members of the House that I would not tolerate them yelling out and incessant interjection. I have warned some Opposition members and I will be taking stronger action if they do not cease interjecting from this moment.

There is no point of privilege.

#### ADDRESS IN REPLY

Debate resumed.

**Hon. K. E. De LACY** (Cairns—Treasurer and Minister for Regional Development) (3.49 p.m.): I have no objection to the documents being circulated. I have just given an instruction that that be done. Certainly there was no intention to keep them from the honourable members of Parliament.

**Mr Elliott:** You got caught out.

**Mr De LACY:** It is my belief that the standard of publications such as this—sound, informative and, when necessary, hard-hitting—will help to establish Queensland's Treasury as an organisation whose work is respected and valued throughout Australia, and particularly by every Queenslanders concerned with our economy and the management of the public sector. These publications will play a basic role in delivering on the Government's campaign promise to be open, responsible and accountable. I want to set the record straight on Queensland's public finances, starting with the State's debt. For many years now National Party Governments have worked to create the illusion that

our debt was only a little over \$4 billion. That is simply not true. In fact it totals \$13.45 billion. That is a formidable sum. The gross liabilities of the State sector in Queensland work out to more than \$4,750 for every man, woman and child.

**Mr Elliott** interjected.

**Mr De LACY:** Just hang on; the honourable member will hear about it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Cunningham is now warned under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr De LACY:** This is the National Party's real legacy to this State, but one which it tries to keep well hidden. Just six months ago we had a National Party Premier and Treasurer insisting that the debt was only one-third of its true level. There was no fancy footwork involved. He achieved this feat by simply leaving out two-thirds of the debt.

The most charitable interpretation I can put on such a misleading statement is that the National Party has a unique and distorted view of the world. The Commonwealth Loan Council does not agree with it; neither do the international credit rating agencies, Moody's and Standard and Poor's—nor do Australian ratings. No other Australian State counts its debt in the way that the National Party counted the debt in Queensland.

**Mr Hamill:** They don't count the votes that way, either.

**Mr De LACY:** That is right. They don't count the votes that way, either. The truth, of course, is that the Nationals are wrong and everybody else is right.

Because it is important that Queenslanders understand what our debt position really is—as a matter of fact, independent of politics—I have commissioned one of the world's leading accountancy groups, KPMG Peat Marwick, to report on the real debt position. The result of Peat Marwick's investigations is, and I quote from their report:

" . . . at 30th June, 1989 total gross liabilities were approximately \$13,456.9 million when expressed in a manner consistent with other States and under generally acceptable principles for issuers of long term debt."

I seek now to table this document.

*Whereupon the honourable member laid the document on the table.*

**Mr De LACY:** Last year from State Government sources we paid \$1,510m on debt-servicing—more than we spent on health. Fully \$568m of this debt-servicing bill was met out of consolidated revenue. That represented a quarter of the Government's total revenue from all taxes, fees and fines. It is more than we spent on our police, our courts and our corrective services combined. It is more than double our spending on welfare, community services and housing. Queensland is not in the worst debt position of the Australian States. Taking into account our population, it can be argued that we are in a fairly strong position.

**An Opposition member:** What are you going to do about it?

**Mr De LACY:** I am telling the honourable member.

Compared with the size of our Budget—and it is our Budget which services our debt—we are well down the list. Moody's rates us the third worst of the States, with New South Wales, South Australia and Western Australia all in substantially better shape. The Greiner Government in New South Wales used its supposedly disastrous debt position to justify huge increases in everything from transport fees to water rates but, in terms of gross debt to State revenue, it is the strongest of the States. Such comparisons do not necessarily tell us very much. In terms of debt, Queensland can be slotted into most positions from top to bottom of the State rankings depending entirely on the basis used for comparison.

A more pertinent question may be why I, together with the Commonwealth, all the other States and the ratings agencies, not to mention Peat Marwick, say that the National Party is wrong about this State's debt. The answer lies in how the National Party Government made a \$13.45 billion debt into a \$4.5 billion debt. The first thing that the National Party did was simply to declare that most of the debt it had contracted in the name of the people of Queensland was not debt at all, but a contingent liability. The distinction, according to the National Party, was that the so-called contingent liabilities were moneys borrowed for Government organisations which generated their own revenues. These included the Queensland Electricity Commission and local government.

It is possible to argue the toss on how some of these items should be treated. To take the most contentious example, which is local government—Queensland is the only State that guarantees the borrowings of local government. Does this make the \$2 billion debt of local government a legitimate part of State debt, or should it be excluded?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr De LACY:** I am addressing all the questions that members of the Opposition are raising—if only they would listen.

Whilst it is true that local government pays the interest on this debt and will be expected to redeem it in due course, it still comes under Queensland's global borrowing limits through the Loan Council. The amount that Queensland can borrow for statutory authorities or any other purpose is reduced by the amount for which it covers local government. It is treated exactly the same as if the Queensland Government had borrowed it to build hospitals or roads. The Loan Council says that it is State debt. So does Peat Marwick. They both say the same for the Queensland Electricity Commission debt.

I do not believe that anything except the cause of confusion gains by insisting that Queensland is different from the rest of the world and should be treated as a special case on such issues. As the saying goes, if it looks like a duck and it quacks like a duck, it is a duck. There is also the matter of common sense. On the National Party's definition, all BHP's borrowings would be contingent liabilities and BHP would have no debt at all; nor would any company in a healthy financial position. The definition, for the purposes of calculating the State's debt, is nonsense. But it was by using this method that the National Party Government was able to get its debt figure down to what is currently \$4.5 billion.

A second method was to calculate a net debt figure, currently \$6.7 billion. This figure was arrived at through another simple process, that of deducting all of the financial assets held by the Government, including the funds held in trust. The problem with this is that the great majority of the financial assets in these funds was genuinely held in trust for others, and was never available for the Government to use.

These financial assets include the superannuation funds, the workers' compensation funds, the various fidelity funds—the lot. I would like to reassure all public servants that their superannuation funds remain perfectly intact. The only use to which they have been put was in counting all of these assets as though they were Government funds so that it could be argued that Queensland's debt was remarkably low. In accounting terms, this might have been less misleading if the arithmetic had also counted the liabilities that these funds were meant to cover. If public service superannuation funds are to be called an asset then, to be consistent, all of the claims of retiring public servants have to be called a liability.

In Queensland's case, because the superannuation funds are fully funded, the sum of these assets and liabilities into the future is roughly zero. When the sum has been completed, the answer remains that the State's debt is \$13.45 billion. So why bother with such an exercise? One effect is that, if the assets could be attributed to the Government, so could the income earned on those assets. And it was. This allowed the National Party Government to claim that this State's net interest bill was as tiny as the debt it admitted to.

In fact, our total annual debt-servicing bill is more than \$530 for every man, woman and child in Queensland. We might not pay it all directly through taxation but we pay it in electricity charges, council rates, rail fares and freight, and a range of other charges that are higher than they would otherwise be. No matter how indirect the route, Queensland taxpayers still foot the bill for Queensland's debt. At the end of the day, the buck stops on the kitchen table of every home in Queensland.

I should make an important point of clarification here. Whilst it remains nonsense to pretend that, by changing its name, debt can be changed into something else, it is true that the way debt is serviced—the source of the interest and the eventual capital repayments—does matter in terms of the long-term management of public finances. I admit that. When a Government borrows money to pay for a new road or a new hospital, all it really does is postpone the time when taxpayers' funds will have to be used to pay for it. In the meantime, State debt rises and, with it, the interest bill which has to be paid each year. The bigger the interest bill, the less there is available to pay for more teachers or police.

The situation is different when the borrowing goes to fund works which generate income of their own, such as electricity generation. In that case, the bill for interest and capital repayments comes directly from the income stream created by the facility built with the borrowings.

**Mr Cooper** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Leader of the Opposition will cease interjecting.

**Mr De LACY:** An increase in interest charges for power stations does not compete directly for general Government finances with the need for more teachers or nurses or police. Unfortunately for Queensland, the National Party Government allowed the State's general debt to blow out.

**Mr Veivers** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the honourable member for Surfers Paradise under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr De LACY:** I am not very impressed by the intelligence of the interjections from the members of the Opposition. The National Party Government borrowed some \$1.4 billion and planned to borrow over \$100m more in 1989-90.

**Mr BOOTH:** I rise to a point of order. I am at a loss to understand whether the Treasurer is making a financial statement or whether he is speaking to the Address in Reply.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order.

**Mr BOOTH:** There is a point of order. Mr Speaker, you must make a definite ruling as to whether he is making a financial statement or whether he is speaking to the Address in Reply.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer is speaking to the Address in Reply. There is no point of order.

**Mr BOOTH:** I think he is transgressing——

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. The honourable member will resume his seat.

**Mr Cooper:** This is a disgrace.

**Mr BORBIDGE:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I draw your attention to Standing Orders 16 and 17, the conventions and precedents in this Parliament and to the fact that the Treasurer has not made mention of the Governor's Opening Speech nor the amendment proposed to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply moved by the honourable member for Mount Isa.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I have made my ruling. There is no point of order. I will not countenance any more points of order raised on that basis.

**Mr De LACY:** They are really frivolous points of order.

**Mr Cooper** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the Leader of the Opposition under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr De LACY:** The Leader of the Opposition does not like to hear the truth.

**Mr Veivers** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I also warn the member for Southport under Standing Order 123A.

**Mr De LACY:** The National Party Government did this at a time when the State's global borrowing limit allowed under Loan Council arrangements had already contracted sharply and could only be expected to contract further. The effect of this is to squeeze further Government finances all round. It squeezes our capacity to borrow to finance urgent public works; it squeezes our capacity to fund out of consolidated revenue new social assets such as hospitals; and it squeezes the Budget.

As a result of this the Government's Budget Review Committee has recommended a formal discipline on future borrowings and Cabinet has agreed in principle. In general, and certainly while strict limits apply to State borrowings, social assets such as hospitals, roads and water resource projects will be funded from general revenue, and not from borrowings. This decision will not make our task of getting Queensland back on the track any easier, but we believe that in these circumstances it is the responsible course to pursue.

I turn now to the Budget. For years National Party Governments have misrepresented the Budget in a fundamental way. They have claimed their Budgets are balanced when in fact they have generally run deficits, and sometimes substantial deficits. The current Budget is no exception. These are the figures as Treasury states them to be, as they should have been presented to Parliament: for 1989-90, estimated expenditure was \$8,090m, estimated revenue was \$7,909m, and the underlying deficit was \$181m. In fact, the Budget showed a major deficit, but the then Premier and Treasurer misrepresented it as a small surplus. How was this figure arrived at?

**Mr AHERN:** I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the imputation made by the Honourable the Treasurer that I presented wrong information to the House. I ask him to withdraw it. I draw attention to the fact that the Budget papers were initialled as factual by the Auditor-General of this State, and I challenge the Treasurer to say whether his statement today has been agreed to by the Auditor-General of Queensland.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order.

**Mr AHERN:** I take offence and I ask for a withdrawal.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order. I call the Treasurer.

**Mr De LACY:** I will explain the story.

Trust fund balances were cut by \$90m and debentures, or borrowings, were increased by \$73m. Both these items were reported as "receipts", and then the balance of the Consolidated Revenue Fund—\$18m—was added in. The result was a "surplus" of \$500,000. Anyone can balance a Budget if they can borrow to balance it, and simply treat these borrowings as receipts—as has been the normal practice in Queensland. In other words, the National Party Government has been practising the big lie.

Today, I am proud to announce that the opportunity for such sleights of hand will be removed for good, beginning with this year's Budget. My department, in cooperation

with the Australian Bureau of Statistics, is preparing the mechanisms to present Budget statements for 1990-91 in the national accounts format. This will provide a basis for meaningful comparison with the rest of Australia, but Treasury intends to go further. As part of a major accounting project it is developing a computerised system for preparation of future Queensland Government financial Estimates. This will detail the net financing requirement and thus show any deficit to be funded from borrowings or by running down financial assets, as was done in disguise in the last Budget.

What is the current Budget position? Following the Budget, the National Party Government made additional spending commitments of \$83.7 m. This included funds for what has been commonly known as the \$40m special electorate works program—"special" being a code word for electorates held by the previous Government. This Government has been able to cancel some of these works, but this program of blatant pork-barrelling has effectively committed the Government to some expenditure that would never qualify under a rational and fair assessment of priorities. These commitments were on top of an item of \$52.5 m for the acquisition of the property known as Queensland Place, which apparently was so urgent that the National Party Government ignored all precedent and completed the deal in mid-November, in the middle of the election campaign.

At least we can say of the National Party in Government that it was consistent right to the end. Had it continued on this path, by this stage Queensland's Budget would have been in total disorder. Also it meant that the new Government had limited scope for the early introduction of initiatives for which it had a clear mandate. However, the Queensland property market continued to be very active well into the new financial year, against expectations and long after the slow-down in the New South Wales property market had pushed that State's Budget into major deficit. That, and in particular stamp duty on the transfer of large properties, has improved the outlook for revenues. At this stage we expect revenue for the full year to be about \$180m above the Budget estimates.

We cannot expect this sort of improvement to continue; in the meantime Queensland's economy has slowed, in line with the national economy. As one symptom of this, the underlying rate of stamp duty collections on conveyances is down 20 per cent. We can expect the growth of other major revenues, including payroll tax, to decline also. It was against this background that this Government, through the January Budget Review Committee, undertook and recently completed its review of the State Budget.

The review committee has cut funding for several post-Budget National Party Government commitments. We have replaced borrowings with allocations of an additional \$104m in capital funding for water resources and hospitals, and we have begun funding our election commitments. This has not been a pain-free exercise. To achieve it, we have had to defer some departmental capital works programs. We have had to prune substantially the requests from departments for funds to expand existing programs and fund new ones. We believe, however, that this is the only responsible route to take.

Mr Speaker, as time is short, I seek leave to table and have incorporated in *Hansard* a summary of additional expenditure in 1989-90.

Leave granted.

*Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the following document—*

In summary, additional expenditure in 1989-90 will include:

- employment of an additional 200 teachers from the start of the 1990 school year, in addition to those announced in the 1989-90 budget.
- provision of a further 1,500 tertiary education places in 1990.
- enhancement of TAFE services and TAFE initiatives including Computer Managed Learning, additional teaching resources and training equipment and additional courses.
- additional child care staff, pilot community-based services for homeless youth and further funding for disability support services as part of a complete review of the provision of welfare services.

- new environment initiatives including environment protection and heritage and nature conservation.
- introduction of the Mortgage Assistance Scheme which will assist families experiencing financial difficulty because of high interest rates.
- a doubling of the staff of the drug squad.
- commencement of the police expansion program.
- re-commissioning of the Brisbane Correctional Centre as a remand centre to relieve pressure on other centres caused by the premature closure of Boggo Road by the previous government.
- establishment of the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission and the Criminal Justice Commission.
- establishment of the Public Sector Management Commission which will supervise reform of public sector organisations and establish management standards.
- establishment of the Bureau of Regional Development to implement a regional development strategy for the State.
- supplementation to overcome previous underfunding for hospital services to increase hospital staff numbers and improve the quality of equipment and services.

I would emphasise, however, that all of the remaining post-Budget commitments of the previous Government and our Government's initiatives will be funded from available revenue and not from borrowings.

This will provide a sound base for the 1990-91 Budget, which will be framed on the following Budgetary principles:

- funding of social assets from revenue, not borrowings
- maintenance of sufficient asset reserves to match accruing future liabilities
- economic infrastructure will only be funded by borrowings where it is clear that an income stream exists to adequately service those borrowings.

**Mr De LACY:** The Government will also carefully review all expenditure requests to ensure that election commitments receive top priority and that the waste and extravagance of the past is over.

Today I have sought to set the record straight, to tell the Parliament and the people of Queensland precisely where the Government stands. I have also outlined some of the major changes in direction of this Government, which are as follows—

- ensuring a level playing field for all investors;
- reviews of the State tax base and financial sector; and
- regular Treasury reports on the strengths and weaknesses of the State's economy and finances.

**Opposition members:** Time!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The honourable member's time has expired.

**Mr De LACY:** Mr Speaker, I move—

"That the honourable member for Cairns be further heard."

Leave granted.

**Mr De LACY:** Other major changes in direction for this Government are—

- a detailed and accurate presentation of the State Budget position in future; and
- a commitment to sound and responsible budgetary principles.

Most importantly I have confirmed the Government's commitment to the implementation of our election promises, a process that has already begun.

**Mr Katter** interjected.

**Mr De LACY:** It needs to be understood, however, that the future will not be easy. The Budget outlook is very tight. The ability of the Queensland Government to borrow

to fund important economic infrastructure will be severely constrained throughout the next year. The growth of major State revenues must also be expected to decline. Commonwealth payments will be equally tight.

It will require a massive effort from the Government to keep the Budget on track and at the same time provide the revenue to fund our major priorities, especially in education and law and order. In the long term, however, the future of this Government's programs, the future for education, health, welfare, law and order, roads, the environment and our other priorities, will rely on the growth of the Queensland economy.

**Mr Katter:** Take an interjection.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Flinders will cease interjecting.

**Mr De LACY:** I will take one interjection.

**Mr Katter:** I want to know why you refused to debate this publicly with Mr Ahern.

**Mr De LACY:** I said before that I do not have time to debate this matter with discredited backbenchers of the former Government. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to debate this matter with me, I am prepared to debate it with him.

The economy will remain the central focus of Labor Government policy because, without that growth, the Queensland Government's capacity to introduce all the changes which Queenslanders expect of it will be constrained. It will be my central concern to ensure that this Government can deliver in the future.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the honourable member for Gregory, I ask honourable members to bear in mind that it is his maiden speech and ask them to treat him in accordance with the conventions of this House.

**Mr JOHNSON** (Gregory) (4.14 p.m.): Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr Cooper:** This will be better than the last speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Campbell): Order! The Leader of the Opposition has made disparaging remarks about Mr Speaker, who has just left the chair. I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr Cooper:** Those remarks were directed to the previous speaker, the Treasurer.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is the Leader of the Opposition sure?

**Mr Cooper:** Absolutely.

**Mr JOHNSON:** In rising to speak to the amendment to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, I must say that it is with a feeling of great honour that I make my first speech as a member of the Forty-sixth Parliament of Queensland.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish you to convey to Mr Speaker my sincere congratulations and best wishes on his election as Speaker of this House. To gain courtesy from members, the position requires integrity and a responsible attitude. I have no doubt that Mr Speaker has both qualities. He can rest assured that he will have my respect at all times.

I express my total loyalty and that of my constituents to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I congratulate His Excellency the Governor, Sir Walter Campbell, on his address when opening the Forty-sixth Parliament. I wish him and Lady Campbell well.

I offer my sincere thanks to my National Party supporters in Gregory for selecting me to be their candidate and for supporting me at the 2 December election. The constituents of Gregory can rest assured that they will receive total and sincere representation. I pledge myself to represent and assist people, no matter what their political persuasions, to achieve the quality of life that they desire.

As a result of the tremendous efforts of my predecessor in the National Party Government, I am happy to announce that the Gregory electorate is a better place to live in. He was a valuable member of previous Governments for 15 years. Bill Glasson needs no introduction to honourable members. He has set a pace and an example that is hard for me to match. As all honourable members would agree, he is a man of great integrity. He is respected throughout the length and breadth of the Gregory electorate by people of all colours, creeds and political persuasions. His achievements, whether they be material or for individuals, are monuments in the Gregory electorate. On behalf of the people of the electorate, which he loves, I offer Bill, and his wife Shirli, many thanks, good luck, good health, and God bless.

**Opposition members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr JOHNSON:** At this point, I mention Sidonie Stormonth, who was Bill's very able secretary during his 15 years in Parliament. No doubt many members of this House know Sidonie, who is a lady of great integrity. She upheld the qualities of the office of the secretary to the member for the Gregory for all those years. Her local knowledge and depth of work was a great help to the people of that area. On Bill's behalf, I thank Sidonie.

Now I will extend my sincere thanks to many people who have helped and supported me. I thank firstly my wife of 19 years, Robin, who has put up with much. She supported me, gave me advice and, most importantly, was there when the chips were down. I thank my daughters Monique and Tanya, and my son Michael. I also thank my campaign organisers and directors, Barb and Keith Morton and Tony and Sandy Richards, with special thanks to Kaye Richards and Barb Morton for keeping the clothes clean and the meals provided, as well as for their friendly smiles. I thank Colin Secombe for his kindness and hospitality. Those people are true blue.

I received moral support from my brothers, Brendan, Ashley and Adrian, as well as from my sister, Thea, and their families. I also thank my wife's family for their kindness and support. My good mates Reg Cross and the legend of the west, Mike Gibson, are the best, and I thank them.

I offer special thanks to the electorate councils that supported me and gave me untiring help in many different ways. I make special mention of our leader, Russell Cooper, who came to my electorate twice during the campaign and I thank him for his support.

I thank the press, particularly the *Longreach Leader*, for their fair and unbiased reporting during the campaign. I believe that all parties were reported fairly. I thank the management of the *Longreach Leader*. I take the opportunity to thank radio station 4QL and radio station 4LG Longreach.

Gregory is a vast electorate of approximately 430 000 square kilometres enveloping 12 local authorities that reflect the vast size of the electorate itself. Firstly, I mention my home town of Quilpie, which is almost 1 000 kilometres west of Brisbane and at the end of the great western railway line. It is the gateway to the channel country and home of the famous Quilpie boulder opal, which was made famous largely by the efforts of the late Des Burton, who was a legend in the opal-mining industry in western Queensland. Quilpie has a population of approximately 740 who are typical of true western people, as is the case with all the people in the Gregory electorate. Quilpie has some famous families. The descendants of pioneers live in the district today, namely the Tully, Watts, Pegler, Hall, Wade, Costello, Richardson, Hansen and D'Hennin families, as well as my good friends the Gibsons.

I must mention three of our late identities of Quilpie: Jimmy and Harry Coronas, who built the hotels there in about 1916 and, last but not least, the late Len McManus, who was the local storekeeper and whose business is carried on today by his daughter and son-in-law. They were true examples of western characters and are a very important part of the town's history.

With due respect to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, I will now relate a joke. The Corones family is a legend in the west. No doubt honourable members have heard of them. The late Jimmy Corones is no exception. One day, somebody said to Jimmy, "How many £10 notes are in a 44-gallon drum, Jimmy?" He said, "Ah, I don't know, boy; he's not full yet." That story is a reflection of some of the people who live in the west. The Gregory electorate is full of colourful characters, including many bush larrikins, and much bush folklore. Those characters are all fair dinkum and true blue.

Quilpie boasts many sporting bodies and a bowls club of which the town is proud. I must mention the Catholic convent run by the Sisters of St Joseph, who are to be commended for the courage and love they have extended to many children since 1950. I am proud to say that I was a member of that school from 1955 to 1957. In recent times, my children have attended the school. I also mention the Marist Brothers, with whom I finished my education at St Joseph's College at Hunters Hill in Sydney. I am proud to be a past student of that great college. I offer them my thanks.

To the south of Quilpie is the Toompine Hotel, which is a must to visit when one goes west. To the west of Quilpie, one passes the famous Thylungra homestead of the famous Durack pioneering family, which was made even more famous by Mary Durack's book, *Kings in Grass Castles*.

That takes me to Windorah and Cooper Creek in the middle of the channel country, then westward again to Betoota and Birdsville in the far south-western corner of my electorate. Birdsville needs no introduction to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and fellow members. The top of the Birdsville track is some 500 miles north of Maree in South Australia. The annual race meeting held at Birdsville on the first Friday and Saturday of September is a well-known tourist attraction. Further north is Bedourie and Boulia and, not to be forgotten, Urandangie in the far north of the electorate. I might add that I have not got to the end of my electorate yet, so honourable members can appreciate its size. The other major centre is Winton. Kynuna, with its famous Blue Heeler Hotel is not far away from Winton. McKinlay and Corfield are situated on the edge of the electorate of the honourable member for Flinders.

To the south is Longreach on the Thomson River, home of the wonderful Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre. I will return to that later. To the east is Barcaldine. On this historic occasion of the first session of the Forty-sixth Parliament under a Labor Government, it would be unfair of me, on the eve of the first 100 years of the Australian Labor Party, not to mention its birthplace. At Barcaldine stands the famous tree of knowledge, where the Labor Party was supposedly formed during the great shearers' strike of the 1890s. To commemorate that occasion, Barcaldine is to be the site of the proposed workers' heritage centre. Further east is the Jericho Shire, of which Alpha is the main town. It is principally a railway and cattle town, which is currently being threatened with the proposed closure of its diesel locomotive shed. If that closure goes ahead, it will create hardship for many people. Honourable members can rest assured that I will do everything in my power to keep that diesel locomotive shed operating.

The main industry in my electorate is primary production—beef, wool and mutton. It would be totally unfair of me not to mention the problems facing these industries today. Firstly, the wool market has reached the floor of the reserve price again, with stockpiles around the two-million bale level. It is going to be some time before the situation improves. Hopefully, a drop in the value of the dollar is not far away. However, at the same time, costs do not stay down. For example, in Brisbane the estimated sale price of a bale of that has been sent from Quilpie is approximately \$450. Honourable members might think that that is an enormous sum. However, by the time one takes into account running expenses, shearing expenses, rents, rates, fuel bills and so on, there is not much profit to be had from a sale price of \$450 or \$500 a bale. The costs are even higher for bales transported from places further out than Boulia.

The circle is a vicious one, especially now that we have lost the market in the Middle East for our older wethers. The nations in that region with which we trade will not take sheep older than 6 tooth, thus leaving us with no option but to take very little money for older sheep. This problem has been even further aggravated by the current low wool prices. The cattle market has its ups and downs, with most producers facing constant drought conditions over the last decade. My electorate produces mainly fat cattle from the channel country, but the seasonal conditions over the last 10 or 12 years have had an adverse effect. The stock that has not been able to be fattened in this area has had to be road or rail-transported to the east. The cattle have to be sold as stores to the east or taken to feedlots in the east or south of the border to be grain-fed, thus reducing the profit margin of the producer. Hopefully, the Honourable the Premier and Minister for Economic and Trade Development can do a deal with our south-eastern neighbours in regard to beef and mutton.

No doubt honourable members are well aware of the potential for tourism in my electorate. When my predecessor came to this place 15 years ago, tourism was virtually unheard of. However, with the opening of the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre by Her Majesty in April 1988 at a cost of some \$12m, tourism in the west has taken off. It should be noted that no Government funding is provided for the running of that centre, nor for maintenance or improvements to the museum. All the funds needed to keep this national monument open 364 days a year must be obtained from admittance charges, sales of merchandise and provision of refreshments, as well as membership donations and special sponsorship donations.

I will tell honourable members a bit about the Stockman's Hall of Fame. Before its first two years have concluded, an attendance figure of 200 000 will have been reached. This remarkable attendance in a location as remote as Longreach is the result of a number of factors. One is the excellence of the museum and its exhibits, many of which are on loan from other institutions such as the Museum of Victoria and the Australian National Museum. At some stage they will have to be returned to their owners. A vigorous marketing program is another major factor in attracting visitors. Attendances are much stronger during the winter months and during the school holidays, stretching the facilities to their limit. In the hot weather it is not uncommon on weekdays for fewer than 100 visitors to patronise the centre.

During peak periods the shortage of accommodation in Longreach is a factor that reduces attendances. Modern commercial jets cannot use the inadequate aerodrome, which is another factor that limits the number of visitors from overseas. Analyses of attendances, which are carried out on a continuing basis, show that in the winter period, 57 per cent of visitors are from Queensland, 25 per cent from New South Wales, 10 per cent from Victoria, 1 per cent from the Northern Territory, 2 per cent from overseas, 1 per cent from Tasmania, 3 per cent from South Australia and 1 per cent from Western Australia.

The Stockman's Hall of Fame usually has a staff of 25 full-time and part-time employees at Longreach and nine in the main administration branch in Brisbane. The turn-over of the Hall of Fame is in the seven-figure range. The normal day-to-day operation of the Hall of Fame makes a substantial contribution to the economy of Longreach and the surrounding region by way of direct operating cash and expenditure.

In addition, although there are real indirect cash benefits, they are somewhat difficult to quantify.

Figures provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics indicate the impact of the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame on the tourist industry in western Queensland. Since the opening of the Stockman's Hall of Fame in 1988, the number of tourist nights spent in the western Queensland statistical division has increased by 44 per cent.

The Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame was the catalyst for growth in other tourism-related activities in western Queensland. The workers' heritage centre in Barcaldine and the campaign to restore the wool scour at Blackall, which is in the electorate of the honourable member for Warrego, were inspired by the success of the Hall of Fame.

Several entrepreneurs have established small tourist operations, such as cruises on the Thomson River, Cobb and Co. coach rides and holiday stations. Some enterprising tour-operators have taken positive steps to provide additional tourist accommodation. Many similar projects are in the planning or approval phase.

Many western towns are slowly losing their economic importance, populations and services. In contrast, Longreach is enjoying increased employment and investment opportunities and population growth, which can be attributed directly to the Stockman's Hall of Fame.

Winton, which is 115 miles to the north west of Longreach, was the home of Qantas. The town is famous also for the Combo Waterhole where Banjo Patterson wrote *Waltzing Matilda*. The people of Winton are very proud of that. The Winton Outback Festival, which is held every two years, will be held again in September 1991. In many ways Winton is similar to Quilpie. Both towns boast opal-mining and provide facilities for fat cattle from the channel country. Between 90 000 and 100 000 head of cattle travel from the channel country through the Winton/Quilpie district.

Unfortunately, the honourable member for Townsville is not in the Chamber at the moment. Yesterday he spoke about one vote, one value. If it were not for the numbers of cattle that come from the western districts of this State, the meatworks in Townsville probably would have to close because they would not process sufficient numbers of cattle.

Because tourism has injected a great deal of capital into the western towns, including Alpha, Barcaldine, Longreach and Winton, it should be encouraged as a growth industry.

I turn now to health, which is a very important issue with which I have been involved in the past. I am pleased that the Minister for Health is in the Chamber. I congratulate the previous Government on the way in which it upgraded hospitals and health facilities in the west. Members of that Government can be proud of those achievements.

One aspect of health care that needs to be highlighted is the care of aged people. Yesterday, it gave me great pleasure to hear the honourable member for Yeronga express concern about the senior citizens of his electorate. Honourable members would be aware that aged people are well catered for in Longreach at the Pioneer Home. Although that home initially catered for only 40 people, it now caters for about 80 aged persons. I congratulate and commend the people who care for those elderly people. They are truly saints in their own world.

A nursing home in Charleville, which is in the electorate of the honourable member for Warrego, also services part of my electorate. I commend also the people who work at that nursing home, which is especially dear to me because my mother lived out her final days there.

I am concerned about the aged people of western towns. The problem is that many of those towns have large aged populations. For example, approximately 20 elderly people live alone in the small town of Aramac. In the future those people will need home and community health care. Something must be done to help them. If possible, they should be kept in their own homes for as long as possible. No doubt the Minister would agree that keeping those people in their own homes is less costly than caring for them in nursing homes. During their twilight years they should be able to remain in their own environment. Because those aged people have devoted their lives to their districts, they deserve respect.

I turn now to ambulance services, which play a very important role in my electorate. Ambulances in Longreach, Quilpie and other areas of western Queensland are under the control of hospital boards. The number of ambulances in Longreach should be increased, especially when one considers the increased population in that town during the tourist season. In the west, schools need to place more emphasis on teaching people about the benefits of first aid. Some western ambulance centres are manned by unskilled people

and at times it is difficult to acquire staff for them. Consideration needs to be given to that problem.

The people of Longreach are very lucky that, if the need arises, the flying surgeon covers the vast Gregory electorate and beyond. I thank Dr Paul for the service that he provides. Recently the services of the flying gynaecologist were introduced to the electorate. That very important service is performed by Dr Jim Baker. The honourable member for Warrego may remember that, many years ago, Dr Baker was the local GP in Blackall. He has now set up a practice in Roma and his service is provided to our area on a monthly or two-monthly basis, whenever it is required. I congratulate Dr Baker on providing what is undoubtedly a very important service to the women of the west.

While the Minister for Health is in the House, I am pleased to mention the patient transfer scheme. Although the scheme needs reorganising, there is no doubt that it is a great one. I thank the former Government for establishing it. For the benefit of honourable members who may not be aware of the scheme, I point out that it provides transfers to Brisbane of sick people who need urgent help. At present, the aerial ambulance service does not cover the Longreach area; it goes only as far as Barcaldine. If a patient has to be transferred to Brisbane, a plane has to come from Brisbane to pick him up. Consideration should be given to basing a plane in Longreach to service the vast inland area so that people needing urgent medical help can be flown straight to Brisbane. I will not refer to that matter further.

I turn now to hospital boards. It is of paramount importance that hospital boards be retained because they have the local input and the local knowledge to deal with the problems in local hospitals. I plead with the Minister for Health to give serious consideration to the retention of those boards.

The next important matter relating to my electorate is education. The electorate of Gregory boasts some 25 schools, 21 of which are State schools and four of which are private schools operated by the nuns. Education is a very important part of our life. Children in western Queensland also deserve equality of education. Many people are not aware of the high school facilities in the west. In the towns of Winton, Longreach and Barcaldine, children are educated to Year 12, but the high schools in Quilpie and Alpha cater only for children to Year 10.

I want to refer to the non-availability of high schools in some of the outlying areas. Many of the townspeople of Isisford, Aramac, Muttaborra, Jericho and Quilpie cannot afford to send their children to boarding school. Further consideration should be given to that in the hope that those children may receive the same education as that received by children whose parents are financially better off.

I refer now to the arid zone research station in Longreach and to the pastoral college. I pay tribute to the people who work at the arid zone research station under the deputy directorship of Mr Warren Hoey. They are doing a grand job, in an advisory capacity and in a listening capacity, for the people of western Queensland. The input of the arid zone research station in western Queensland into the rural fraternity of the area has been of great magnitude. I congratulate the people who work at that centre.

During the past 22 years, the pastoral college, under the directorship of Mr Alan McGregor, has taught some 1 000 young men and women. The college offers a two-year course that covers a very broad area of the rural spectrum.

I deal now with local government. Probably the largest employers of people in the electorate of Gregory are local authorities. As honourable members would be well aware, in recent years, because of funding cuts for main roads works, local authorities have faced hardship. Much of the money raised by local authorities comes from rates, grants and loans. I pay tribute to the people who serve on local authorities. They do not receive a lot of thanks. In recent years, their struggle has been made even more difficult by the

Federal Government's cuts in road-funding and by high interest rates that have resulted from the Federal Government's policies.

After local government, the shearing industry is of major importance to the electorate of Gregory. Shearers have a great input into the economy of the electorate, which is a major wool-growing area. Shearers are big money earners and they spend much of their money in the area. They are a very important part of our way of life. After all, they are legends in this country.

Police officers in western areas are not receiving a fair go. For too long they have been taken for granted, especially since the Fitzgerald inquiry. The majority of police officers with whom I come in contact in the west are fair dinkum, mickey mouse blokes. It is time to put on record the direction in which the police force is heading.

Police officers are concerned about their future. They are career people. It is of paramount importance that they know what their future is. After all, many police officers have families.

Married police officers in Longreach are facing a housing problem. It is important that I raise that matter now in order that the problem can be addressed.

The main part of my speech—and it is paramount—addresses quality of life. No matter what a person's walk of life may be, he deserves the comforts of his achievements. He may be in the shearing industry, the railways, small business or government. Many employees in the Gregory electorate work for the Government, particularly in the Main Roads Department.

I have already approached the Minister for Resource Industries, Mr Vaughan, on the subject of the Barcoo and Boulia power schemes. I will be doing everything I can to achieve an electricity service for the people of those areas. Many people take such a service for granted. It is important to provide electricity to the people of Barcoo and Boulia.

The last subject to which I refer is one vote, one value. Yesterday, the honourable member for Townsville informed the House that I represented some 8 300 voters. I record that the population of the Gregory electorate is approximately 13 000, which is spread over 430 000 square kilometres.

The constituents of Gregory are workers and they have a right to be properly represented in their State Parliament. It is a nonsense for the honourable member for Townsville to imply that the people of Gregory are privileged by the current zonal system. The people who are unfairly favoured are those who have never contributed anything to the society on which they have sponged all their lives. Those people have been told by certain people that they have a special right to control the will and destiny of people in areas such as Gregory primarily because people living in the densely populated coastal belt had the numbers to do so. I totally reject that proposition.

Numerically, the electorate of Gregory is very small, but it is that small group of people who have provided the wealth of this nation. They are the ones providing the money that has been soaked up by a social security system that has been abused constantly. The cost of providing the Australian social security system rises year after year.

I reject the proposition that the people in Gregory should be denied the right of proper representation because of the number of electors in that electorate. Any proposition that the vote of any one of my hard-working constituents is considered to be inferior to a person living in a densely populated coastal belt is also rejected.

The citizens of Queensland require fair representation. The only way that will be achieved is through a zonal system.

I conclude my speech by thanking honourable members for their forbearance. On behalf of the people of the Gregory electorate, in the country where men are men and women are angels in isolation, I thank you one and all.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Campbell): Order! The honourable member for Pine Rivers will be making her maiden speech. I ask that it be heard in silence.

**Mrs WOODGATE** (Pine Rivers) (4.49 p.m.): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take this opportunity to congratulate you personally on your appointment as Chairman of Committees and I ask that you pass on my congratulations to Mr Speaker on his appointment.

As one of the two dozen new faces on this side of the House, it is my privilege to rise today to address the House for the first time. Along with my newly elected colleagues on the Government benches, I feel both honoured and humbled by the trust and confidence placed in me by the electors of Pine Rivers.

I am proud to be part of the Australian Labor Party team which swept into office on 2 December and which I know holds such great hope and promise for the people of Queensland; yet humbled but not daunted by the massive vote of confidence given me by the residents of Pine Rivers.

To those electors who saw fit to place the number "1" against my name on the ballot-paper, I say, "Thank you. I will not let you down." To the minority who did not, I say, "Please remember that I am here to represent every man, woman and child in Pine Rivers, irrespective of race, creed or political leanings. Please allow me the opportunity to assist you if and when the need arises."

I think it is appropriate for me to acknowledge and express my gratitude to my campaign team, so ably led by my campaign manager, John Battams, for their dedication and hard work at the grassroots level of election campaigning; to the Australian Labor Party State campaign manager, Mr Wayne Swan, for his guidance and his expert advice along the way; to our Premier, Wayne Goss, for his leadership of the team; and to the Australian Labor Party policy-makers who provided we campaigners with the right policies to present to the people of Queensland for the betterment of life in the Sunshine State.

Last, but certainly not least, I place on record my thanks and appreciation to my family for their understanding of just what being a political candidate entailed and the effect it had on one's family. For my three adult children, whose ages range from 31 to 25 years, 2 December marked a new beginning. They and their generation had never experienced any Government in this State other than a conservative Government. For them, today's Opposition—yesterday's men—were never tomorrow's men.

Be that as it may, to all these people whom I have named in my litany of thanks and, in fact, to all who assisted our winning campaign in any way, no matter how small, I say, "Thank you for your part in turning the tide in Pine Rivers. Friends, life can and will be great in the Sunshine State."

Those of us who are familiar with the Pine Rivers electorate would appreciate that the electorate combines the best of both urban and rural life-styles. From the mountains of Nebo and Glorious in the south to Ocean View and Mount Pleasant in the north, the electorate covers the urban areas of Albany Creek, Eatons Hill, Joyner, Brendale, Strathpine and Bray Park, the rural areas of Clear Mountain, Warner, Cashmere, Closeburn, Highvale and Samsonvale, and the townships of Samford and Dayboro. It was in these latter areas that some of Queensland's earliest dairying farms and families originated. Some families, such as the Bradleys and Sellins in Dayboro, still carry on the family tradition of dairy farming to this day.

The rivers from which the electorate takes its name—the North Pine and the South Pine Rivers—are rich in the history of our State. Cashes Crossing at Albany Creek, a favourite picnic spot with families in the 1940s and 1950s, is named after a Queensland pioneer, James Cash and, likewise, Eatons Crossing, Drapers Crossing, Youngs Crossing—all very delightful spots on the South and North Pine Rivers—keep alive the memory of those early pioneer settlers in our area.

Situated as it is on the outskirts of metropolitan Brisbane, Pine Rivers has, as its unofficial business centre, the suburb of Strathpine. Similar to the electorate of Logan represented by our Premier, Pine Rivers is one of the fastest-growing areas in south-east Queensland and has really come of age in the last decade. There would be those among

us who remember the road through Strathpine not too many years ago as a dirt track on the way to the Sunshine Coast, with the Strathpine Country Club Hotel a well-placed watering hole. Strathpine has come a long way since those days. As a matter of fact, for those of us who are forced each day to drive through Strathpine on our way to business, school or pleasure, the traffic delays caused by inadequate road-planning by the previous coalition and National Party Governments of the past decade could well bring about the desire for a return to those days when the road was a dirt track and traffic proceeded at the rate of about two cars each half-hour.

The view that the North Coast Freeway would relieve the traffic burden through Gympie Road, Strathpine, was and is a myth, and the road network through Strathpine continues to frustrate motorists in their daily travels.

The name "Pine Rivers" conjures up visions of the North Pine River and the South Pine River meandering their lazy way through sleepy dairy farms, delightful picnic spots from Dayboro to Dohles Rocks and, to some of us, weekends of yesteryear spent dangling a fishing line from the banks of the North Pine River at Petrie in search of that elusive summer whiting. The reality is quite the reverse.

The devastation that has befallen the river banks, the destruction of mangroves in many areas and the threat to fish habitats are matters of shame and regret. Gravel-mining has been allowed in the rivers for many years and in some areas the damage cannot be rectified. Previous conservative Governments have turned deaf ears to the pleas of both the Pine Rivers Shire Council and the local wildlife groups to assess the environmentally serious problem where mining continues. In the neighbouring electorate of Murrumba, my colleague the Honourable the Attorney-General and honourable member for Murrumba has, on many occasions, drawn to the attention of the previous Government the legalised vandalism being perpetrated by on-river mining of the North Pine River in his electorate.

I will be asking that the subject of the mining of our once beautiful Pine Rivers be considered as a matter of priority by our Government and, in view of the increased industrialisation occurring upstream, I have already requested the Department of the Environment to advise me whether environmental standards in relation to those historic rivers are being met.

It is pleasing to note that the people of Pine Rivers, in common with Mr and Mrs Australia, are becoming more environmentally conscious. The recycling booklet published by the Australian Labor Party during the election campaign proved to be very popular with my constituents. At every house I door-knocked and at every street information booth staffed, I was inundated with requests for copies of the booklet. I read recently that until just last year—1989—the environment and planet earth were like the battered wife in a violent marriage. As neighbours, we all knew what was going on but we turned a blind eye to it all for the usual reasons: we did not think there was anything we could do about it; we did not want to get involved and, worse, it was none of our business. Happily, attitudes have changed and, to Mr and Mrs Average, being green now means more than feeling seasick or suffering an attack of jealousy.

I am happy to report that the buzz phrase, "Thinking globally, acting locally," is being put into practice in Pine Rivers. People are trying, albeit in a small way, to turn words into action. Environmental watchdog groups, such as the Mount Nebo Environmental Protection Association and the Dayboro Environmental Group, are playing their part in keeping their peers fully informed of any matters of environmental concern, and they are preaching the gospel according to Dr David Suzuki.

For many years I have been concerned about issues of disadvantage and quality of life in our community. As one expression of that concern, I became involved with the formation of the Pine Rivers Welfare Association and I am the immediate past president of that organisation. The Pine Rivers Neighbourhood Centre is an activity of the welfare association, and its location within the community enables it to become aware of where the community is hurting and what kinds of services are required to meet the needs of the people.

The centre provides a venue for support groups, such as the group for parents of children with a disability, and foster parents. Groups meeting social needs of the elderly and young adults with intellectual and physical disabilities also meet at the centre.

A housing referral worker administers 10 emergency houses, providing interim accommodation for families in need and providing a stepping stone to more permanent accommodation. A job club operates at the centre for those unable to obtain employment. This club has over a 90 per cent success rate. Volunteers fulfil a valuable role in reception and in staffing the community information service. Legal advice is given by solicitors who freely give of their time to attend the centre weekly.

A social worker is responsible for the centre and, recently, I asked him about the needs in the community as he saw them. This social worker has more than 25 years' experience in the welfare field, including 10 years with Lifeline Brisbane and 13 years with the Department of Family Services. His comments were exceedingly disquieting as he painted a picture of what is happening in the community and what will happen in the future unless there is some positive intervention.

Changes in society over the past 20 years have greatly increased the vulnerability of the family unit. Twenty years ago, great concern was being expressed about the weakness of the nuclear family—mum, dad and the kids—to cope with the stresses of rearing a child in a modern society. It was said that such a nuclear family lacked the support of the extended family—the grandparents, aunts and uncles were often miles away—and the nuclear family had to struggle on its own. Today, increasingly the family is not mum, dad and the kids, but just mum and the kids or dad and the kids. Among women between 25 and 29 years of age, there are now fewer marriages than de facto relationships, and these relationships are lasting, on average, less than two years. A third of all marriages now end in divorce.

What does all this mean in terms of human suffering? What is happening out there in the community? The neighbourhood centre social worker is finding that a large proportion of his time is taken up working with parents who are so stressed that they are not coping, or are barely coping with their role as parents. He is receiving desperate cries for help from parents who are on the verge of abusing their children physically, or who have abused them both physically and emotionally. Mothers are pleading for help with parenting their children; their own parenting being so deficient that they do not know how to parent their own children. A mother who was severely neglected and abused as a child cannot cope with her teenage children who are reacting to her deficient knowledge of parenting skills by behaviour which pushes her to despair and violent behaviour. Story after story could be related of parents who are so stressed that they are desperate. There is no-one who can relieve their stress or help them with the skills and understanding that parenting requires. As a result, children are being abused and neglected and parents are breaking down under the pressure.

However, the neighbourhood centre is dealing with only a part of the families that are breaking down. The Department of Family Services and its staff are struggling with the same problem. The Education Department is seeing the results of parents under stress in the children who attend our schools. The role of teachers is becoming increasingly more difficult because they are faced with the problem of handling disturbed children over and above the task of teaching. In addition, there are the parents of children with disabilities, both intellectual and physical. The 24-hour constancy of care that is needed is driving many of these parents to breaking point. Homes are breaking up because of the intolerable stress and the lack of respite care or even suitable transport.

What can be done to alleviate the stress, to help parents cope and to enable children to have their birthright—a stable, loving and secure home? This problem is being addressed in my electorate. The neighbourhood centre, in cooperation with the Division of Special Services of the Education Department, family services, community health and the churches is seeking to develop a program to assist parents who are experiencing excessive stress in their various roles by a supportive and educational program that is designed to relieve the immediate stress and to provide families with coping skills in

areas such as parenting, family life, relationships and budgeting. Such a program will require volunteers to help in a number of ways: firstly, volunteers to act as parent aides who can get beside parents in a non-threatening manner, helping them to develop parenting skills and to cope with all that family life demands; secondly, to act as adoptive or substitute grandparents who can provide a caring, supportive relationship to both parents and children; thirdly, people who can offer respite care for children both with and without disabilities, which will enable parents to spend time with each other or with other children, or just have time for themselves; and, fourthly, by providing transport to enable children and parents to attend programs designed to meet their needs. The volunteers will be supervised by a professional coordinator and the program will be supported by a panel of helping professionals. There is a cost for such a program and a coordinator. There are expenses incurred by the volunteers and the cost of providing training for volunteers. However, there is a greater cost if we fail to provide adequate support to those in our society who are overstressed and not coping. We will be paying that cost both now and in the years to come not only in dollars but also in terms of suffering through the disintegration of homes and families. Over the next three years, in my capacity as their local member I intend to keep a watchful eye on the workings of our neighbourhood centre and will assist the dedicated professionals and volunteers at the centre in any way I can.

In common with most residential areas on the outskirts of large cities, transport to and from the city of Brisbane remains a problem for commuters who are resident in Pine Rivers. In her maiden speech to this House, my predecessor, Mrs Yvonne Chapman, stated that she saw one of the most fundamental needs of the Pine Rivers electorate to be an extensive survey into solving the transport problems in the Albany Creek area, with particular consideration being given to buses. Unfortunately, for the residents of Albany Creek, Eatons Hill, Brendale and Joyner my inquiries have revealed that no such survey has ever been undertaken and the problem of adequate transport to service the needs of residents in those parts of my electorate has, like Topsy, just "grewed". One of my first duties upon being elected has been to request the Department of Transport to undertake a traffic analysis of the area. I serve notice on the Honourable the Minister for Transport that I shall be beating a path to his door if the findings bear out what the residents claim, that is, that there has been neglect of their needs in this most important area.

The lack of a police presence in the Strathpine and Bray Park areas of my electorate is cause for concern. In his best seller, the Fitzgerald report, Mr Tony Fitzgerald made mention of the fact that police numbers in the Pine Rivers and Redcliffe areas were running at approximately 32 per cent of desired police staffing levels. The Honourable the Minister for Police and Emergency Services has been made aware of my concern and I would have to say here that the establishment of a police station to serve those areas is very high on my list of priorities in properly serving my electorate. Seldom a day passes when my office is not contacted by persons telling of the frustration of being unable to contact police quickly in cases of domestic disputes or of cars speeding dangerously through suburban streets late at night. The residents in rural areas fare no better. Samford and Camp Mountain residents regularly advise me of yet another break-in on their rural properties. Recently, it took seven phone calls to the Redcliffe Police Station and a wait of one and three-quarter hours before a police car could be made available to come to a house in suburban Strathpine where a person was running amok in his yard with a loaded gun. This is an intolerable situation and the people of Pine Rivers deserve better.

As a former Pine Rivers Shire Council member, I realise the importance of a good working relationship and good rapport with the local council. Both during my time as a councillor and since stepping aside, I have maintained close and friendly links with the Shire Chairman, Rob Akers, councillors and council staff, and look forward to liaising regularly with this level of Government in Pine Rivers. I say that notwithstanding the fact that chairman Rob Akers tried unsuccessfully to prevent my election to this House as the member for Pine Rivers. It is now history that the endorsement of councillor

Akers as a second Liberal candidate just four weeks prior to the election was a desperate bid by the Liberal Party hierarchy to win the seat. Unfortunately, nobody remembered or bothered to remind councillor Akers of his own words in his maiden speech to this House when, as the newly elected member for Pine Rivers, he quite correctly said that policies and the standard of the candidates win elections, not the amount of money spent.

It is pleasing to know that the Electoral and Administrative Review Commission has on its agenda a review of local government boundaries. In the case of Pine Rivers, a review of local government boundaries is long overdue. The people in urban areas have been patient for too long and deserve to be represented as fairly as their counterparts in rural areas.

Last evening in this place, the member for Warwick said that he did not agree with the concept of one vote, one value. Further, he said that he considered that city folk would not accept it. I have news for the honourable member. The city slickers in Pine Rivers Shire have been underrepresented for too long. The total of 23 900 electors whom I represent must be compared to the 8 000 electors represented by the honourable Leader of the Opposition. Dairy cows in the rural areas of the shire divisions are better represented than their human counterparts in urban areas. For example, in Division 3—rural areas around Dayboro—it takes 1 100 voters to elect two councillors, compared to five councillors in Division 2—urban areas centred around Strathpine, Bray Park, Lawnton and Kallangur which contain 40 000 people. These constituents will gladly accept the principle of one vote, one value, if it be so decided, for either State or local government elections. I look forward to the malapportioned local government boundaries in Pine Rivers Shire being just a bad memory, along with all those other unpleasant anomalies that the previous National Party Government refused to correct.

Mr Deputy Speaker, some years ago, we were stirred by a famous speech of the American civil rights crusader, Martin Luther King, when he told people of the USA and, indeed, the world, "I have a dream!" May I say this afternoon that I, too, have a dream—a dream which, in common with that of Martin Luther King, can be realised. That dream is to see Queensland restored to its rightful place as a role model for all other Australian States—free from the taint of corruption which permeated the upper echelons of Government and the public service, and free from ridicule by our co-States because members of the previous Government prided themselves on being different. You know, Mr Deputy Speaker, for once they got it right. They sure were different!

I want to see Queensland take its place at the top of the tree as an exporting State. I want to see Queensland's education system on a par with other States in Government funding at State level and, more importantly, in the finished product. I want to see members of Queensland's police force stand proud among members of the community as the respected guardians of law and order. Last, but certainly not least, I want to see the Queensland Parliament give more than lip-service to the Westminster system of Government. The previous Government made a mockery of, and thumbed its nose at, the principles of Westminster. It is not surprising, therefore, that two out of the past three National Party Premiers had no understanding of the doctrine of the separation of powers. One could be forgiven for thinking that the only similarity between previous National Party Governments and the British parliamentary system was that this Chamber could have been mistaken as Queensland's House of Commons, with "common" being the operative word. For those and other reasons too numerous to list, I have a dream that all Australians will one day look up to Queensland—and not only because of our northerly position on the map. The Goss Labor Party can make the dream a reality.

As a member of this Government and as the elected member for Pine Rivers, I pledge myself to all present in Parliament today to play my part for the betterment of Queenslanders. As I said at the outset, I am proud to be part of the first Australian Labor Party Queensland Government in three decades. During the election campaign, members of the Labor Party promised that Queensland would once again be a State of which all Queenslanders could be proud; that is, corruption-free; a State with good economic

growth; a State with a commitment to protecting Queensland's heritage and environment; a State proud of its law and order record. As a Government, it is now the task of members of the Australian Labor Party to turn those promises into reality. Now is the time for action. The old jungle saying is, "The Gods do not favour those who wait for fruit to fall from the tree into their open mouths." Mr Deputy Speaker, we will shake the tree.

**Mr LITTLEPROUD** (Condamine) (5.13 p.m.): I rise to support the amendment to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply moved by the Leader of the Opposition. In line with the tradition of this debate I, too, offer my allegiance and the allegiance of the electors of Condamine to Her Majesty the Queen.

I wish to comment on the role played by the Governor of Queensland. Recently, His Excellency again performed his duties admirably. He is renown throughout this State for the way in which he identifies strongly with the people of Queensland and for his vast knowledge of the State. I am sure that I speak on behalf of other members when I say that I was delighted to learn that the Governor intends to accept a two-year extension of his term of office.

It is tradition that the Governor of Queensland delivers an address on the opening day of Parliament. The Governor's Speech was very carefully worded and very positive. It outlined all types of initiatives. However, I will reserve my judgment on the proposals contained in it until I know that they have all in fact been carried out.

I congratulate all newly elected members of this Parliament. During the past two days, I have been listening to members' maiden speeches. Judging by the comments made during those speeches, I am sure that they have come into this Parliament with the best of intentions. In some ways, Parliament is a rather cruel place; in other ways, friendships are formed that earlier would not have been thought likely. I have been a member of this Parliament long enough to have seen members suffer greatly because their parliamentary service was not long, but long enough to cause disruption to their family life and their careers. I hope that the intentions expressed by members on both sides of the Chamber are realised by each individual and by all honourable members collectively.

I have been alarmed by an overall trend that has emerged from many speeches. That trend seems to be representative of what is occurring in society. Numerous members are identifying things that individuals and community organisations want. However, I remind them that there is another side to the ledger: the raising of funds. To date, little has been said about the creation of wealth or the capacity of us as individuals to pay, be it taxes or Government charges. Little has been said about the impact that taxation has on family life. Later, I will speak on the impact of taxation and interest rates on the constituents of Condamine. However, Australiawide there appears to be a malaise that people should look after themselves first and that Australia is big enough to look after itself.

Throughout Australia, people are commenting that we seem to be fiddling while Rome burns. It is time that we turned away from the art form of having access to the public purse and talked about creating more wealth.

In the Federal Government's election campaign, much talk is centring on the fact that the redistribution of wealth is dear to the hearts of members of the ALP. Yesterday, I heard a debate between two Federal politicians who were talking about the redistribution of wealth. It was pointed out that in the past six or seven years we have reached the point at which 25 per cent of the wealth of Australia is now held by 1 per cent of the population. It was also pointed out that the people on the lower echelons of income levels are doing quite well. The real sufferers are Mr and Mrs Average, the people earning between \$25,000 and \$30,000 a year. The Federal Government led by Mr Hawke has had a tremendous negative impact upon those people. The ALP's dream of redistribution of wealth and social justice is not turning out as it would like it to do.

**Mr Beattie:** What about the homeless?

**Mr LITTLEPROUD:** They are being looked after. I am talking about middle income earners.

**Mr Beattie:** The homeless are not being looked after.

**Mr LITTLEPROUD:** They are being looked after as well as our society can afford to look after them.

I was also interested to hear that the emphasis of the Federal coalition on social security is to introduce a rebate system on income rather than to provide straight-out cash grants. I support that stance.

As is often the case with the election of Labor Governments, the ALP's program is based on reform. At the beginning of 1973, approximately three weeks after Gough Whitlam became Prime Minister of Australia, I decided to become involved in the National Party. All Mr Whitlam's initiatives seemed to be based on a model brought forward following a trip he took to the ruins of Bogata in South America. Recently, when he attended the opening of Parliament, I was disturbed to think that he might have come to Queensland to set up a similar model. I hope that it is not based on ruins.

**Mr Hamill:** He got more applause than you did.

**Mr LITTLEPROUD:** I did not think that it was proper that he should receive applause in the Legislative Council Chamber.

I have no argument with the idea of reforming things and making them better. However, I remind the Goss Government that the program of reform was started by the Ahern Government and carried on by the Cooper Government. The National Party Government introduced EARC and the CJC. The ball is now at the feet of the Labor Party to see those initiatives through.

As was mentioned at question-time today and also in the *Courier-Mail*, I put to the Government that the real thrust that it should follow is to take up the recommendations of the Cooke inquiry. The ALP has strong ties with the trade union movement. Evidence has been adduced of corruption not only in the union that is under investigation but also in the Waterside Workers Federation. One can also talk of ballot-rigging in the liquor trades union. Government members are obviously proud of the Labor movement. If they wish to carry on with reform and endeavour to stamp out corruption, they should pick up the challenge and carry on the good work of reform that the National Party had the intestinal fortitude to begin. I would not like the Premier to shut down the Cooke inquiry before the real reform has been completed.

I turn now to my electorate of Condamine, which I am representing for a third term. I once again acknowledge that it is a huge responsibility and an honour to represent those people. I took the result of the election in Condamine as a vote of confidence in the representation that I have given its people during the past six years, and also a vote of confidence in the relevance of the policies of the National Party to the people living in that part of Queensland.

In 1983 when I entered Parliament, the grain industry was economically viable. That continued until 1985. However, since 1985 the economic viability of the grain industry and the total community in the Condamine electorate has changed dramatically. It is now one of the most depressed districts in the State. Three factors played a role in its demise: poor prices for the commodities that it produces; poor seasons; and, most importantly, high interest rates. People with more knowledge of the rural sector than me are saying that the biggest factor impacting on the viability of the rural sector at present is high interest rates. That will be a key issue in the forthcoming Federal election.

My constituents in the electorate of Condamine recognise that we depend too much on primary production. We are doing what we can to diversify. I am proud that the National Party Government and I took action to relocate Connor Shea Napier from Sunshine in Melbourne to Dalby in Queensland. That company made Dalby its sole manufacturing base in Australia, which has helped the local community tremendously.

We had a pool of qualified workers with many types of trade skills who were unemployed. We increased the work force from approximately 30 to 150. At present, that company is marketing not only Australiawide but also on the export market in the Middle East and in south-east Asia.

However, despite that injection of funds, a need exists for us to diversify more. People are making bold attempts at horticulture, the growing of native flowers for overseas export, irrigating crops and establishing feedlots. The feedlots are posing problems to the environment. I am pleased that industry groups, as well as the Government, are coming to terms with those problems and trying to strike a balance. However, I remind the House that feedlots must become part and parcel of the beef industry and that we must find ways to make them work, not put them down.

The big concerns in the electorate of Condamine at present are high interest rates, the cost of living and road-funding, because my constituents depend greatly on having road access to markets and towns and services. My constituents are also worried about whether or not people in urban areas can be heard. There has already been debate about the redistribution of the State electoral boundaries. People are concerned about that. They are also very concerned about the redistribution of the local government boundaries. I cite the instance of the Chinchilla Shire Council. It just so happens that that shire has four or five divisions. One division on its own provides approximately 35 per cent of all the funds in the form of rates. There is real concern that if the boundaries are changed too much purely for population reasons, things will get out of kilter. Factors other than population must be taken into account in any distribution of boundaries.

As I am the shadow Education Minister, I take this opportunity to raise some matters related to education. During these days that are allotted to the Address in Reply debate, it is very difficult to ask questions. When the present Minister, the Honourable Paul Braddy, took over the Education portfolio, I was pleased to hear him say, "Queensland already has a good education system, but we can make it better." I have no argument with that. I was pleased that the Minister did acknowledge that Queensland has a good education system. Despite all the rhetoric from the Queensland Teachers Union and Nancy Coll from the QCPCA, which was carried on successfully by members of the Government, the fact is that the education system is in good shape. Queensland leads Australia in the use of technology and computerisation. The value of our syllabuses has been acknowledged by the Australian Teachers Federation and educators all over Australia. The standards being achieved by our children compare well with those being achieved elsewhere in Australia.

**Mr Beattie:** What about the TE score?

**Mr LITTLEPROUD:** I will get to that later.

The quality of schooling in this State is up there with the best, but it can be improved. In fact, when I was Minister for Education, I was working towards that end, and I am sure that the Minister would acknowledge that many of the programs that were implemented in the last 12 months are now starting to bear fruit. I cite the example of the Reading Recovery Scheme, which was implemented to help with the identification of children who are having difficulty with reading. That scheme helped to enable those children to be identified at a younger age so that they could take part in a remedial program.

The National Party Government was concerned about equality, which would strike a happy chord in some of the ladies on the other side of the Chamber. It was concerned about the small number of students studying science and mathematics and was already taking steps to introduce foreign language courses into primary schools. I notice that the Minister has gone further than that and has said that by 1991 an Asian language will be taught in all primary schools. I support that. My only concern is whether the human resources can be put in place to make it possible. These days, thanks to modern technology, it is possible to duplicate the services of a highly qualified person in many class rooms] throughout the State. Perhaps that is what the Minister will do.

Recently I was interested to hear a very pertinent comment from Mike Middleton, who is chairman of the Curriculum Advisory Committee. He mentioned "new basics", and he also talked about the danger of the curriculum becoming overcrowded. The honourable member for Pine Rivers, Mrs Woodgate, spoke about the need for other things to be done in schools. The real danger there, of course, is that there are only five hours a day, five days a week of schooling, and one can fit in only so much. It will have to be very carefully orchestrated so that the necessary basics can be condensed and fitted in, while at the same time meeting the demands of a modern society. I think that the department has the capacity to do that. I wish the Minister well as he goes down that track.

No doubt the new Minister is coming to terms with the sorts of priorities that are essential in education in order to meet the needs. He may agree with me that the biggest need at present is capital works. I identified that the resources within our schools are quite adequate—in fact, better than adequate—and so are the staffing levels. For every 15 secondary schoolchildren in Queensland there is a teacher. I think that there are 19 children for every primary schoolteacher in Queensland. However, there is a need for capital works. I wish the Minister well and I hope that he comes to terms with that because the fast-growing areas of Queensland are placing great demands on the resources of this State. All sorts of programs are needed, but I think that priorities are needed. The provision of schools has to be a priority, and it should come before some of those other things that are now up to scratch.

I am also concerned about the upgrading of the teaching profession. To that end, in last year's Budget, a huge amount of money was made available to restructure teachers' salaries. That process is continuing. I am sure that it will benefit the teaching profession. While the Minister is in the Chamber, I suggest that he could make better use of the ability to deregister those teachers who are found to be incompetent. The Board of Teacher Registration Act provides that, should teachers be found to be incompetent, the Board of Teacher Registration—the profession itself—can exercise its control by deregistering them. In my travels around Queensland as Minister for Education, I found that there were people in the profession who wanted that to happen. Last year I personally gave a direction to my senior officers to go out and identify those people and initially try to help them to improve their skills and, if they then did not measure up, to certainly use that power, as a professional body, rather than as an employer.

During my two-year term as the Minister for Education I put the accent on the three Rs. It seemed to me that that was one of the concerns held by members of the public. For starters, I responded to that by enlarging the size of the inspectorate. The system was that 50 per cent of their time was being spent on professional development and roughly 50 per cent was being spent in assessment of the programs in use. I am sure that that is bearing fruit. The National Party Government also tried to make education more relevant. To that end, school development plans were introduced in which the p. and c. associations and the school community as a whole were invited to set down goals—academic goals and goals of obtaining resources for the school—so that the local people could ensure that their school represented the sorts of things that they wanted. It must be borne in mind that there had to be an overview and control by the department itself to make sure that the content was correct. That sort of process was under control because all school development plans had to be submitted to a regional director, who would either approve it or veto it.

**Mr Beattie:** Tell us about the TE score.

**Mr LITTLEPROUD:** I am getting to that.

I also introduced throughout the State a system of sample testing in the basic subjects. I hope that it continues. As I travelled from region to region I noticed that there was a great response coming from the regional directors and the regional teams. They identified that it was something that was very worth while. The schools themselves

then started introducing their own system of sample testing and got away from macroplanning. What really matters in education is what actually happens in the class room—what goes across the desk to the child. By placing emphasis on that and by upgrading the techniques that are used, we can ensure that the basics are right and that the children make the best use of modern technology, foreign languages, computerisation and so on.

Last year, I asked that for some subjects percentages be included on report cards. Some time in the future I will be interested to hear from the Minister about that. Although some parents and citizens associations have opposed that proposal, I am aware that many private schools in Queensland have adopted that practice. However, I have never found it to be an impost. It is certainly a reminder to children that the world is competitive. As well, it acts as a stimulus to those teachers who tend to become less competitive by fobbing off good results and doing something in a different way on the basis that it is educationally sound.

I turn now to the review of TE scores. During 1988 the National Party Government introduced legislation that established the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies on 1 January 1989. At that time I gave immediate instructions that the TE system had to be improved.

When the TE score system was introduced approximately 12 000 children were attending Year 12. However, that number increased to 35 000, which meant that the system was not working. Because children had to be placed in 100 bands, those 35 000 students were crowded too closely together.

All sorts of suggestions were offered from many sectors, and the National Party Government took note of those suggestions. As a result, the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies formulated a timetable for the start of the 1991 school year whereby those children entering Year 11 would be assessed under the new system.

Since coming to office the Minister has formed a new committee. My inquiries reveal that that committee is seeking the advice of the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies and is making use of the hard work that those people have done. I notice that the membership of that review committee almost mirrors the membership of the Board of Senior Secondary School Studies in relation to community input. The only thing that is different is that no input has been invited from industry and commerce, which I had included in an endeavour to maintain the necessary relevance to education.

I wish the Minister well with that committee. I am pleased that he is using the expertise of those people who have done so much work during the past 12 months. Although there are some differences between the proposals of the previous Government and those of this Government, in the main this Government is going down the same track because it realises that the present system could be improved.

Several years ago a Black and Gold report was released. However, because that report seemed to make a confusing issue even more complex, I refused to implement its recommendations. I believe that the National Party Government addressed that issue correctly. If this Government addresses the issue in the same way, not only will the new system provide a tertiary entrance score but it will also benefit those young people who wish to enter the work force rather than undertake tertiary education.

That brings me to tertiary places. For a long time it has been well known that the level of participation of Queensland children in tertiary education has slipped to the lowest of any State in Australia. At one time Queensland had the highest level of participation of students in tertiary education. In 1988 I set up the Sherrin committee, which did an excellent job. The Federal Government could not dispute the data that the committee collected. It revealed that Queensland was getting a raw deal. Several initiatives were then undertaken to improve Queensland's position.

Honourable members will recall that in the 1988 Budget a huge sum was allocated to provide an additional 1 000 tertiary places; but those places were provided by the State. That funding was provided as part of a deal with the Federal Government. At that time approximately 2 000 tertiary education places were funded by tertiary

institutions— not by the Federal Government, whose responsibility it was. The Federal Government recognised that that was occurring and, as part of the deal, it agreed to provide the funding for those 2 000 ghost places. In addition, the Federal Government agreed that any increases in tertiary education places across Australia would be distributed on the basis that 24 per cent of the growth factor would go to Queensland, which has only 16 per cent of the Australian population. Although Queensland had a win, it had to provide 1 000 places at its own expense in order to draw out the Commonwealth Government. Shame on it! Nevertheless, there was a great need for funding to provide additional tertiary education places in Queensland.

This year the Minister announced the creation of another 1 500 places. While I acknowledge that he is addressing the huge problem that Queensland still faces, I am concerned that Queensland is being trapped into a situation in which scarce State funds will be used to provide tertiary education places that are the responsibility of the Commonwealth.

When I was the Minister for Education I considered this problem and gave a higher priority to capital works in the school system than to tertiary places. However, this Minister has made his own judgment and he can offer his own explanation further down the track.

Not all of the 1 000 additional tertiary education places that the National Party Government created for the start of the 1989 academic year were taken up. For the first time in history the University of Queensland had an intake of students in June 1989 rather than starting all students at the beginning of the year. I congratulate the university on that initiative which ensured that all places were taken up. No doubt the Minister will indicate to the House how many of the 1 500 places that were created this year have been taken up. Could he indicate whether some of those places have been allocated to the open-learning centres that are expanding across the State?

At present tertiary education is delivered from 10 campuses, which leaves many people far removed from tertiary education centres. With the use of modern technology it is possible to take tertiary education and other forms of education to the provincial towns of Queensland by way of computers, landlines, satellites and whatever. I would like an indication from the Minister as to whether some of those tertiary education places are being taken up by those provincial centres.

The Sherrin report recommended funding of \$4m for the creation of 40 open-learning centres during the next two years. Recently I was informed by the Kelvin Grove centre that 12 new centres have been established this year and that another 20 will be established by May. I congratulate that committee, which was headed by Dr Roy Lunden, on its initiative.

I am delighted that the techniques and technology that Queensland has available at its disposal are now in demand elsewhere. Dr Roy Lunden is currently in Western Australia talking with people about what is occurring in Queensland. Because of the tyranny of distance, Western Australia has problems similar to those that Queensland experiences. The Victorian Government also has made inquiries about our technology. Queensland is now selling consultancies and has received inquiries from the Philippines and Malaysia. Honourable members may recall that, last year, I visited various parts of south-east Asia with the express purpose of trying to sell education and education technology as a product. That visit is now starting to bear fruit, and Queensland is now selling some of its technology to that region. Many students from that area are attending our universities as full fee paying students.

That gives rise to one of the problems in tertiary education in Queensland at present. It is now possible for a person outside Australia to gain access to our tertiary institutions by simply paying the full fee. As yet, an Australian student is not able to do the same thing. Unless a student receives a TE place, he is not permitted to attend a tertiary institution. The Federal Government should amend its policy so that if a person was academically qualified and wanted to pay the full fee he could attend a public university in the same way as he could attend the Bond University.

I believe that I was right when I started my comments about education by saying that our system is in good shape. I wish the new Minister well in making it even better. The funding that was made available during my time as Minister went a long way towards improving what was already a pretty competent system. The resource level is doing extremely well.

Once again, I mention that it is strange how those people who had a politically vested interest rather than an educational interest were so vocal in 1988 and 1989 and this year that they have had hardly anything at all to say about it in the press. It is one of two things: either they were politically motivated then or they recognise now that all the good programs that were put in place by the department under my directions in the last couple of years are now bearing fruit.

I want to make a few comments about things that have happened since 2 December last year. Prior to the election, the present Premier did a lot of grandstanding and posturing and talked a lot about credibility, accountability, being impeccable and all sorts of traditions. The people of Queensland took him at face value. It would seem that the Premier is a very articulate man, well informed and well able to handle himself. But events in the last few days would seem to indicate that there is a certain amount of transparency in his image, because we have already witnessed a couple of instances in which those high ideals that have been espoused are not being upheld.

Recently in this House, reference was made to the sacking of Mr Alan George and other members of the Port of Brisbane Authority. Despite comments from the other side of the House about the lack of profitability not being a credit to the chairman, I still hold the view that the excuse to sack Mr George was fabricated to his detriment. That is most unfair.

I am also aware that some public servants—not only those in senior positions but also others of lesser rank—seem to have been treated very badly. In defence of some of the Ministers, I will say that it has come to my notice that some of them wanted to retain some of the public servants. They realised that those public servants were not policy-makers but merely public servants doing clerical work who were picked because of their competence. The Ministers would have willingly kept those people serving with them, but it would seem that directions came from the "A Team" within the Premier's Department and, despite the wishes of some Ministers and the recognition of the quality of some of the public servants, they were still put on the scrap heap or pushed aside. I feel very sorry for those people, especially when I recall the reassuring comments that were made prior to the election that there would be no witch-hunts. It is a sad reflection on the Premier. If he wants to gain the confidence of the people, he has not gone about it the right way.

In conclusion, I want to make a few comments to Government members. I came to Brisbane on 4 December last year, the Monday after the election. I saw some of the members on the opposite side of the House who had been elevated to the Ministry or who had won their seat. I congratulated them. I do it again now publicly. I wish them well. They are probably finding that being a Minister is a very demanding role. It invades one's privacy, puts all sorts of demands on one's personal life and puts one in the public spotlight. I want to make sure they understand that they said they would do certain things. I hope they do them.

As members of the former Government, we on this side started the reform process. It took a lot of courage to implement the Fitzgerald inquiry and to see it right through. I challenge the Government to see the reform process through and also to continue with the Cooke inquiry. I assure the Government that comments that I make from this side of the House will be constructive and in the best interests of the people of Queensland.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Campbell): Order! Before I call the honourable member for Mount Gravatt, I point out that this is her maiden speech. I ask that she be heard in silence.

**Ms SPENCE** (Mount Gravatt) (5.42 p.m.): Mr Deputy Speaker, may I begin by extending, through you, my personal congratulations to Mr Speaker on his election to that office. I am certain that in his time as Speaker he will serve with dignity, wisdom and integrity. As well, I extend to you my congratulations on your election to the position of Chairman of Committees.

I would also like to extend congratulations to the members of Her Majesty's Government and particularly to the Premier of this State on a resounding and historic election win. As well, I extend my congratulations to members of Her Majesty's Opposition who have finally been put in their rightful place by the good sense of the Queensland people.

I should like to express my appreciation of, and gratitude to, the electors of Mount Gravatt. They have elected me to this Assembly where I trust that wrongs will be righted and errors, if any, will be few.

I thank all those people who worked so hard to support me in the Mount Gravatt campaign, in particular, my campaign director, Lindesay Jones.

I also express my appreciation to my campaign committee and the members of the Mount Gravatt branch of the Labor Party. But above all, I would like to thank the many citizens of my electorate who knew it was time for a change and devoted their time and energy in order to effect it. Finally, I thank my husband, Heinz, and son, Lucas, for their patience, love and encouragement during a long election campaign.

Let me say at the outset how proud I am to be a politician in this new Government in this new decade of the 1990s. I come to this Parliament at a time in our history when many believe that politicians have become irrelevant, self-seeking and untrustworthy. That Queenslanders should have developed such an outlook is unfortunate but understandable in the light of the bizarre events that have unfolded in this Chamber over the last 32 years. One would have to search hard through the history of Westminster Parliaments to find a comparable period of unbroken rule. Because the National Party regime lasted for a long time, there grew up an idea of normalcy that was illusory.

Queenslanders had begun to expect and accept as normal a Parliament that would sit as little as 28 days a year; a Parliament that was little more than a rubber stamp for a Cabinet that made decisions behind closed doors, where legitimate freedom of speech was brutally crushed, where the voting public was sold paternalism in place of honesty, and where legislation was rushed through in the dead of the night without due thought and consideration.

While I do not intend to dwell on the malaise of the past, I would urge all Queenslanders never to forget the injustices which have been amply revealed by the Fitzgerald inquiry and by many honest Queenslanders—decent Queenslanders who dared to speak out and in doing so made many personal sacrifices.

This State has been well informed of the dangers of failing to demand honesty and accountability in their representatives. I believe that Queenslanders are now prepared to take an even greater interest in the decision-making process of our great State.

The large mandate given to this Labor Government signifies the trust that the Queensland people have placed in us to restore democracy, honesty and fair play to Queensland. Labor's general philosophy has never been more relevant than it is today. Our philosophy of social justice provides the basis for a fairer, more just and egalitarian society. Unlike the conservatives who, when in Government choose to capitalise their profits and socialise their losses, the Labor Party stands firm in the belief that greater equality in the distribution of income, wealth and opportunity will benefit all Queenslanders.

Unlike past reformers, this Government will not make the mistake of believing that all that is needed in a democracy is the obtaining of a majority.

We will also change the mental climate in which Parliament and the Government both live and work in order to transform the atmosphere of politics; that is the background, the assumptions, the shared information and perceptions of common goals through

which decisions can be made, not just by the Government and the Parliament but by key groups and interests such as business and unions. When this is achieved in an atmosphere that is not primarily motivated by ballot-box considerations, Queenslanders will start to see the qualities of true leadership which they want in their political representatives.

I firmly believe that the election of nine women to this Chamber will also help make this Parliament more representative. When we consider women make up 51 per cent of the Queensland population, it is extraordinary that it has taken over 129 years for women to achieve anything approaching collective representation in Queensland politics.

Women representatives in this Government will help to strengthen the nurturing principle which dictates that the greatest attention should be devoted to those in greatest need. This suggests not only a different distribution of social resources but also a different response to issues such as the environment, cultural expression and the law. Modification of the public agenda by women active in the formal political arena will be part of the broader economic and social changes that will influence the lives of Queenslanders in the 1990s.

The increased participation of women in higher education and the paid work force, combined with smaller family units, have brought tremendous changes this century to all countries of the Western World. These changes have freed many women, whilst imposing upon many others the increasing burden of the double shift. But was it not always thus? The conservatives in Australian politics keep harking back to "the good old days" when women remained in the home tending the hearth, children and husband, but such a vision belittles women's role throughout history.

While managing all of the former, women have also been farmers, cottage manufacturers, healers, labourers and much more. The freedoms and rights which women have achieved this century should make the burden of the double shift easier, not more onerous.

I am pleased to represent a party which, after many years of soul-searching, has come to accept this challenge. This Labor Government will consider the implications for women in all its policies. I am confident this Government will ensure that Queensland women are guaranteed access to services, equity, a rightful role in decision-making and, above all, their rights as citizens.

We are committed to establishing a women's policy unit to advise Government and to liaise between departments on programs affecting women. This Government is also committed to anti-discrimination legislation and the repeal of any legislation which discriminates against women.

That the demand for quality child-care is placed firmly on the political agenda of every Labor Government in this country is a testament to the role played by women in politics. Few would disagree that child-rearing should be the responsibility of both parents and the community generally and the complex demands of children should be met through programs which complement the parent. As child-care benefits both the child and the adult, all adults, whether in paid or unpaid work, should have access to care for their children.

Society can no longer expect that child-rearing and unpaid welfare work will automatically be done by women. The State has the responsibility to provide quality, affordable child-care not as a welfare service but as a micro-economic necessity for its long-term economic well-being.

In my electorate of Mount Gravatt a large percentage of the labour force is women. There is a shortage of child-care places, particularly for children under three years of age; there is insufficient occasional child-care and after-school care. One of this Government's fundamental objectives will be to increase the range of choices available to Queensland families throughout the State. Child-care options can strengthen and protect the family unit by offering a range of services to assist parents in combining

child-rearing responsibilities with work, study and leisure. I know that many families of Mount Gravatt will welcome these initiatives.

Education facilities in my electorate also need attention. My occupation before coming to this place was that of a high school teacher. I know first hand the detrimental effects resulting from an underdeveloped education system—a system that has suffered 32 years of neglect by National Party Governments whose perception of intellectuals and the education system was one of suspicion and contempt.

In the north, in the west and in urban centres of the coast, school buildings lack adequate cooling and heating systems to facilitate a healthy and productive learning environment. Queensland children struggle to learn in classes which are often far too large and inadequately resourced. Queensland teachers' perceptions of their professional value have decreased with their deteriorating wages and working conditions.

While my electorate of Mount Gravatt is not among the worst in terms of facilities, even so the schools in my electorate suffer the common difficulties of a lack of trained special teachers such as remedial, music, language and resource personnel. They, too, suffer from oversized classes and they suffer from a tertiary entrance system in which the public has lost faith. I can assure Queenslanders that the Labor Government will place the education needs of our children above party politics.

The National Party Government deserted young Queenslanders in areas other than the education system, though. That Government also turned its back on the youth unemployment crisis. Whilst other States grappled with this devastating problem, the previous Government spent \$2.40 per head on employment and training schemes—less than half the amount spent by the next lowest spending State. The number of apprentices training in Queensland remains at the level reached in 1980, despite the significant increase in population in this period. Queensland's youth unemployment rate is the highest of any mainland State.

All of us share the consequences of a large group of disaffected young people. These aimless youth take out their frustration by committing acts of vandalism to schools, shops and railway stations. They start taking drugs and they waste away their time at shopping centres and in our city mall.

In the main, our society has done little to provide recreational community centres. There are none in existence in my electorate. For those fortunate enough to be interested in sport, there are possibilities of joining a sporting association. However, not all young people want to play sport. Many of them have little desire to participate in formal clubs or associations of any kind.

No Government in this State has ever tackled the issue of providing community recreational facilities for our youth. At this point of time I would like to congratulate the work done by those church and community groups that provide various programs. But the ad hoc arrangements that now exist are clearly not enough.

Spending on education, training, employment, accommodation and recreational facilities for our youth is not a financial burden, but an essential, productive investment.

This Government recognises that this State will be unable to meet the challenges of the 1990s unless we develop the most important resource of all—our children. Our young people need to be better prepared for their own future and for the future of this State and country.

Having mentioned the subject of apprentices, I would like now to mention briefly the history of the company GEC Australia Limited at Rocklea. It just falls outside my electorate boundary but it is a sizeable employer of my constituents. In the mid-1970s this heavy manufacturing company employed 1 400 men and women and trained 45 apprentices per year. Today it employs 430 people and trains 7 apprentices. It has seen other great neighbouring manufacturing institutions, such as Evans Deakin Industries Limited, Commonwealth Engineering and Sargents close their plants in the last decade.

Today, GEC is operating well below its capacity. It has recently seen Government contracts go to off-shore and interstate companies even though its tenders were competitive. The workers there want fair play for fair tenders. They hope for some recognition for the part that they play in employing Queenslanders and training our young apprentices. Companies such as GEC have the infrastructure and the potential to play an important part in Queensland's future.

I turn now to another matter which concerns those of the Mount Gravatt community living in retirement villages. For some time, residents of these villages have been campaigning for fairer legislation concerning the operation and management of the retirement village industry; an industry, I might add, that is burgeoning in this State and one which can realistically expect to continue growing as our population ages and the northern migration of retirees from southern States continues.

A number of the people domiciled in these villages are lured there by the attraction of glossy brochures and slick salespeople. However, they may then find that the financial reality of life in the complex does not match their expectations.

They must pay commercial rates for residential services. In Brisbane, these residents are forced to pay an extra \$6 a week pedestal tax which house and unit-dwellers do not pay. The residents are denied pensioner discounts on their rates. They are locked into paying weekly management fees which are eating into their savings or pensions. In one case, in the space of three years, these charges have risen from \$28 to \$55 a week.

Many retirement villages have nursing centres or care units to which residents may be moved for medical or nursing attention. All of these units as well as the common dining and recreational areas are charged commercial electricity rates, a burden that must be borne by the residents.

Above and beyond normal Brisbane City Council rates, these villages are required to pay land tax. In one of the villages in my electorate, this is in excess of \$10,000 per annum. This is yet another tax that is passed on to the residents.

These retirement villages are not enclaves of the rich. Some of the residents are on pensions; others are on fixed incomes. They have planned a life-style which, far from making them a burden on their families or society, offers them personal and financial freedom. We should be applauding their initiative and ensuring that these residents receive a fair go.

Sitting suspended from 6 to 7.30 p.m.

**Ms SPENCE:** Before the dinner recess I was referring to the problems experienced in retirement villages in my electorate and in the State generally. In its first term in office, this Government will address these and related issues. I give a guarantee of my personal attention to these matters. This Government will ensure that the industry can continue to grow in a manner which will benefit developer and resident alike, and provide a favourable environment in which most people are able to arrange their own accommodation.

This Government has a strong philosophic commitment to the right of all to decent, affordable housing. It recognises that there are significant groups in the community who are at a disadvantage when it comes to buying their own homes or even affording market prices for rented accommodation. This includes young couples who are usually among the lowest income-earners, the unemployed, the elderly, the sick, deserted wives and supporting parents. There are many of these people in my electorate who, because of the previous Government's disgraceful performance in providing public housing, have no alternative but to rely on the private sector. In the past the Housing Commission did not allow single young people under 18 years of age to rent their accommodation. Even if these young people had children of their own, the Housing Commission's doors were closed to them. The media has alerted us all to the sad plight of the homeless were closed to them. The media has alerted us all to the sad plight of the homeless youth or street kids, as they have come to be known. I am pleased to be able to report that our Housing Minister is doing something about this issue now. This Government looks forward to the day when all Queenslanders, no matter what their circumstances,

are decently housed. Homelessness, fear of eviction and inadequate housing have no place in this Government's plans for the future.

Although it has been in office for less than 100 days, this Government has already commenced implementation of its Home Ownership Made Easier Scheme, which is designed to narrow the deposit gap for home-seekers, and it has given approval for the construction of new Housing Commission will spend \$2.4m upgrading the standard of its accommodation units for aged pensioners in my electorate. In future all unit designs will be wheelchair accessible so that eventually people will be able to stay in their locality after retirement.

Also of great concern to many citizens in my electorate is the runaway crime rate that has caused decent, law-abiding citizens to feel under siege in their own community. In particular, many of my constituents are concerned about their own personal safety. In the last decade, offences such as assaults, rapes, breaking and entering of homes, stealing and unlawful use of motor vehicles have increased markedly. It is a sad indictment on our society to hear that many elderly people are afraid to walk the streets alone during the day as well as at night. It is sad to speak to people who have lost confidence in their police force because they know that this force is understaffed and underfunded and therefore unable to arrest the upward spiral of crime.

Law-abiding Queenslanders have a right to expect a safe and secure environment in which to live and raise their families. This is the first right of any citizen. It is also the first responsibility of Government. This Government knows that fundamental to the creation of such an environment is the police force, courts and penal system having sufficient resources and crime-fighting powers to carry out their jobs. These systems must be strong enough not only to constitute a deterrent to criminal activity, but also to afford physical protection to the community against criminal activity when deterrence has failed. The public want to see police out on the job and the police themselves want to be out there preventing crime. The Fitzgerald report is very clear on the methods by which that can be achieved. This Government will take heed of these recommendations in order to streamline work practices within the police force and institute community policing programs. The electors of this State, particularly those in Brisbane, were shocked and disgusted to learn of the firmly entrenched abuses in the police force. They have given this Government the mandate to stop corruption and abuses, and I can assure my constituents that, as a member of the police ministerial committee, I will be working to honour that commitment.

I now move on to an environmental issue that is of importance to the Mount Gravatt electorate, that is, the future of Toohey forest. Today, Toohey forest consists of approximately 650 hectares of bushland in the midst of my electorate. In many respects, Toohey forest is a case study in the evolution of urban bushland parks. In the first instance, much of the Toohey forest area remained undeveloped because it was unsuitable for timber production and mining, and, because of the steep slopes and poor soils, it was unsuitable for agriculture or urban settlement. As urban development expanded and surrounded Toohey forest, it was seen as a useful area in which to establish cemeteries, quarries, sporting facilities and two tertiary institutions. As a result, there are now a number of governmental and semi-governmental bodies acting as land-holders.

That bushland is scarce in metropolitan Brisbane, community attitudes towards urban bushland have changed. Residents have a growing appreciation of the contribution that the area makes to the quality of life in our city and recognise that as a scarce resource it does require special management. The future of Toohey forest has been an issue in many election campaigns, with previous Liberal and National Party members professing a desire to do something about Toohey forest, but little was achieved. When further development, such as the Bond Corporation's move to develop a residential subdivision, threatened Toohey forest, it took residential protest groups to halt the plan. This Government has pledged to establish an enforceable and comprehensive Toohey forest management plan that will protect the forest under law so that this major

recreational and bushland area may be properly conserved. It has been said that the 1980s will be remembered as the decade of environmental consciousness. Dire warnings of the consequences of the greenhouse effect and ozone depletion have alerted all members of our society to the potentially disastrous consequences of abusing the environment in which we live.

Throughout the decades of National/Liberal Government, development has been pursued at any cost, without concern for protecting the environment. This Labor Government has been left a legacy of environmental mismanagement, which has caused land degradation, beach erosion, the destruction of coastal wetlands, unabated coastal development and air and water pollution. Although members of the Labor Party do not purport to have all the answers to the problems caused by this disastrous environmental legacy, this Government is committed to repairing the damage. Already the Government has released a report on the state of the environment in Queensland and has invited public comment. However, no Government ever achieves anything on its own. Only the cooperation and goodwill of the entire community will solve the environmental challenges of this new decade.

Mr Deputy Speaker, in conclusion I would like to say that, as I stand in this Chamber today, I am proud to walk in the footsteps of the previous Labor member for Mount Gravatt, Dr Felix Dittmer, who held this seat from 1952 to 1957 and then went on to represent Queensland in the Federal Senate. Dr Dittmer made outstanding contributions to public life in Queensland and I hope to be able to follow his example.

During the 32 years when my electorate was denied a Labor representative in this Parliament, the Mount Gravatt branch of the Labor Party stayed loyal to the Labor cause. Today I would like to pay tribute to two longstanding branch members, Brian Fenton and Len Bithisel, who have served the Labor movement in this State for 32 years and 26 years respectively. Many men and women have worked tirelessly along with them for the social betterment of my generation. The securing of full results from their industry is now the responsibility of the 54 Government members of this Chamber. Young people such as I, have never known the humane legislation of a State Labor Government.

To the people of the Mount Gravatt electorate, I pledge my efforts over the next three years towards the goal of a more democratic, socially responsible society for all Queenslanders.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Campbell): Order! Before I call the honourable member for Aspley, I remind other honourable members that this will be his maiden speech. I ask that it be heard in silence.

**Mr J. N. GOSS** (Aspley) (7.40 p.m.): In rising to speak to the amendment to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, on behalf of the electors of Aspley it is with great pleasure that I pledge our loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I would also like to pay our respects to His Excellency the Governor, Sir Walter Campbell, and Lady Campbell for their untiring service to the Crown and to the people of Queensland.

I take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker, on your election as Chairman of Committees. Please convey to the Speaker my congratulations and my support. I am sure that he will be a very fair and respected Speaker in this Chamber.

I also wish to acknowledge the assistance and advice given to me by the Clerk of the Parliament and his officers. As a new boy in this Chamber, I have greatly appreciated their help.

I place on record my gratitude to all my friends and supporters in the Aspley electorate who have made it possible for me to take my place in this Chamber today. Two members of my campaign committee, Mr Len Smyth and Mr Max Mathers, have been most helpful as my campaign director and assistant campaign director respectively. I can assure the members of Aspley that I will represent their best interests and express

their views with determination, just as I have over the past seven years as a Brisbane City Council alderman. My first term as an alderman was as the representative of the Chermshire ward between 1982 and 1985 and, after a redistribution, I represented the McDowall ward. I wish to thank my previous secretary, Miss Couch, who is a very wonderful and helpful person. She is greatly admired by the constituents in my electorate because of the great assistance she gives. I also wish to place on record my thanks to the staff of the Brisbane City Council. Their assistance and cooperation was greatly appreciated while I was in Opposition and while I was part of the administration. When the member for Townsville, Mr Davies, told the House about a former State member who was almost paranoid about the Townsville City Council, that brought a message home to me. Those of us who live in Brisbane understood what he meant because a Brisbane-based member of this Parliament is travelling down the same road.

I was born at Nundah in Brisbane. My family roots can be traced back to the early 1860s. During the days of free settlement in Queensland, my great grandfather settled at German Station, which is now known as Nundah. I have lived on the north side of Brisbane for most of my life, except for four years when I lived at Exmouth in Western Australia. After attending the Virginia State School and the Banyo State High School, I became a civil engineering draughtsman, following completion of my studies at the institution that is now known as the Queensland University of Technology. In 1981, I married Patricia Webb. At this point, I wish to pay a tribute to my wife, who has been a tower of strength to me, particularly over the years that I have been in public office.

Let me devote some time to a description of the electorate of Aspley, which includes the suburbs of Aspley, Chermshire, Carseldine, Bridgeman Downs, and parts of the suburbs of Chermshire West, Wavell Heights, McDowall, Zillmere and Bald Hills. It was in 1857 in Sydney that the first sale of land in the Aspley district—known at that time as Cabbage Tree Creek—took place. At that time, land was sold for £1 per acre, which is in stark contrast to the Government's present land valuations of \$500,000 for 2.5 acres, or \$200,000 per acre.

After all the recent controversy about the state of the electoral rolls, it is interesting to note that in the 1860s three names appeared on the Aspley division of the roll. One of the names was incorrect. Times have not changed. Perhaps the gremlin that was responsible still works in the State Electoral Office.

When gold was discovered in Gympie in 1867, the areas of Aspley and Chermshire received an increase in population and an upsurge in development. For the Cobb and Co coach run north, Downfall Creek between Aspley and Chermshire was the end of the first, and really only, reasonable section of road. Although the area was quickly occupied by land-holders engaged in dairying, grazing, pig-raising and small-crop farming, other associated businesses followed. There were slaughterhouses and tanneries such as the Packer tannery, which today is still a recognised name in tanneries in Queensland. Those businesses were soon being supplied by local farmers. Huttons set up its factory at Zillmere. Valnagles, the blacksmiths, are still on Gympie Road at Downfall Creek, although I am sure that it is later generations of the family.

In 1875, the Royal Exchange Hotel was built at Aspley. No, it was not at Toowong. It is now called the Aspley Hotel. The Hedges dripping factory, the remains of which have only recently been removed for a residential development, was near Ironwood Street, Aspley. The Aspley vineyard owned by the Morris brothers was the only commercial vineyard in the area. At its peak, 20 bottles of wine could be purchased for £1. I cannot vouch for the quality of the wine.

In 1947, the Aspley telephone exchange had 28 subscribers. Today, the 263 prefix, along with the 359 and 350 prefixes, have been provided to almost 20 000 subscribers in the area.

Briefly, the history of Chermshire and Aspley is almost as old as the first free settlement in Queensland. Today, the Aspley electorate is one to be proud of. Recognition for that must be given to a former Liberal member, and a former Cabinet Minister, who

for over 20 years represented and served the area well. Many honourable members would still remember the Honourable Fred Campbell.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr J. N. GOSS:** He presided over the Aspley electorate during its era of rapid development. Members will be pleased to know that both Fred and Mac Campbell are well and still active in the area today.

The electorate is well served by educational establishments. It contains five State primary schools at Aspley, Aspley East, Chermside, Craigslea and Wavell Heights; two State high schools at Aspley and Craigslea; the Aspley Special School; and the State pre-school centres at Aspley, Aspley East, Chermside, Craigslea and Wavell Heights. At Aspley, there is a special education developmental unit. As well, a sensitivity unit has been located at the Craigslea State School.

In all, there are four creche and kindergartens or private kindergartens and pre-schools in the electorate. This year the Aspley State School will be celebrating its centenary. A very active committee will be conducting a number of activities throughout the coming year to celebrate the centenary.

Aspley has three Catholic primary schools: Our Lady of the Angels School at Wavell Heights; St Dymphnas at Aspley; and St Flannans at Zillmere North. Of course, we are proud to have the Carseldine campus of the Brisbane College of Advanced Education.

I place on record my appreciation to all the principals and teachers who show such dedication to their profession, and especially those teachers in the special education units.

From the young to the not so young—the Chermside Pensioners League is a very active organisation. It meets at the Wavell Services Club, which would be one of the finest RSL clubs in Queensland.

Chermside Rotary was responsible for the development of the Burney Bray centre for senior citizens in the Chermside area.

For the young and more active, there are three sportsgrounds, each for junior participation. The Aspley Australian Football Club caters for Australian Rules. Aspley North Juniors is a Rugby League club. The Everton District Cricket Club will provide our Sheffield Shield players of the future. As well, there is the famous Marchant Park, whose ovals are used for warehouse cricket, and the Aspley Memorial Bowls Club, which is situated along the banks of Cabbage Tree Creek.

For the more adventuresome, there is the Italian Club at Carseldine. Its members play a great game of bocce at the club.

The City United Hockey Club is located at Chermside. Private sporting facilities are available throughout the area for tennis, squash and a host of other sports. Soon, the most modern ten-pin bowling alley in Australia will be opened in the area. The Aspley electorate is well served with sporting bodies. The enthusiasm of all those clubs has led to their outstanding success.

In the area of health care, the Aspley electorate contains one of Australia's most notable hospitals. In fact, the hospital has received worldwide recognition in the areas of thoracic medicine and the cardiac surgical unit. The ALP Government must make some very important decisions on the future direction of that hospital. With the increasing waiting lists for open heart surgery, which now contain up to 200 people at any one time, additional funds are required to employ another surgeon and to provide additional training that is necessary for the nursing staff in the cardiac area.

Approximately 13 major cardiac operations are carried out each week. The hospital receives increasing numbers of applications from interstate and overseas surgeons for training, and surgeons from many countries correspond with and visit the hospital seeking information about the homograft cardiac valves. As well, the fourth Chinese surgeon to receive training in the cardiac unit has now returned to China.

Transplants have not commenced at that hospital. The Prince Charles Hospital cardiac surgical unit, being the largest in the southern hemisphere, would now be one of the very few large centres in the world without a transplant unit.

The Jacaranda unit for the aged is far from satisfactory. Although the aged residents receive the very best available nursing and medical care, the existing complex of buildings can only be described as antiquated. I believe that the buildings were Bristol huts of World War II design which were built in the early 1950s. Although the board has continued to paint and upgrade them, they would never meet the environmental requirements of even 10 or 15 years ago. It is a disgrace that our aged should take a back seat when funding is being provided. I invite the Honourable the Premier to inspect Jacaranda Village when he opens the cardiovascular research unit at the Prince Charles Hospital on 14 March. The residents, the nursing staff and, indeed, all the staff of Jacaranda Village have had to suffer for too long in what are really substandard conditions. There are many areas of hospital activity on which I would like to comment, but time does not permit me to do so. However, I would like to acknowledge Dr Kennedy, the medical superintendent, for his dedication to the well-being of the patients of such a great hospital. Having visited the cardiac unit, I can assure all honourable members of the professional and caring attitude of the nursing and medical staff.

The Community Health Care Centre at Aspley that was opened just prior to the last election services an area with an estimated population of almost half a million people. It is a beautiful, well-designed building. However, the essential ingredients—the staff—are not there. There is a lack of professional personnel. That centre is really experiencing a desperate shortage of staff. The lack of motor vehicles severely restricts the service being offered, as the centre provides a service as far north as Caboolture.

The aged in the Aspley area have two well-known residential homes—the H. M. Wheller Garden Settlement, at Chermside, which is run by the Uniting Church, and the Holy Spirit Home for the Aged at Carseldine, which is operated by the Catholic Church. Both of those homes are currently involved in major expansion programs. Three retirement villages of a very high standard are currently under construction, with Stage 1 of two of these villages now open. They are Melody Ridge at Bridgeman Downs and Aspley Court and the Compton Gardens on Albany Creek Road. When fully completed, these three villages, along with the independent living units at the Holy Spirit Home, will comprise a total of about 500 units. I am pleased to say that other retirement village developments are on the drawing board.

These recent developments in the Aspley electorate have been made possible because of the far-sightedness of the Liberal administration in City Hall. That administration took steps to ensure the provision of major services up front. The council undertook the expansion of sewage treatment facilities at Sandgate, constructed the Cabbage Tree Creek submain at a cost of many millions of dollars and provided Cityxpress bus services into the area just prior to development, while retaining areas of natural bushland.

We keep hearing what everybody is going to do for the environment and what everybody plans to do for the environment. Many years ago, the Brisbane City Council was the first local authority in Australia to set up a bushland management centre, such as the one near Downfall Creek in the Raven Street reserve. The aim of the staff at that centre—nearly all of whom are volunteers—is to educate people about how delicate our bushland environment is, how to respect it and how not to place it in jeopardy by treating it as just a dumping area. The Raven Street reserve and that centre are well known to the Honourable the Minister for Environment and Heritage. I am sure that he has picked up many clues from his visits to the centre. It is an important area because of its diverse flora. Within a few hundred metres, it turns from coastal heathland to rainforest. Yet this land was proposed for subdivision by the previous ALP administration in City Hall.

We have perhaps all done the wrong thing by the environment. However, I remind the ALP that its record is not lilywhite. In addition, an area of land of about one square kilometre, which could easily be sold by the Brisbane City Council for subdivision, will

be set aside by the council to complement the Raven Street reserve. I call upon the ALP Government to protect some of the Crown areas of bushland in the city of Brisbane under its control.

Back in 1983 I had a vision about planting trees along the open spaces at Downfall Creek and so began the Bicentennial Downfall Creek Beautification Revegetation Project. Funding was provided by the bicentennial authority and the Brisbane City Council, and after ensuring that the trees would not be planted on the flood plain, the project got under way. All the service clubs in the area—Rotary, Lions, the RSL and Apex—the schools, scouts, girl guides, sporting clubs and garden clubs—40 organisations in all—as well as thousands of individuals, planted between 30 000 and 40 000 trees. That program is continuing. Walking tracks and bridges were built across gullies. It was the beginning of a new era of community involvement on the north side, and I pay tribute to all those who were involved and all those who continue to be involved.

It is easy to plant a tree, and everybody talks about planting a tree, but the real effort is the initial watering process, which in dry weather can go on for months, and keeping the tree clear of weeds and mulching it and enduring the occasional heartbreak from vandalism. I have mentioned the environment because I was a member of the council's environment committee.

Although Moreton Island is in the electorate of the member for Redcliffe, I wish to mention it briefly. The Brisbane City Council has consulted closely with the true residents of Moreton Island, who recycle their garbage. The removal of rubbish to the mainland has been made a priority. Only 3 per cent of Moreton Island, mainly the township areas, falls within the jurisdiction of the Brisbane City Council. The remaining 97 per cent falls within the responsibility of the State Government.

Illegal squatters on Moreton Island are ruining the environment and four-wheel-drive vehicles that speed along the beaches are destroying the sand-dunes and bushland. The prevention of illegal camping and the dumping of rubbish on the island come within the jurisdiction of the State Government. The council has adopted design guidelines to ensure that building construction in the township areas is in harmony with the island's environment.

The Aspley electorate is well served by public transport. In addition to the two railway stations, at Carseldine and Zillmere, the council provides a public transport service that is second to none. As well as regular city bus services, shopper bus services, the Great Circle Line services and school services, four city express routes service or pass through the Aspley electorate. A few months prior to the State election I was inundated with requests for an extension of the Bridgeman Downs bus service into the Albany Creek area. Most people want a fast, direct service to their places of work. Whether it be by train or bus, people want to get to work as quickly as possible. Obviously there is an inadequate spread of rail services throughout the city and the adjoining shires. Because many people are forced to rely on bus services, the provision of more bus lanes on arterial roads must be considered seriously in the near future.

I am always amazed by those experts who inspect overseas transport services, particularly those in London. They all seem to visit London and report on its public transport. However, they fail to take account of London's large population, which lives within approximately 18 square miles. Because of Australia's great urban sprawl, most people live on 700 square metre blocks of land, and the distances that must be covered by our transport services are much greater than those covered in London. One must compare like with like. The Brisbane City Council's transport system is the envy of all the major capital city bus services.

A major problem in my electorate is that it is divided by the six lanes of Gympie Road. I look forward to reading in 18 months' time the completed report of the Government's passenger transport study. As our major roads become more congested, more use will be made of suburban streets. Heavy interstate transports are taking short-cuts through what were once quiet, residential streets. One has only to witness the volume of traffic that enters Brisbane each working day from the north and south to

realise the enormous traffic problems that Brisbane will experience during the next few years as those corridor areas to the north and south of the city continue to expand.

In 1919 the Aspley Progress Association called a public meeting to discuss a proposed railway line between Mayne Junction and Bald Hills via Kedron, Chermside and Aspley. It is a pity that that separate line was never constructed.

I take this opportunity to mention the road network and road maintenance. In the past 200 years, Australia's road network, which would be worth, conservatively, \$125 billion, has been funded by taxpayers. Because the ALP Government in Canberra does not provide adequate funding, that great asset is falling into a state of disrepair. That is the same as a householder ignoring a white-ants' nest in his home.

Because of the inefficiencies in rail freight and the failure of the Federal Government to upgrade the national rail system, it is expected that the amount of road freight will almost double between 1985 and the year 2000. That road freight will be carried on poor quality roads and will compete for road space with family sedans.

If members of the ALP Government believe that the RACQ's road-funding campaign is dishonest, they must also consider that the Local Government Association's campaign for increased funding for roads is dishonest. Those campaigns would be among the most responsible in which those two organisations have ever engaged. Putting politics aside, I am sure that, if there was a Liberal Government in Canberra that was so mean that it did not allocate funds to save lives, the RACQ and the Local Government Association would be campaigning against that Government as well.

The RACQ and the Local Government Association have a responsibility to their members. Their responsible campaigns ask that the Federal Government provide from fuel tax revenue an additional 2c per litre to be spent on road-funding, which would amount to an additional \$500m per year. On 5 February of this year fuel tax was increased. I understand that in August it will be increased by a further 1c per litre. That \$500m will bring the total funding on roads to about only \$1,800m.

In 1982-83, as part of Australian Bicentennial Road Development funding, an extra 2c per litre fuel tax was levied. Every Australian was assured that that tax would be imposed for only five years. That has not been the case. The extra tax has been retained, but under another name, of course. When the length of our highways and the number of major intersections on them that need urgent attention are taken into account, the announcement that \$110m will be spent nationally on black spots means that little will be allocated to Queensland. The development of one major intersection has already cost close to \$14m. So Queensland's allocation out of the \$110m—about \$20m—will certainly not go very far. It is estimated that to upgrade the intersection of Gympie and Hamilton Roads at Chermside in my electorate would cost about \$13m. The money that Queensland is receiving from Canberra's wonderful promises is really peanuts.

It has to be remembered that in 1989-90, in realistic terms, the estimated fuel tax will total almost \$7,000m, yet the Federal Government doles out \$110m for black spots. Only \$1,351m will be spent on roads, about 19 per cent of the total tax on fuel. Accidents cost this nation \$6,000m per annum. In 1988, almost 3 000 Australians were killed and 30 000 seriously injured. If through better roads 500 lives were saved and 5 000 fewer serious injuries occurred, this nation would have saved the \$500m extra funding asked for in.

The road safety record is a major disgrace. A recent survey in this State found that 20 per cent of front-seat passengers failed to wear seat belts and, although it was hard to determine, the number of rear-seat passengers who did not wear seat belts was found to be far greater. The ALP Government should be ashamed of its stance on road-funding and its willingness to accept the paltry handouts from the Hawke Government while Queenslanders are dying on unsafe roads. It would seem that Governments take the easy option in road safety.

The reduction of the blood alcohol level and the introduction of random breath-testing were very good steps which have had a good result. At the same time, random

breath-testing is a good revenue-earner. But ask Governments to spend funds to provide safer roads and they are not interested.

I now turn to the traffic study which was commissioned by the Brisbane City Council. It was an independent study collated by engineers, planners, housewives, unionists and a wide section of the community. They spent a lot of time putting the traffic study together. The council then displayed the plan and invited public comment. There was no intention to rush into things or to adopt the plan. The council wanted Brisbane people to have their input. But uncaring people who used the study for their own cheap political gains caused unnecessary worry and concern to elderly people by saying that a bridge would be built across the river right next to their homes. Those people did not really care if the aged became ill from worry; their political ambitions came first. A typical example is the Hale Street campaign and the calling of a memorial of headstones a cemetery. After careful excavation, no evidence of human remains could be found. That was a disgusting campaign, which played on people's emotions. Hale Street will reduce traffic through the inner city and Spring Hill area.

It will be interesting to see how this ALP Government deals with the South East Queensland Passenger Transport Study. I am waiting to see what the Government will do about the interstate transports that are using suburban streets and what will happen with Route 20. One Minister has already attended a meeting and said that ring-roads are needed in this city.

The reduced presence of police is another problem in the Aspley area. It is quite obvious that today police on our roads are few and far between. In my electorate of Aspley there is considerable controversy over the relocation of police stations and the proposed police regional centre. I agree that the current police stations are not suitable. They would be fine if a policeman still had his motor cycle and sidecar parked underneath the building. But times have changed. The police should be in high-profile areas, preferably in shopfront environments where the public have ready access to them. Preferably, a number of key stations in high-profile areas should be manned 24 hours a day.

There have been situations in which young girls driving home at night are followed by men in cars. In the outer suburbs those young girls can find no police stations open to get help. This is really a disgusting state of affairs. They cannot stop to use the phone to call for help and they cannot find a police station that is open. Some of the police stations are tucked away so well that even local residents are lucky to find them. I call upon the Government to make some hard and responsible decisions in the very near future.

One of the State Government's most efficient operations, the Government Motor Garage, is located in the Aspley electorate. I am quite proud of that operation. The staff are proud of the job they do. They have achieved a great goal.

That brings me to mention the QATB. A few years ago the ambulance subcentre at Chermside opened with about 12 vehicles for use. It is one of the best subcentres that I have ever seen. It has been built in the grounds of the Prince Charles Hospital. Not far away is the Chermside Fire Station.

I served for a short time on the Metropolitan Fire Brigade's Board, and it was quite obvious that the lack of funding for fire-fighting in Brisbane was disastrous. In Brisbane, fire-fighting is more luck than anything else. Most of the equipment is old and out of date; there is far too little good equipment. Firemen's efforts in extinguishing fires are always acknowledged, but if they had the right equipment the fires would be put out much sooner. The Government should act now to ensure that urgently needed equipment is purchased. One cannot simply buy off the shelf a teleboom or other large pieces of equipment such as a snorkel. Firemen have to wait between 12 and 18 months for a unit such as a snorkel, which are now priced at more than \$1.2m.

Hire rise buildings of from four to six storeys are being built in the suburbs. Consequently, more teleboom units will be required in those areas. The lack of funding places the lives of firemen in jeopardy. When specialised equipment is not available

they take risks to fight fires at close quarters. The cost of an ordinary fire appliance for a suburban station is now in the vicinity of \$300,000. The rapid expansion of many new suburbs around Brisbane has brought about a need for new fire stations so that firemen are within a reasonable distance to be able to travel to a fire in a short time. The Government is not being required to spend \$20m or \$30m to upgrade fire services overnight. However, fire brigades need to know that the money will be available so that they can place orders for equipment that will arrive some time down the track.

The task of members on this side of the Chamber is to keep the Government honest. I am not speaking only of bribery and corruption. It is our job to ensure that the Government honours its election promises, whether they be major or minor promises, such as the immediate elimination of logging on Fraser Island or the removal of tolls from roads. Keeping those promises is all part of the honesty of a Government.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I now call the member for Rockhampton North. As this is his maiden speech, I ask that it be heard in silence.

**Mr SCHWARTEN** (Rockhampton North) (8.19 p.m.): I rise for the first time in this House and, in so doing, I pay tribute to those loyal Labor voters of the electorate of Rockhampton North.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I offer the congratulations of those electors to you on your appointment as Chairman of Committees and I ask that you convey their congratulations to Mr Speaker himself.

In addressing this House I place on record my appreciation to certain individuals who have contributed significantly to my election as a member of this the Forty-sixth Parliament. I refer foremostly to my parents, Evan and Bonnie Schwarten, who are both life members of the Australia Labor Party. Without their guidance, support and, in some cases, sacrifice, some other Labor member would be standing here today. In advocating the cause of the working class in this State, my parents have endured discrimination. Thankfully, they have lived long enough to reap the reward of having a Labor Government on this side of the House.

I likewise acknowledge the support given to me by other members of my family, especially my wife, Judy and my brother, Stephen, who is in the gallery.

I also record my gratitude to the members of the Park Avenue branch of the Australian Labor Party and the Queensland Teachers Union. I also acknowledge tonight the presence of the acting general secretary, Mr Steve Knudsen, and the organiser for Brisbane North, Mr John Battams. I also acknowledge the support given to me by my electorate secretary, Mrs Thelma Pye, and my campaign direction, Mr Les Yewdale, who assisted me greatly.

Rockhampton North has an interesting history that goes back to federation, but I do not intend to drone on about that. Suffice it to say that the seat has been represented by predominantly Labor members, one of whom was my predecessor, Mr Les Yewdale, who represented the electorate for 17 years. At this juncture I pay tribute to Les. Full marks go to him for weathering the continued shunning of the National Party State Government. Regardless of his strong representations, he and the electors of Rockhampton North were treated with contempt. Unlike his Government opponents, whose electorates manage to get more than their fair share of tax dollars, Yewdale and Rockhampton North were continually ignored by previous State Governments. To add insult to injury, when State Government projects were announced for the electorate, invariably it was at election-time and almost every time Les got to know about those projects from the National Party candidate who was opposing him. As I said earlier, it is to Les Yewdale's credit that he was able to continue in the face of such adversity and it is little wonder that he is held in such high regard both inside and outside the electorate by all those who know him.

Let there be no mistake about what I will say today. Only successive National/Liberal and National Party Governments can be blamed for the deterioration of Government services and buildings in the electorate of Rockhampton North and in Rockhampton generally. The previous Government had a deliberate policy of allocating tax dollars away from Labor strongholds into its own electorates.

Because of its geographical location, Rockhampton is host to many State Government departments. These departments are housed in buildings all over the city, and this has caused great inconvenience to Rockhampton's citizens. Some years ago there were plans to centralise Government services in one building, and land was purchased on the corner of Bolsover Street and Cambridge Street for that purpose. Formerly, the old Three Crowns Hotel stood on that land. However, at the eleventh hour, there was intervention from real estate agents and other office block owners in the city who, I am told, used their now-defunct green-and-gold charm and possibly some brown-paper-bag diplomacy to have the State Government change its mind. This, of course, has been to the disadvantage of my constituents, who are still forced to almost traverse the city to go from one State Government department to another.

Whilst I am on the subject of Government buildings, I remind the House that the previous Government was not backward in coming forward in using taxpayers' money to rent buildings from the National Party. A classic example of this is National Party House in Quay Street, Rockhampton. Naturally, the building is owned by the National Party but it has been rented—surprise, surprise!—to the Queensland Department of Education for more than six years. In other words, hundreds of thousands of tax dollars—money that could have been spent paying off a Government building in Rockhampton—has been paid to the National Party when, quite frankly, better options were available. Fortunately for the constituents of Rockhampton North, this situation will not continue under the Labor Government.

I next want to address the neglect of Government buildings. All members of this House know that one of the basic rights afforded to a citizen in a democracy is the right to a fair trial. While Rockhampton North and Rockhampton citizens generally do have that right, they do not have the right to a trial in reasonable surroundings, privacy or comfort. The court facilities in Rockhampton are an absolute disgrace. There is only one Magistrates Court, which means that there are great delays in obtaining hearing dates. There are no interviewing rooms, so defendants must speak with their counsel in the sight and hearing of others, including the general public of Rockhampton driving down Fitzroy Street. In the Supreme Court, conditions are so archaic that the good judge has to almost shout to be heard.

I am told that the judiciary and the Queensland Law Society complained to the previous State Government for years about these intolerable conditions, but nothing was ever done about the problem. And nothing would have been done if it were not for the election of a Labor Government. Fortunately, the Minister for Administrative Services, the Honourable Ron McLean, has seen fit to inspect the facilities first hand and has told the Rockhampton people that he will actively pursue this matter. The fact is that it took a Labor Government to define the problem and it will take a Labor Government to solve it.

I now wish to refer to the general condition of the school buildings in the electorate of Rockhampton North. Before I was elected to this House, I was an official of the Queensland Teachers Union and, before that, I was a teacher for about 12 years. One aspect that never ceased to disgust me during that period was the persecution by the previous Government of many Queensland schoolchildren; and they were persecuted simply because their parents voted Labor.

I challenge anybody to deny my claim that nowhere could this be more evident than in my electorate of Rockhampton North. There are 11 State schools in my electorate. The newest are Mount Archer State School and Glenmore State High School, both of which are already burdened by the presence of demountable buildings or "tinnies" as they are called. However, these schools are palaces compared to others such as North

Rockhampton State High School, Frenchville State School and Park Avenue State School, all of which are among the most dilapidated that I have ever seen. And believe me, because I covered the entire central Queensland area from Yeppoon to Birdsville when I was employed as a union organiser, I saw many school buildings.

It is interesting to note that the electorate of Broadsound, which adjoins my electorate, was very handsomely treated. The former member for that electorate, Mr Hinton, was able to tell principals in his electorate that it did not matter what they wanted, all they need do was ask him for it. He said, "I don't care whether it is only a lid for a box that you want, you just get onto me and I will make sure that you get it." It would not have mattered if Les Yewdale stood on his head and screamed, or stood on the roof of the Frenchville State School, he would have been ignored.

We, as a responsible Government, are addressing these issues. Only two weeks ago, my colleague the Honourable the Minister for Administrative Services announced a \$164,000 maintenance package for schools in Rockhampton North. It must be stressed, however, that we in Government will not be in the business of pork-barrelling electorates the way that members opposite did. We are determined that all children, no matter in which electorate they attend school, will get their fair share of State Government funding. Notwithstanding this, it will take time and millions of dollars to bring the schools in my electorate up to the standard that already exists in electorates such as Broadsound. I, for one, will not rest until that is the case.

I now wish to turn to the railways. Many honourable members will know that a significant proportion of my electors derive their income working for the Queensland Railway Department. During recent years, the Queensland Government appeared to do everything in its power to scale down the rail infrastructure in Rockhampton. The consequence of this action was the loss of job opportunities, especially for the young, and, naturally, a general loss of income to the city of Rockhampton.

Our Government, however, will do everything possible to reverse that trend by ensuring that a modern, competitive rail system is developed throughout Queensland. The direct result of this will be that rail centres such as Rockhampton will be enhanced and, in time, the number of job opportunities will increase.

Law enforcement in my electorate is yet another area of National Party neglect that this Labor Government plans to clean up. Notwithstanding the fact that—thanks to our predecessors—the Queensland Police Department is understaffed, Rockhampton is still a poor relation. Rockhampton North has a police-to-population ratio which is significantly worse than, for example, the town of Longreach in the National Party seat of Gregory. In any case, according to the Eric St Johnston ratio, which was published in the Fitzgerald report, the Rockhampton district should have approximately 353 police officers rather than the 189 which is currently the case. Rockhampton North boasts two police stations, the North Rockhampton Police Station and the one-man station at Lakes Creek, both of which are ably run by Senior Sergeant Colin Salloway and Constable Chris O'Neil. Both stations play an important role in the community, but, apart from the understaffing problem which I have already mentioned, other conditions prevail which result in neither police station being open for 24 hours a day. In other words, the good citizens in my electorate do not have access to police services 24 hours a day. The facilities at both these stations are basic, if not primitive. The North Rockhampton station is sited in the old police house, which was renovated at goodness knows what cost. The building has no air-conditioning, nor does it have interviewing rooms for suspects. There is limited security for evidence exhibits. During my last visit to the North Rockhampton station a few weeks ago, I was shown a large marijuana plant exhibit which should have been kept in a locked steel cupboard, but no-one could find the keys. This is the kind of mess that the National Party has left in Rockhampton North for this Government to clean up. I say to this House that it will be cleaned up.

Rockhampton North has a significant percentage of Queensland Housing Commission rental stock. This stock ranges in type from units—which are grouped together in what I regard as totally unsatisfactory social situations—to houses which in the main are fairly

reasonable. These houses have either three or four bedrooms. I am sure that all honourable members are aware of the standard to which I refer. Last year, prior to my election, I was made aware of a matter which, to my mind, exemplifies the attitude of our predecessors towards the family unit. I record my thanks to Mr and Mrs Ken Lidster of Sisley Street, North Rockhampton for bringing this matter to my attention. Honourable members would be aware that the Federal Government has put in place a tax-free grant to families called the Family Allowance Supplement. It is designed to give needy families additional tax-free income and put shoes on their kids' feet and extra food on the table. Because of the way the previous State Government structured its rents, it deemed this family supplement to be income and immediately took one-quarter of it away as rent. The Labor Government will change that practice so that families will not be obliged to hand over one-quarter of that supplement to the Government. The package that this Government is offering to the residents of Queensland Housing Commission accommodation is not only far superior to that offered by our predecessors, but also is much more equitable. It would be entirely inappropriate for me to leave this subject without making reference to the good work that is being carried out by the administration officer of the Queensland Housing Commission in Rockhampton, Mr Kelvin Sait. Mr Sait is well respected for the difficult role he discharges for this Government and he deserves our recognition.

In 1972 in his maiden speech my predecessor, Mr Yewdale, made mention of a large tract of industrial land which was developed by the State Government prior to his election. Mr Yewdale commented at that time that not one building had been constructed on the industrial estate. It gives me no pleasure to report to this House that in the intervening years only a handful of buildings have been constructed at the site, and it is generally regarded as something of a joke and a white elephant by the business community of Rockhampton. The time has arrived for this Government to rethink its position in regard to this estate and, unlike its predecessors, amend the apparently restrictive regulations which govern the usage of such land.

Now it is my intention to turn to the broader issues of Government. Perhaps the most vital issue is that of the environment. Since taking over the Environment portfolio, my colleague the Honourable Pat Comben has carried out a preliminary, but nonetheless comprehensive audit of the state of the environment in Queensland. Having identified some of the key problems, the Goss Labor Government will implement decisions that will safeguard the environment for generations to come. It gives me much pride to point out that the Labor Party in Queensland has long taken a pro-active stance in relation to the environment. For the information of honourable members, I point out that for almost five years I have been a member of the Labor administration of the Rockhampton City Council, which is ably led by our Mayor, Jim Webber. This council has always recognised the need for vast tree-planting schemes to be implemented. Accordingly, the council has planted many thousands of trees to enhance the quality of the Rockhampton environment. By involving schoolchildren in many of its programs, the council has also paved the way for hands-on land-care education to become a normal feature of life for young Rockhamptonites. Queensland has many serious environmental problems, and previous speakers have alluded to them. The worst problem is that of land degradation. I appeal to honourable members opposite to give their full cooperation to this Labor Government as it moves to repair the damage done to Queensland's environment by successive decades of improper land-use practice.

As I have already mentioned, my background is in education. Education is the vehicle by which the illiterate becomes literate, the unthinking becomes questioning, the oppressed becomes free and the politically non-motivated becomes the political activist. Therefore, it is little wonder that for the past 32 years the previous Government almost always spent less on education than any other State Government in Australia. Seventeen years ago, my predecessor also used his maiden speech to comment on the education system. After reading his speech, I find myself drawing parallels between what he said in 1972 and what the issues are in Queensland's education system today. The parallels are extraordinarily frightening.

The issues are the teaching of the languages of the Pacific rim, class sizes, textbook allowances and class room accommodation. They are the issues that Les Yewdale referred to in the House in 1972. Today they prevail as important issues in much the same way as they did at that time. What a shocking indictment of members who sit opposite the Government in this Chamber that, for the last 17 years, those issues have remained largely unaddressed. Thankfully, Queensland now has a Government that has addressed those issues in its policies.

At this juncture I wish to place on record the efforts of the Queensland Teachers Union, of which I was an active member for 15 years. I note from previous volumes of *Hansard* that various members of the National Party—some of whom departed from Parliament last December—used this forum to deride the efforts of the union and the people who were part of it, including me. It is my view that the Queensland Teachers Union is among the finest of Australia's industrial organisations. For decades it has been unselfish in its use of membership dues for improvement of the education system in this State. It can justly claim to be one of the groups that put education high on the political agenda in Queensland.

Obviously, the National Party State Government was fearful of the union's success in marshalling support for educational issues because it certainly never afforded the union any positive recognition. In contrast to that, the Labor Government has already built a bridge between its members and the Queensland Teachers Union. That statement should not be construed to mean that, as a Government, we will always agree with the Queensland Teachers Union; rather, it means that the Government will sit down and talk with teachers' representatives about educational matters. The fact of life is that this Government will not assume that it knows all about education or that it has a God-given right to assume total control of education. This Government endorses the view that its members should sit down with people who are involved in the education profession to ascertain their views.

The Goss Labor Government has placed education high on the agenda, not because it was told to do so by the Queensland Teachers Union, the QCPCA or an opinion poll, but because it regards education as part of the solution to some of this State's economic woes. Whereas the previous Government perceived education as a bottomless pit into which it threw money and retrieved nothing, the Labor Government sees education not only as a right but also as a very necessary investment in Queensland's future. Already Australia is showing signs of an inability to compete with other nations on an educational basis. It is therefore absolutely urgent that Queensland's education system be reappraised. It is pleasing to note that Queensland's new Education Minister, Paul Braddy, has set out to do exactly that.

The linchpin of any education system is, of course, its teachers. Without teachers, there would be no education; it is as simple as that. Earlier today I noted comments made by the former Minister for Education, Mr Littleproud, who praised Queensland's education system. I will certainly not use Parliament as a forum in which to deride education in Queensland, because I believe that this State has the makings of an education system that could well become the flagship of education in Australia.

It is my perception that, in no small way, the dedicated efforts of teachers in this State have prevented Queensland's education system from sinking. It is my contention that, in contrast to that diligence, the previous Government treated teachers very badly. Teachers in Queensland have been the lowest-paid educators in Australia and have endured some of the most restrictive regulations governing their conduct. They have suffered an unfair transfer system and have worked in some of the most intolerable conditions ever experienced by any public servant.

Perhaps one of the cruellest blows dealt to teachers in recent years occurred last year at Budget-time. The previous Government promised a new deal in salaries and transfer conditions in what was an industrially and morally wrong offer. Honourable members might recall that no expense was spared—I emphasise "no expense was spared"—in advising each teacher that he or she was to receive a pay rise of significant

proportions. However, the fact was that, in common with many other promises made by the Nationals in Government, the proposal was not worth the paper on which it was written. It may be 12 months before the Industrial Commission can make rulings on some of the matters contained in the Budget.

Mr Speaker, I take the opportunity of your entering the Chamber to convey to you my congratulations and the best wishes of the people of my electorate. I inform the House that it is the intention of the Labor Government not to repeat the mistakes made by its predecessors. I reiterate that this Government will work cooperatively with the Queensland Teachers Union to ensure that enough incentives exist in the teaching profession to attract and retain quality teachers.

As members of the Government, we value the future of this State. We also understand that those who control the present are responsible for the future and that, unless a commitment is made to education and retraining today, the future is at best questionable. The cornerstone of the Labor Party's plan to develop this State is its education policy which we, as members of the Government, are carefully and coherently putting into place.

I turn now to the issue of criminal justice in this State. It is apparent to me that reform in this area is long overdue. The Labor Government is absolutely committed to the view that Queensland's entire criminal justice system needs to be put under the microscope. To that end, the Government is adamant that the processes outlined by Tony Fitzgerald, QC, will be followed. As one who has studied the Fitzgerald report from cover to cover, I must commend Tony Fitzgerald, QC, for his efforts in questioning aspects of criminal justice in this State that hitherto had never really been considered by Queenslanders.

I must also warn the House that the temptation still exists for those who do not want criminal justice reform in this State to deflect the Criminal Justice Commission's attention away from some of the real issues, such as reform of the police force, and onto the more juicy issues, such as prostitution and homosexuality. If we allowed the moral issues to dominate debate on criminal justice, it is entirely likely that we would lose our way in addressing the whole question of criminal justice reform. Therefore, I implore honourable members on the other side of the Chamber to cooperate with the Government, especially at the parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee level, to ensure that we provide Queenslanders with the type of reforms that are so desperately needed in that area.

In conclusion, allow me to say that I am proud to represent not only those loyal Labor voters of Rockhampton North who voted for me on 2 December last, but all citizens from my electorate regardless of their political persuasion. The message that I am getting loudly and clearly from my constituents is that they want change. They do not want a revolution, but they demand incremental reform, and they are going to get it. It should be clear to those who are now on the other side of the Chamber, having occupied this side of the House for a long period, that the carnival is over.

We have promised the people of this State honest, open Government. Already they can see that we meant every word that we said. I remind the House that it was also our pledge, for example, that no longer would the honourable member for Peak Downs be elected to this House on about a third of the votes needed to elect me; and, again, we mean that. The next election will be on fair boundaries.

If I were on the other side of this House and happened to be returned at the next election, I would steel myself for a long wait. Our party has the leadership, the unity, the loyalty, the competence and, above all, the policies which will guarantee our electoral success for many years to come.

Debate, on motion of Mr Braddy, adjourned.

**IRVINEBANK STATE TREATMENT WORKS (SALE AND OPERATION) BILL**

**Hon. K. H. VAUGHAN** (Nudgee—Minister for Resource Industries) (8.49 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to facilitate the sale of the State Treatment Works, Irvinebank, to make provision for future operation of the works and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

**First Reading**

Bill and Explanatory Notes presented and Bill, on motion of Mr Vaughan, read a first time.

**Second Reading**

**Hon. K. H. VAUGHAN** (Nudgee—Minister for Resource Industries) (8.49 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

The Bill to facilitate the sale of the State Treatment Works, Irvinebank, is ratifying legislation necessary to enable the sale of this tin-treatment plant to Mr Frank Hilla of Irvinebank for \$120,000.

The State Treatment Works, Irvinebank, was acquired by the State in 1919 and has, except for a short period in the 1930s, been operated by the State for the benefit of the small-scale tin-mining industry in the Irvinebank area.

In 1981, because of losses being incurred, the Government decided to sell the works. In 1982, public tenders were called and, as a result, approval was given for the sale of the works to Mr Frank Hilla of Irvinebank for \$120,000.

The terms of the sale also protect the interests of small mine operators in the district and staff employed at the time and safeguard the historical value of the area.

In 1983, the then Minister for Mines and Energy entered into a preliminary agreement with Mr Hilla to permit him to enter into occupancy of the works from 1 July 1983. That agreement was subject to the execution of a final sale agreement and the enactment of ratifying legislation.

The need for that legislation and the delay in preparing it arose out of the very special circumstances pertaining to the works and uncertainty about the ownership of the land and the improvements on it. This Bill which I have presented to the House incorporates the ratifying legislation and the final sale agreement.

As I said earlier, one of the reasons for this legislation is the uncertainty about ownership of the land and the improvements. This Bill declares that the land and the improvements belong to the Crown.

The Bill also authorises the Minister for Resource Industries to enter into the sale agreement annexed to the Bill. The annexed agreement provides for a purchase price of \$120,000 and for ownership of the works to pass to Mr Hilla on settlement.

The agreement then provides for the purchaser to apply to the Minister for a mining lease and for the Minister to recommend to the Governor in Council that a lease be granted. The terms and conditions of the mining lease have been agreed and are specified in a schedule to the agreement. Furthermore, the sale agreement entitles the purchaser to apply for a special lease under the Land Act 1962-1988 over the area of the mining lease exclusive of two small areas of road. This special lease provides titles to the land upon which the treatment works stand.

The sale agreement also obliges the purchaser to maintain the works in good working order and to provide an ore-treatment service to small-scale tin mines in the Irvinebank area.

The purchaser is also obliged to take reasonable precautions to ensure that his operations do not damage specified items of historical significance. As well, he is not to dispose of those items without the Minister's approval. The purchaser is further required to use his best endeavours to preserve and progressively restore certain specified buildings.

The agreement also requires the purchaser to provide bulk water to the township of Irvinebank. Furthermore, the agreement entitles him to apply to the Commissioner of Water Resources and be issued with licences or other authorities to use and control water, subject to the grant of a mining lease. Provision is also made for the Commissioner of Water Resources to direct that, in the interest of safety, work be carried out on the Loudon and Ibis dams.

The proposed Bill has been discussed with and agreed to by the relevant administrative and legal instrumentalities.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Stephan, adjourned.

**QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND BRISBANE COLLEGE OF  
ADVANCED EDUCATION AMALGAMATION BILL**

**Mr BRADY** (Rockhampton—Minister for Education) (8.53 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amalgamate the Brisbane College of Advanced Education with the Queensland University of Technology to amend the Queensland University of Technology Act 1988 in certain particulars and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

**First Reading**

Bill and Explanatory Notes presented and Bill, on motion of Mr Braddy, read a first time.

**Second Reading**

**Mr BRADY** (Rockhampton—Minister for Education) (8.54 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

The Bill amalgamates the Brisbane College of Advanced Education with the Queensland University of Technology. It makes provision for the college to cease to be a college of advanced education under the Education Act 1964-1989 and for it to become part of the Queensland University of Technology.

At the outset I would like to clarify a number of matters in relation to higher education. Since 1965, the Australian higher-education sector has comprised colleges of advanced education and universities. This division is generally known as the binary system. Essential differences between universities and colleges of advanced education occur in provisions for research, in procedures and authority for accreditation of courses, in the range and types of courses offered and in levels of academic awards. With the passage of time, those distinctions have become less clear-cut.

The Commonwealth Government's strategy for the long-term development of Australia's higher-education system is set out in the paper entitled *Higher Education: a policy statement* prepared by the Honourable John Dawkins, Minister for Employment, Education and Training. It marks a new era of growth and an expansion of opportunities for higher-education institutions operating within a unified national system.

Commonwealth support for growth and reform in higher education focuses on those institutions which constitute the unified national system. This system consists of a range

of higher-education institutions having specific missions agreed with, and funded by, the Commonwealth Government.

The higher-education sector under the new system is comprised of fewer and larger institutions than in the past, and more effective coordination will be developed between them on matters such as credit transfer, course provision and disciplinary specialisation. Students benefit through the concentration of resources designed to foster and promote the highest quality of teaching and research.

The institutions which are the subject of the amalgamation as set out in the Bill are Brisbane College of Advanced Education and Queensland University of Technology.

Queensland University of Technology, formerly Queensland Institute of Technology, was established under the Queensland University of Technology Act 1988 and commenced operations as a university on 1 January 1989. That relatively new university is enjoying a well-earned reputation for excellence in all areas of its operations.

Brisbane College of Advanced Education was formed in January 1982 by unification of the Kelvin Grove, Mount Gravatt and North Brisbane Colleges of Advanced Education and the Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers College.

The Brisbane College of Advanced Education is a major centre for the education of teachers in Queensland. It also offers well-established courses in business, the social sciences, applied science and the arts. Courses at associate diploma, diploma, bachelor's degree, graduate diploma and master's degree levels are available; most can be undertaken by full-time or part-time study, and several are offered by external study. All have a substantially vocational orientation. In addition to its formal award courses, the college has a strong commitment to the provision of continuing education courses in a wide variety of fields.

It is through the enlightened approach and the performance of the college's governing body, together with the professionalism of its staff and students, that the college has developed into the highly regarded education institution which it is today. I take this opportunity to record an expression of thanks to the present and past members of the council of the college and to its former and current staff.

The Council of Brisbane College of Advanced Education and the Council of Queensland University of Technology have cooperated in examining the position of the college with regard to its future in the unified national system and have reached agreement on the amalgamation of the college with the university.

The Queensland University of Technology and the Council of Brisbane College of Advanced Education are parties to a memorandum of agreement in respect of the amalgamation. The memorandum sets out the intention of both institutions and details the elements of the accepted and agreed proposal.

The parties to the memorandum of agreement concur that amalgamation of the college with the university would be to the mutual advantage of both institutions, to the communities they serve and to the academic benefit of students; would provide a wider range of educational opportunities for students and enhanced opportunities for the development of staff; would enable the pursuit of excellence and the extension of knowledge through research and scholarship; would strengthen and further develop professional education and community activities; and would avoid unnecessary duplication of human and physical resources and academic activities.

As a result of the spirit of cooperation exhibited by the councils of the university and the college, it is clear that the amalgamation can proceed on a basis which is satisfactory to both institutions and which will fulfil the operational requirements of the Commonwealth Government. I thank the chancellor and members of the university council and the chairman and members of the college council for their efforts in this regard.

I now wish to draw the attention of honourable members to several features of the Bill.

The Bill provides for the discontinuation of Brisbane College of Advanced Education as an autonomous educational institution under the Education Act 1964-1989 and for its amalgamation as part of Queensland University of Technology. Upon cessation of the college, the chairman and each other member of the council of the college will go out of office and that council will cease to exist.

The Bill provides protection for employees of the council of the college. They become officers of the university at a level of salary and on terms and conditions generally no less favourable than the salary, terms and conditions upon which they were employed at the college. Their superannuation, annual, sick and long service leave entitlements are preserved.

In accordance with the wishes of the Queensland University of Technology Student Guild and the Brisbane College of Advanced Education Union, that union is to be preserved and continued in existence until 1 December 1990 under the name and style Queensland University of Technology Northern Campuses Student Guild and is given body corporate status.

The Bill provides for the vesting of assets and transfer of liabilities from the unincorporated association using the name Brisbane College of Advanced Education Union to the body corporate Queensland University of Technology Northern Campuses Student Guild. Upon cessation of that body corporate on 1 December 1990, all assets and liabilities and other similar matters and things will transfer to the Queensland University of Technology Student Guild established and incorporated under section 12 of the Queensland University of Technology Act 1988.

Upon cessation of the Queensland University of Technology Northern Campuses Student Guild all officers of that body as provided for in the constitution go out of office. Furthermore, the Bill offers protection to employees of that body. Employees of the Queensland University of Technology Northern Campuses Student Guild will become employees of the Queensland University of Technology Student Guild on at least the same terms and conditions and with preservation of rights.

The Bill provides for all members of the university council, except for the chancellor, vice-chancellor and the Director-General of Education, or his nominee, to go out of office on 30 June 1990. Exclusive of the two members appointed by the council itself, casual vacancies on the council within the meaning of section 23 of the Queensland University of Technology Act 1988 are deemed to result from these terminations. In the case of the two council appointees, the Bill does not impose a requirement for reappointments to occur. Such appointments, if any, will be at the discretion of the re-constituted council after 30 June 1990.

In the interests of adequately representing all stake-holders in the institutions, membership of the council of Queensland University of Technology will be increased by an additional member of the full-time general staff of the university. Honourable members will no doubt be aware that during the debate on the second reading the Queensland University of Technology Bill I advocated strongly for increased representation of that considerable number of people who are employed in many different capacities in the non-academic sectors of an institution. The Queensland University of Technology currently has 538 full-time equivalent academic staff members and 720 full-time equivalent general staff members. I am pleased to inform honourable members that the issue of adequate representation of all staff members of the university, both from the academic and general sectors, has been addressed in this Bill by amendment to the constitution of the university council which now provides for two members of the general staff to participate in council matters.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Stephan, adjourned.

**GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY AND GOLD COAST COLLEGE OF ADVANCED EDUCATION  
AMALGAMATION BILL**

**Mr BRADY** (Rockhampton—Minister for Education) (9.05 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move—

"That leave be granted to bring in a Bill to amalgamate the Gold Coast College of Advanced Education with the Griffith University to amend the Griffith University Act 1971-1989 in certain particulars and for related purposes."

Motion agreed to.

**First Reading**

Bill and Explanatory Notes presented and Bill, on motion of Mr Braddy, read a first time.

**Second Reading**

**Mr BRADY** (Rockhampton—Minister for Education) (9.06 p.m.): I move—

"That the Bill be now read a second time."

I present to the House a Bill to amalgamate the Gold Coast College of Advanced Education with Griffith University. The college will cease to be a college of advanced education under the Education Act 1964-1989 and will become part of Griffith University.

In introducing the Queensland University of Technology and Brisbane College of Advanced Education Amalgamation Bill, I explained to the House the strategy for the long-term development of Australia's higher education system as set by the Honourable John Dawkins, Commonwealth Minister for Employment, Education and Training. At that time, I outlined the profile of higher education in Queensland under the unified national system, and therefore it is unnecessary to do so again.

The institutions to be amalgamated under the provisions of the Bill are Gold Coast College of Advanced Education and Griffith University. Griffith University, which is the sixteenth university to be established in Australia, is constituted under the Griffith University Act 1971-1989. The university began its post-graduate program in 1971 and commenced its undergraduate teaching program early in 1975.

Griffith University is dedicated to maintaining and furthering the highest university traditions of scholarly integrity and independence. Enshrined in the university's mission statement is its commitment to excellence in teaching and research. It is clear by its performance that the university is indeed dedicated to the pursuit of excellence and I am sure that the university looks forward with confidence to continuing expansion of its teaching and research activities within the Commonwealth Government's unified national system.

The Gold Coast College of Advanced Education was established in 1986 and is one of Queensland's newest colleges. The college provides a diverse range of high-quality educational programs with a strong vocational emphasis. The college serves industrial, tourism, technological and information-based developments in the Gold Coast region as well as throughout the State.

In its short history, the college has developed into a highly regarded advanced education institution. It is through the hard work and dedication of present and past members of the college council and of its current and former staff that this has been able to be achieved in such a short period of time. I take this opportunity to record an expression of thanks to those persons.

Subsequent to extensive consultations conducted with a view to establishing links between the college and the university, a memorandum of agreement was entered into on 8 November 1989 between Griffith University and Council of Gold Coast College of Advanced Education. The terms of this agreement allow for an amalgamation which

satisfies Commonwealth Government requirements and which is satisfactory to both institutions. I thank the chancellor and members of the university council and the chairman and members of the college council for their efforts in reaching agreement and for the spirit of cooperation surrounding the amalgamation.

It is envisaged that, following amalgamation, the Gold Coast College of Advanced Education will become part of the university as a university college with its own advisory council. This advisory council, comprising members from the Gold Coast community, will include staff and students from the university college. In constituting the advisory council and in determining matters affecting the membership of that council, it is envisaged that Griffith University Council will consult with all stake-holders in the spirit of cooperation and due regard to harmonious interaction between the two institutions.

As a university college with its own advisory council, that part of Griffith University will be able to maintain its distinctive identity and may allow for it to develop over time with the guidance of the university into an institution warranting university status in its own right. With this possibility in mind, it is worth noting that the memorandum of agreement between the two institutions provides that the Griffith University Council—

" . . . will arrange no sooner than ten years after the appointed day, for an external review to be undertaken with a view to advising the Council on what if any change should be made to the status of the University College in relationship to the University, including consideration of the possibility of the College becoming a university in its own right."

I now wish to draw members' attention to several features of the Bill.

The Bill provides for the discontinuation of Gold Coast College of Advanced Education as an autonomous educational institution under the Education Act 1964-1989 and for its amalgamation as part of Griffith University.

Upon cessation of the college, the chairman and each other member of the council of the Gold Coast College of Advanced Education will go out of office and that council will cease to exist. Also at that time, every employee of the council of the Gold Coast College becomes an employee of the university at a level of salary and on terms and conditions generally no less favourable than those upon which he or she was employed at the college. This provides protection for employees of the Council of Gold Coast College of Advanced Education.

The Bill provides for the Gold Coast College of Advanced Education Union to cease to exist upon amalgamation of the college with the university whereupon all officers of that union go out of office, and all assets and liabilities of the union transfer to the university.

The rights of students are also assured in the Bill. Continuity of enrolment and study is provided for those students enrolled in advanced education courses at Gold Coast College of Advanced Education. The university is also required to provide appropriate courses for such students. Students who have successfully completed subjects at the college will be given full credit for those subjects by the university. Moreover, a student who satisfactorily completes a course at the Gold Coast College of Advanced Education and who has not been granted an academic award of the Gold Coast College of Advanced Education by the date of the college's cessation, will be granted an academic award under the common seal of the university.

In order for the amalgamation to occur in the way agreed by both existing institutions, changes are required to be made to the constitution of Griffith University Council, to the appointment of some council members and to the manner in which the interests of certain students are represented. These changes are effected by amending the Griffith University Act 1971-1989.

It is proposed to increase the number of members on Griffith council by two. The two additional members will be members of the advisory council to which I referred earlier and will be appointed by that advisory council. Because the Gold Coast campus of Griffith University will be represented on the university's governing council

in this way, the Bill restricts staff and students at that part of the university from involvement in the process of appointing other elected members of Griffith Council.

The Bill expands the powers of Griffith University in respect of the establishment of university colleges generally. The university is given the power to establish, if considered necessary and desirable, a student representative council, or a board of community services, or both, for any university college. Should it not elect to do so, however, those students would of course be represented by the Student Representative Council and the Board of Community Services already established under the relevant provisions of the Griffith University Act 1971-1989.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Stephan, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 9.13 p.m.