

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

THURSDAY, 22 MARCH 1990

Mr SPEAKER (Hon. J. Fouras, Ashgrove, read prayers and took the chair at 10 a.m.)

PHOTOGRAPH OF CHAMBER

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the official photographer is in the gallery and the official photograph will now be taken.

PETITIONS

The Clerk announced the receipt of the following petitions—

Brisbane Limited Rail Service

From **Mr Ardill** (22 signatories) praying that the Brisbane Limited train between Brisbane and Sydney be retained in its present form.

Electricity Transmission Lines, Almond Court, Elanora

From **Mr Coomber** (40 signatories) praying that the proposed overhead transmission lines to be erected by SEQEB in Almond Court, Elanora be placed underground.

Traffic Lights, Redland Bay Road/Dollery Street, Capalaba

From **Mr Elder** (974 signatories) praying for immediate installation of traffic lights timed to allow a safe right-hand turn into Dollery Street from Redland Bay Road, Capalaba.

Petitions received.

PAPERS

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

Report on Road Traffic Crashes in Queensland.

The following papers were laid on the table---

Order in Council under the Mental Health Services Act 1974-1989

Regulations under the Mental Health Services Act 1974-1989

Reports for the year ended 30 June 1989---

Pharmacy Board of Queensland

Chiropractic Manipulative Therapists Board of Queensland

Occupational Therapists Board of Queensland

Speech Therapists Board of Queensland

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Road Toll Report, 1989

Hon. D. J. HAMILL (Ipswich—Minister for Transport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Economic and Trade Development) (10.04 a.m.), by leave: The document *Road Traffic Crashes in Queensland—A report on the 1989 road toll*, which I have just tabled, can be reasonably and realistically described as one of hope. The broad picture is encouraging. The total of the

State's road fatalities last year was 428, an impressive 111, or 21 per cent, less than the 1988 total, and the lowest since 1963, when 398 fatalities were recorded. Importantly, fatalities decreased among all categories of road-users during the year, as the report shows.

For 1989 the national preliminary road toll stands at 2 800, which is a marginal 3 per cent decrease, or 88 fatalities, on the 1988 figure. The slight improvement in the national figure can be attributed entirely to the tremendous improvement in the Queensland figures. This improvement is a tribute to the entire Queensland community, which has responded to calls for greater responsibility on the roads.

However, there is a need to be cautious and not let these figures lull us into a false sense of complacency or security. While Queensland recorded the greatest percentage decrease in its road toll last year of any Australian State or Territory, it must be kept in context. In the previous year, 1988, Queensland recorded the highest percentage increase of any State or Territory, and there is very strong evidence to suggest that the appalling toll in 1988 had a sobering effect on our community last year. It must be our objective that 1990 sees a continuation of the downward trend of 1989. This report is an essential planning and resource document for our evolving strategy on combating the road toll. Its analysis of the raw data provides us with some useful indicators for our strategy emphasis.

I seek leave to have the balance of my ministerial statement incorporated in *Hansard*, but before doing so I wish to state that this Government has given a very high priority to combating road trauma. It has announced a number of measures that are designed to reduce the road toll and in the near future it is my intention to move in this House for the establishment of a joint parliamentary select committee to investigate further ways and means of reducing the road toll in this State.

Leave granted.

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

Sadly, young road users aged between 17 and 25 years, are again over-represented. Young males are especially over-represented.

Although comprising only 13 per cent of the population, this group accounted for 31 per cent of fatalities. We must continue to give a high priority to concentrating on reducing crashes amongst this group.

Much media and community attention has been focused on bus and heavy vehicle accidents in recent months and our 1989 figures reveal some interesting results.

There were only eight fatal bus crashes—resulting in a total of only eight fatalities—during the year and none of these fatalities involved the occupants of the bus.

However, articulated vehicles have an unhappy history based on distances travelled and 1989 crashes, these vehicles are almost 10 times more likely than cars and twice as likely as rigid trucks to be involved in a fatal road crash.

Before there is any rush to judgment in apportioning blame, it should be borne in mind that 1989 crash data indicates that articulated vehicles were at "at fault" in only one-third of the crashes in which they are involved.

Whether they are "at fault" or not, it is obvious that this road user category needs to be targeted for safety programmes. A major focus on the programs must be the need to reduce driver fatigue and vehicle speeds.

Another area of concern again highlighted by this report is the very high incidence of correlation between alcohol abuse and road crashes.

Of the 378 people killed in all road user categories and aged over 16 years, 40 per cent of those tested had a positive post mortem blood alcohol reading. Two-thirds of those who died with this positive reading recorded a blood alcohol level in excess of .15 per cent—three times the legal limit for unrestricted drivers in Queensland.

During 1989, police conducted almost one million preliminary roadside alcohol tests and, at this level of testing, theoretically more than one in two licensed drivers and riders was tested. As the campaign slogan says—"It is only a matter of time".

Despite this saturation campaign, about 2.2 per cent of all drivers tested were found to be above the legal limit and this is, of course, 2.2 per cent too high.

However, the campaign has had its effects.

Since its introduction in December, 1988, the frequency and proportion of fatalities with positive blood alcohol concentrations has declined and the number of late-night fatalities, which are typically alcohol-related, has fallen by some 39 per cent.

The non-use of seat belts and the contribution this carelessness makes to the road toll also warrants special mention.

Although it is estimated that only some 10 to 20 per cent of vehicle occupants do not wear seat belts regularly, in those cases where seat belt usage could be determined, 43 per cent of fatally injured occupants were unrestrained.

Sadly, children aged up to eight years have the lowest level of restraint use estimated at 25 per cent and, in 1989, nine children in this category were killed and six were unrestrained.

The worst adult group for lowest seat belt wearing rates—about 38 per cent—were those aged 30 to 39 years. It should also be noted that 56 per cent of people who were killed while not restrained in 1989 had a positive blood alcohol level.

Men, particularly, seem to be infected with a false sense of bravado when affected by alcohol and accordingly have very low restraint usage rates.

They pay dearly for this. A disturbingly high 49 per cent of male vehicle occupants killed in 1989 were unrestrained compared with 27 per cent of women.

Mr. Speaker, I have tabled this report for the attention of all members, and outlined the major findings in the hope that this information will serve as a stark reminder for everyone to take care on the roads.

CONCLUSION

The Government has already announced a number of initiatives it will introduce to help reduce the road toll.

It is my intention in the near future to move in this place for the formation of a joint parliamentary select committee on road safety to further investigate ways and means of reducing the road toll.

I can assure the House that road safety is a major priority of the Goss Government, and we intend to give it the resources and attention it deserves to reduce the carnage on our roads.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Green Paper on Non-custodial Sentencing Options

Hon. G. R. MILLINER (Everton—Minister for Justice and Corrective Services) (10.06 a.m.), by leave: This morning I wish to lay upon the table of the House a Green Paper on non-custodial sentencing options which is being published as a cooperative project between the Honourable the Attorney-General and myself.

This Green Paper is aimed at solving the problems associated with the non-payment of fines imposed by courts. Generally, these problems are created by the fact that, under current sentencing legislation, the only option available when an offender defaults in respect of payment of a fine is a period of imprisonment. This has resulted in significantly increased economic burdens for Queensland's corrective services system, as well as the inappropriate treatment of many fine-defaulters, for whom imprisonment may not be a suitable alternative.

The solutions to be discussed in the Green Paper focus heavily on community-based arrangements. This is a subject which deserves special attention from interested groups and from the public generally, because it is a matter which impacts directly in many ways on the well-being of society and its individual members. To enable a comprehensive review of the relevant legislation to be undertaken as expeditiously as possible, the deadline for submissions in response to the Green Paper has been set at 1 June.

I formally lay a copy of the Green Paper on the table of the House.

Whereupon the honourable member laid the document on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr COOPER (Roma—Leader of the Opposition) (10.08 a.m.), by leave: On the *Rod Henshaw* program this morning, the Premier denied reports that up to five of his Ministers may be about to be replaced and he blamed the Opposition—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! That is not a personal explanation.

Mr Borbidge: It is.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members, a personal explanation means that a member must show how he was personally affected or misrepresented. From the comment made by the Leader of the Opposition, I am absolutely convinced that this is not a matter for personal explanation.

Mr Cooper interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition will resume his seat. This is not a personal explanation.

Mr Cooper: I cannot even give an explanation.

Mr BORBIDGE: With respect, Mr Speaker, the Premier made certain allegations in respect of the Leader of the Opposition on the *Rod Henshaw* program this morning. With the utmost respect, if you would allow him to complete the next paragraph I think you will find that what he has to say is completely in accordance with Standing Orders.

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

PRIVILEGE

Premier's Comments in Relation to Member for Burdekin

Mr STONEMAN (Burdekin) (10.09 a.m.): I rise on a point of privilege. Yesterday in this House, in answer to a question, the Premier said that I had "engaged in some fairly disgraceful conduct in this House." He went on to state—

"I refer to allegations that he has made against the Minister which relate, as he well knows, to a joke the Minister often made in after-dinner speeches."

I wish to make the point that my protection of those people in north Queensland was certainly far from disgraceful conduct. As a member of this House, it was my right and my duty. I also make the point that I certainly did not know, nor do I concede, that it was well known that that comment was a joke in an after-dinner speech, which is yet to be proven. I made no such allegation.

The remark made by the Premier was in response to my tabling a statutory declaration by a well-known Queensland identity. The Premier has impugned my integrity. He has suggested by his imputation that I am frivolous in continuing to stand up for the good people of north Queensland and their integrity. I wish to place on record my resentment of the imputations made by the Premier in this instance.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no element of privilege in that statement at all.

QUESTIONS UPON NOTICE

1. Poker Machines; Caspalp; Ainsworth Consolidated Industries

MR STONEMAN asked the Minister for Primary Industries—

"With reference to the secret slush fund 'CASPALP' which he operated some years ago to receive secret political donations of \$30 000 from the poker machine

lobby and to the interview on the ABC television program, The 7.30 Report, on 7 March in which the head of the poker machine manufacturing company, Ainsworth Consolidated Industries, Mr Len Ainsworth, admitted that he was asked to make a donation—

(1) Will he confirm he was the person who asked for the donation and, if not, will he now name the person referred to by Mr Ainsworth and will he also confirm that the donation was paid into the secret account without the knowledge of ALP headquarters which is the body responsible for receiving legitimate political donations?

(2) What part did Malcom McMillan, who is now the heir apparent to the Director-Generalship of the Tourism, Sport and Racing Department, the department which will be making all the decisions about poker machines, play in the 1980 'CASPALP' slush fund and does he not agree that Mr McMillan's current involvement with the Government's introduction of poker machines is a convenient coincidence?"

Mr CASEY: I would have thought that the member for Burdekin, who is apparently some sort of unsuccessful adviser to the Leader of the Opposition on this issue, would have had enough after the massive hiding he received from the Premier yesterday. However, as he seeks more of the same, the simple answer to his two-part question is as follows—

- (1) This question ought to be addressed to Mr Ainsworth.
- (2) Poker machines will be controlled by the Casino Control Division of the Treasury Department. The member is wrong again.

2. **Oxley Police Academy**

MR SANTORO asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- "(1) What is the maximum annual training capacity of the Oxley Police Academy?
- (2) What is the current rate of resignation from the Queensland Police Force?
- (3) How many intakes into the Oxley Police Academy have occurred since the Goss Labor Government came to power and what is the number of recruits that have been enlisted?
- (4) What is his estimate of the number of recruits who will graduate from the Oxley Police Academy in the first 12 months of the Goss Labor Government?

Mr MACKENROTH: (1 to 4) Some of the information requested by the honourable member is not available at this stage. I ask that he places the question upon notice for Tuesday next.

Mr SANTORO: I do so accordingly.

3. **Compulsory Unionism; Queensland Housing Commission Plumbers**

MR SANTORO asked the Deputy Premier and Minister for Housing and Local Government—

"(1) With reference to the situation which sees (a) all plumbers within the Queensland Housing Commission being approached by union officials with a request that they join the union, (b) that former members who have allowed their memberships to lapse pay arrears and, that, in some instances these arrears are in excess of \$1 000 and (c) that any former members or anyone else who is unable to pay such arrears and/or refuses to join or rejoin the union, are being threatened with dismissal from their jobs, is he and the Government in agreement with these actions?

(2) Is the above situation part of any official directive and in line with the Goss Government's commitment to compulsory unionism?"

Mr BURNS: (1) It is true that union officials from a range of building trades group unions are currently engaged in a membership drive throughout the public sector,

including Housing Commission day-labour employees. I have been made aware that plumbers employed by the Queensland Housing Commission have been approached by officers of the Plumbers and Gasfitters Employees Union about union membership. In the next few days, I will be meeting with unions in relation to this matter. In fact, I will be meeting with them tomorrow.

(2) It seems that the honourable member is confusing preference in employment, as contained in provisions of the various awards covering employees of the Crown, with compulsory unionism. For the information of the honourable member, compulsory unionism in Queensland ended as a result of a judgment brought down by Hanger J., who was President of the Industrial Court in the mid-1960s. Preference clauses have been inserted in awards by the Queensland Industrial Commission and I hope that the honourable member is not suggesting that the Queensland Government has purposely acted contrary to awards made by the commission.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Productivity Agreements

Mr COOPER: It was not anticipated that the member for Mackay would be present in the Chamber this morning. Therefore, this question is directed to the Minister for Industrial Relations.

Mr Hamill: What has that got to do with it?

Mr Comben: He's here.

Mr COOPER: I realise that the member for Mackay is in the Chamber. He was not expected to be and, in deference to the situation that the member for Mackay was in yesterday, I will desist from asking further questions in that regard and will ask them next week.

In directing a question to the Minister for Industrial Relations, I refer to his Government's concern about increasing the competitiveness, productivity and export potential of Queensland industry. I ask: Given that commitment, will he give an unequivocal commitment one way or another to the House that incentive based productivity agreements, which have been entered into by such progressive Queensland firms as Metway Bank and Power Brewing, will continue in order to allow Queensland to expand its manufacturing base and increase its competitive advantage across all sectors of the economy? I would like to have a commitment from the Minister—an answer "Yes" or "No".

Mr WARBURTON: The short answer to the question is, "No." There is no commitment in respect of the continuation of what I believe the honourable member is referring to—namely, voluntary employment agreements.

Mr Cooper: Productivity agreements.

Mr WARBURTON: I have made the position very clear, and so has the Labor Party. During the run-up to the election—

Mr Borbidge: Have you got some retrospective legislation coming up?

Mr WARBURTON: It is no use the honourable member complaining. He knows all about it. Well before the election, he knew what the position was. The people of Queensland voted for the Labor Party on the basis of the policies enunciated at the time. I am telling the member for Surfers Paradise—and this is all that I am prepared to tell him at this time—that there will be new industrial legislation, based on the Hanger committee of inquiry's report, introduced into this House within a reasonably short time. There is no provision in that legislation for voluntary employment agreements.

Cairns Workers Club

Mr COOPER: In directing a question to the Treasurer and Minister for Regional Development, I refer to the cash scheming and apparent breaches of tax law by the Cairns Workers Club, of which he is president, and to his answer to the question I asked yesterday. I now ask: Has he contacted the club? Has he put himself in a position to provide a full and frank explanation of these unacceptable practices by the organisation that he heads?

Mr De LACY: I note that the Leader of the Opposition has been snooping again. The other night, I heard some noises outside my bedroom window. Now I know by whom they probably were made.

Today, I expected that questions would be asked about the national accounts, the Queensland economy, the position of small business and a variety of other things. Why the Leader of the Opposition has to stoop so low, I do not know. I understand that his approval rating is now 13 per cent, which is the lowest of any Opposition Leader in the English-speaking world. If this is the level at which he intends to operate, I wonder how he expects to pick up that approval rating.

The answer to his specific question is: no, I have not bothered about it. It has nothing to do with my portfolio. If the Leader of the Opposition has allegations to make, he should make them to the proper authority.

Mr Cooper: No, we make them here.

Mr De LACY: The Leader of the Opposition makes crazy and unfounded allegations in this Chamber under privilege. If he has allegations to make, he should make them to the proper authority and they will be investigated. I do not know about the allegation, apart from some crazy things that the Leader of the Opposition has said in this Parliament. They do not concern me.

Mr FitzGerald: "I will read *Hansard* and make inquiries and report back to this House."

Mr De LACY: I did not say that.

Mr FitzGerald: You said you would make inquiries.

Mr De LACY: I will get around to that.

If the Leader of the Opposition has allegations to make, he should make them to the proper authorities, and I am sure that the proper authorities will have a look at them.

Alleged Ministry Reshuffle

Mr PREST: I ask the Deputy Premier: is he aware of reports on Brisbane radio this morning that the Government is about to reshuffle the Ministry? Has he held any secret discussions with the Premier on that matter? Will he clarify the position?

Mr BURNS: I obtained a copy of the transcript of a statement on radio by a person by the name of Phelan, who was previously Vince Lester's press secretary. He is now working for 4KQ and doing a very good job for the National Party. He was a member of the daylight-saving task force junket which travelled throughout the west of Queensland and spent \$12,000 on food in looking after everybody. I am told, by those who know, that the report is untrue, unbalanced and unworthy of a reply.

I will now talk about the experts on reshuffles. I have with me a Queensland Government Directory, which I understand came from Mr Cooper's office. When I first entered the Ministry room, I picked up a Government telephone directory, which I will table for the information of honourable members. Under "Cabinet", the entry for the Premier and Treasurer has "Ahern" crossed out and "Cooper" written in. The entry for

the Deputy Premier has "Public Works" and "Housing" crossed out, and "Gunn" is in and then out. Under the entry for "Health", "Gibbs" is crossed out. Under the entry for "Land Management", "Harper" replaces "Glasson". The entry for the Minister for Finance and Minister Assisting the Premier and Treasurer has "Austin" crossed out. Honourable members might remember him. That directory is a pakapoo ticket.

The former Government was expert in reshuffling people. No wonder Opposition members are putting out stories about reshuffling.

I will now talk about the next reshuffle in the Opposition benches. For the last three or four weeks, Mr Borbidge has been sitting next to Mr Gunn, the arch villain and arch manoeuvrer. Every day, Mr Borbidge has to help out the Leader of the Opposition when he makes a mess of his questions. Every day, Mr Borbidge shows Opposition members that the Leader of the Opposition is incompetent and unable to handle his job. It is only a matter of time before another directory will be published showing that the present Leader of the Opposition has been replaced.

The Queensland Government Directory that I have in my possession has page after page of photographs crossed out and alterations made because of the knife-stabbing, back-stabbing ministerial reshuffles that the previous Government carried out.

The Leader of the Opposition has the hide to feed to Mr Phelan the idea that a reshuffle is about to occur. There is no reshuffle on the cards.

Whereupon the honourable member laid on the table the document referred to.

Compulsory Third-party Motor Vehicle Insurance

Mr PREST: In directing a question to the Treasurer, I refer to concerns both by the motoring public and the general insurance industry at the decision handed down last year in the Supreme Court by Mr Justice Carter which effectively limits the motorists' capacity to select the CTP insurer of their choice. I ask: are motorists legally able to choose who insures their vehicle for CTP purposes? Are any changes to legislation necessary to achieve that choice?

Mr De LACY: The short answer is: yes. Honourable members will recall that last year the Supreme Court handed down a decision which threw not only the whole insurance industry but also most of the consuming public in Queensland into confusion. That decision effectively said that it was illegal for people to change their third-party insurance.

The decision was appealed by the RACQ and last week was overturned by a decision of the Full Court. In its published decision, the Full Court held that, under the construction of the Motor Vehicles Insurance Act and Main Roads Regulations, motorists can legally change their compulsory third-party insurance to the licensed insurer of their choice.

On that point, there is therefore no reason for the Government to consider any change to the Motor Vehicles Insurance Act. It is still open to FAI to consider appealing the matter to the High Court. It would be improper of me to speculate on the outcome of such a challenge.

However, I assure all honourable members and the motoring public that the Government is committed to ensuring that motorists have the right to select the licensed compulsory third-party insurer of their choice.

ALP Election Promise Costings

Mr INNES: I ask the Premier: will he table in this House next Tuesday the document that he released in November last year which detailed ALP costings of his pre-election promises and their capacity to be funded without new taxes and charges and which he then stated were independently audited by international accountants KPMG Peat Marwick Hungerfords?

Mr W. K. GOSS: Yes.

Location of Sexually Transmitted Disease, Methadone and Needle-exchange Centre at Miami

Mr INNES: I ask the Minister for Health: in view of the overwhelming local opinion expressed yesterday in Miami at a public meeting of more than 1 000 people against the establishment of a sexually transmitted disease, methadone and needle-exchange centre only 100 yards from the North Burleigh Surf Club and about 500 metres from the Miami high school and primary school, can he give the decent, law-abiding people who live in that area of the Gold Coast an ironclad guarantee that his decision to locate this clinic at Miami will not result in its clients causing any personal injury, through needle injury or drug-related criminal offences, to them.

Mr McELLIGOTT: I think honourable members would agree that it would be unreasonable to expect me to give an ironclad guarantee in regard to the matters that the member for Sherwood has raised. Obviously, if I gave such a guarantee, people would hold me personally responsible on any occasion that an accident occurred.

Yesterday, in a ministerial statement, I dealt at length with the reasons for establishing this clinic at that particular location and why it is so important to have a clinic on the coast. All I can add to that is that I believe very strongly that the opposition that has been mounted to the clinic is based largely on emotional argument. I think perhaps the worst example of that—I hope that it is the worst example—was a woman saying on television that the clinic ought to be located out of the way, in a country area, where it cannot be seen and that if intravenous drug users cannot get to it, then let them die. I hope that that is the extreme point of view. However, it is certainly the sort of emotion that is promoting the arguments against the clinic.

As I indicated yesterday, as a responsible Health Minister I have to respond to the fact that some 2 000 intravenous drug users have been identified in the general Gold Coast region. Given that they constitute a high-risk group in regard to the spread of the AIDS virus and other diseases, I have no option but to proceed with that clinic. It will proceed in the existing health care facility at Miami.

Foreign Language and Culture Studies; Report by Professor Ross Garnaut

Mr PALASZCZUK: In directing a question to the Minister for Education, I refer him to the report by Ross Garnaut entitled *Australia and the Northeast Asian Ascendancy*. That report recommends that—
"All students should be exposed to serious study of Asian history, geography, economics, politics and culture."

I ask: does the Minister support this view and, if so, what steps will the Government be taking in the area of foreign language and culture studies?

Mr BRADY: I thank the honourable member for the question. I have read the sections of Professor Garnaut's report relating to education. I believe that it is an excellent report and is very important for the future of Queensland and Australia.

Last Monday, Professor Garnaut briefed the Cabinet in relation to the whole of his report. It was very clear from his briefing, and from the report, that if Queensland and Australia are to become increasingly relevant in the world, they must relate better to Asia, in relation to both culture and language. To do that, it is necessary that there be a vastly enhanced program of study in Queensland relating to Asian culture, economics, geography and politics, as well as language. The ability of this country to deal effectively and productively with our neighbours depends upon that program being developed and enhanced. To achieve that objective, our children must be allowed to develop this understanding at an early age. Therefore, foreign language and culture studies are going to be a major part of this Government's education policy.

This Government is committed to a Statewide program of foreign language and culture studies in State primary schools. In addition, it is committed to a major foreign

language and culture program in State secondary schools. It is the Government's intention that, by the year 2000, 20 per cent of students graduating from our high schools will be literate in a foreign language and that the remainder will be well versed in the study and understanding of foreign culture—including Asian culture—and economics and geography.

In order to enhance this progress, I have requested the Education Department and others to prepare a report on foreign language and culture studies in Queensland. The services of Professor David Ingram, from the Centre for Applied Linguistics and Languages at Griffith University, have been engaged and his report will be submitted to me by the end of April. Once I have considered that report, I will set about the task of implementing programs that will guarantee that our children are well versed in the languages and cultures of our near neighbours, making them more confident and able to deal with the world in which we live, particularly the Pacific rim. My intention is that, through an innovative and committed approach to this issue, Queensland will develop a reputation as the foreign language and culture capital of Australia.

Foreign Investment in Queensland

Mr PALASZCZUK: I refer the Treasurer to the issue of foreign investment in Queensland, and I specifically ask: will he compare the Government's record in this area to date with that of the previous Government? I also ask: is it true that the Federal Government has sole jurisdiction over the flow of foreign capital into Australia and, if so, how does the Queensland Government propose to ensure that foreign investment within the State is consistent with the Government's policy?

Mr De LACY: I thank the honourable member for the question.

The easiest thing in the world to do is to compare the policy of this Government with that of its predecessor. This Government has a policy and the previous Government did not have any policy. The previous Government just allowed open slather. Its policy really was who was talking at the time and to whom they were talking.

In regard to foreign investment, Premier Ahern was going around saying, "We favour it." During the Qintex fiasco, Martin Tenni was running around up north saying that he was opposed to it. Denis Hinton said that it was wrong for Queensland, no matter what happened. It depended on who was talking and when they were talking. In fact, the former Premier had a speech written for him that he was going to make to an audience which included some Japanese investors. It had a couple of "tough" lines in it such as, "We have got to be tough on foreign investment." When he looked down and saw that there were some Japanese people in the audience, he deleted those lines from the speech.

That is the kind of policy that is being compared with the policy of this Government. This Government does have a policy. That policy was announced prior to the election. That policy is still in place. I was surprised to see that Peter Morley of the *Courier-Mail* would come into the argument that is promoted by the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Party and say that this Government does not have a policy.

For the benefit of Opposition members I will point out the main aspects of our policy. Those highlights, which were published before and after the election, have not been changed. Our policy opposes the speculative development of land and prohibits the foreign acquisition of developed residential real estate. It opposes the alienation of agricultural land that is currently used for primary production. Foreign investment proposals in the rural sector are subjected to an impact study to identify the effects on the industry. Proposals that are assessed as not being in the interests of the industry will be opposed. Similarly, proposals that could result in vertical integration of foreign concerns and push Australian ownership and control down to an unacceptably low level are also opposed.

The Government is committed to undertaking a much-needed study into the impact of foreign investment on the tourism industry. On the other hand, we welcome foreign

investment in the manufacturing, mining and service sectors—where there is most value-added benefit to Queensland—but preferably on a joint-venture basis with Australian firms. The Government will monitor foreign investment levels and trends within the State and keep its policies up to date in the light of that information.

As honourable members would be aware, recently I announced the formation of a Foreign Investment Secretariat within the Treasury Department. For the benefit of all honourable members, I point out that that secretariat is in operation. It has been set up and it exists. It is not about to be set up or to be set up some time in the near future. I am disappointed that some people say it is just another bureaucracy. I am disappointed also that Peter Morley parroted those words of the Opposition.

The Minister for Education alluded to the important issue that must be borne in mind when dealing with foreign countries. I am reminded of Professor Garnaut's words, namely, that professional excellence in the management of our relations with north-east Asia is of prime importance to Queensland and to Australia. I do not know how professional excellence can be achieved without a part of the public service being charged with developing that professional excellence.

I do not resile from the fact that the secretariat has been established. It is for the benefit of the people of Queensland and will develop, refine and implement our policies which are for the benefit of Queenslanders. That will always be the objective of our foreign investment policy. Opposition members can make crazy, ill-informed and irrelevant remarks as much as they like, but this Government is forging ahead to do what is right for Queensland.

Cape York Spaceport

Mr BORBIDGE: In directing a question to the Minister for Environment and Heritage, I refer to comments that were made in Cairns by Senator Richardson and reported in the *Courier-Mail* on 1 March. Senator Richardson claimed that no development of the Cape York spaceport could proceed for up to two years pending a joint Federal/State land-use study and that no decision on the spaceport could be made in the interim.

I ask: is the Queensland Government in full agreement with Senator Richardson on this issue? Does the Minister question the proposed site of the spaceport? Will any further action be taken in regard to the necessary State Government approvals for the spaceport pending consideration of the two-year land-use study?

Mr COMBEN: The issue of the spaceport, and Cape York as a whole, is complicated. I have previously answered questions about the land-use study of Cape York.

A range of meetings and negotiations are being held with the spaceport consortium, which has no plans for construction of the spaceport before two years have passed. It has accepted the land-use study and has provided the requested specific environmental impact statements. Recently, the consortium briefed me and my back-bench committee.

Because the Federal Government and this Government are at one on the issue of Cape York and the future development of the area, I agree with Senator Richardson's statements. There are no problems between the spaceport agency and this Government. We are in total agreement. The consortium agrees totally with our policies and is aware that its timeslots are the same as ours. The issues will be considered when the feasibility studies, the environmental impact statements and the land-use study are completed.

Small Business Development Corporation

Mr BORBIDGE: In directing a question without notice to the Minister for Manufacturing and Commerce, I refer to his recent announcement of a review of the structures and functions of the Small Business Development Corporation and his answer to a question in this House yesterday.

I refer the Minister and also the Government to comments that were made by Mr David Beddall, the Federal member for Rankin, at a function that was hosted on 14 February 1990 by the Department of Industry, Technology and Commerce. At that time Mr Beddall said—

"I am always proud, as a Queenslander, to say that the best Small Business Development Corporation in Australia was in Queensland; the second best in Western Australia; the worst in Tasmania and they vary in between."

I ask: is the Minister, as a Queenslander, proud enough of the SBDC to agree with the comments of his Federal Labor colleague? Will he assure the House that the structures and functions of the SBDC will not be absorbed into the mainstream public service? Will he express full confidence in the board of the Small Business Development Corporation and the corporation's senior staff?

Mr SMITH: I do not know how many times the position on this matter has to be established with the Opposition. I have stated it publicly and in the House. Mr Beddall's report dealt essentially with Federal matters. Opposition members are well aware that the great majority of matters that affect small business relate to State Governments.

Mr Borbidge: Why are you reviewing what he said is the best small-business agency in Australia?

Mr SMITH: I ask the honourable member to wait a while and settle down.

In relation to some of the matters that were raised, Mr Beddall praised the Queensland Small Business Development Corporation, and I accept that the point was made about retail shop leases. I believe that it is performing a worthwhile service. However—

Mr Borbidge: He says it is the best in the country.

Mr SMITH: I remind the honourable member that it has been in place for 10 years. He has been asleep. His Government let it run on for 10 years. He has not done any review and he has not checked to see whether it can be improved. He knows that circumstances and conditions change.

When we in the Labor Party came into Government, we said that we would be reviewing all quangos. We are doing that. We are confident that the review, when it is finally completed, will result in a better small business development service. That service will be in place, it will perform more efficiently, and will serve the people of Queensland more effectively.

State of Electoral Rolls at State Election

Mr FOLEY: I refer the Minister for Justice and Corrective Services to the state of the rolls at the recent State election and ask: were there any difficulties experienced at the election owing to the state of the rolls? Can he give an indication as to the action he has taken since that time to improve the situation?

Mr MILLINER: I thank the honourable member for Yeronga for the question.

Mr Veivers: You wrote it.

Mr MILLINER: I did not write it.

It is well known that problems have occurred with the electoral rolls. In this day and age when people are moving around the State, they change addresses fairly regularly. When members of Parliament see the print-out of the new enrolments in their electorate, they generally write to those constituents and welcome them to the electorate. Late last year, the former member for Stafford embarked on such a campaign and received a number of letters returned and marked, "Not known at this address". I think all members who embark on such an exercise receive letters returned with such a notation. But as

the former member for Stafford saw it as a Machiavellian plot to get rid of him, he embarked on a public campaign.

He was then joined by the former Minister for Justice, the National Party member for Mount Gravatt, who thought of ways and means by which he could check the electoral roll. As a result, he embarked on a hare-brained scheme to match the names on the electoral rolls with the electricity accounts of people in the electorates.

Mr Hamill: People thought he was a live wire.

Mr MILLINER: People thought he was a live wire, but he was not a bright spark at all.

About a week before the election, those former members sent to the returning officers lists of people whose names did not match up when the electoral roll was compared with the electricity accounts. My information is that all the returning officers throughout Queensland despatched those lists to the appropriate place, namely, the rubbish bin. I am not aware of any returning officer in the State using the list that was sent to him.

In answer to Mr Foley 's question—there have been problems with the electoral rolls, and we acknowledge that. Already, I have had discussions with the chairman of EARC, Mr Sherman, who has indicated that he has no objections to preliminary work being undertaken to examine ways and means of bringing the rolls up to date. I am pleased to report that officers of the State Electoral Office and officers of the Commonwealth Electoral Commission are meeting at the moment to look at ways and means of bringing this State's electoral rolls into line with those of the Commonwealth. When that work has been completed, we will take a report to EARC and look at the best ways of achieving those aims.

Non-compliance with Industrial Awards by Employers

Mr FOLEY: I refer the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations to public concern over non-compliance with industrial awards by some employers and to inspections carried out by industrial inspectors attached to his department. I ask: is he aware of any problems? If so, does he propose any changes designed to ensure award compliance by all employers under State awards and agreements?

Mr WARBURTON: I am very pleased to see the member's interest in this matter. Yes, I am aware that there have been some immense problems. For that reason, I recently commissioned a survey, which was conducted by industrial inspectors attached to my department. The results of that survey have revealed some very startling facts. As a matter of absolute necessity, I have reintroduced random checking. The general inspection trial program, to which I referred, which was carried out during February this year, looked at contravention of both State awards and relevant Acts.

The initial report shows that a massive 83 per cent of employers that were inspected in the clerical, motel, service station, hairdressing, mechanical, engineering, retail and restaurant areas combined contravened one or more provisions of the relevant Act or award. That in itself is an absolute shame and disgrace. Some 55 per cent of those employers contravened one or more provisions of the relevant awards.

Mr Burns: Fifty what?

Mr WARBURTON: It was 55 per cent.

Although it may be found that some of the contraventions were not intentional, the fact remains that almost a third, that is, over 30 per cent, of the employees of those particular employers were actually underpaid. Of course, those employees of those employers are entitled to payment of arrears. I want to assure all honourable members that action will be and is being taken to rectify that situation.

I have no doubt whatsoever that the final report, which is about to come to my table, will reflect completely the position that I have just outlined to the House. Needless to say, it is a very sad indictment upon the previous National Party Government that it deliberately allowed this situation to occur. It is bad enough——

Mr LESTER: I rise to a point of order. I find those remarks most offensive——

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

Mr LESTER: . . . because we continually had inspections——

Mr SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order. The honourable member will resume his seat. He is wasting question-time.

Mr LESTER: . . . and we continually found that people were doing the wrong thing.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I warn the honourable member under Standing Order 123A. I ask him to resume his seat. He is wasting the time of the Parliament.

Mr WARBURTON: From my point of view and the point of view of the Government, it is bad enough that, under the previous National Party Government, Queenslanders received the lowest average wages of all States in Australia. Might I add that it is absolutely disgusting that so many employees have, in addition, suffered reduced spending power by virtue of the fact that they received less than they earned.

I assure the honourable member for Yeronga, Mr Foley, that I intend to take the strongest possible action and all steps necessary to ensure that those problems are rectified expeditiously.

Accounts of the Australian Workers Union

Mr LINGARD: In directing a question to the Minister for Employment, Training and Industrial Relations, I refer to a conversation in the second week of February this year, in which the Minister discussed the problem of the sum of \$7m which was "astray" in the accounts of the Australian Workers Union. I ask: will the Minister explain what he was referring to when he said—

"Six weeks and we will have it all wrapped up. Certainly we will have it wrapped up by August."

What was the Minister going to wrap up? Who is the person named Angelo referred to in the Minister's conversation that there is "no record of the \$7m that is astray."

Mr WARBURTON: I thank the honourable member for his question, but I must admit that I have no idea what he is talking about. If the honourable member would care to put the question on notice—I am serious about this—I will attempt to answer the question as best I can. I have no idea about the matter to which he refers.

Mr LINGARD: I do so accordingly.

Naming of "Keith Ernest De Lacy" in *White Mercantile Gazette*

Mr LINGARD: In directing a question to the Treasurer and Minister for Regional Development, I refer him to "2 February" in the 1990 edition of the *White Mercantile Gazette*, which records a dispute between Mr Keith Ernest De Lacy, Yvonne Florence De Lacy and Isabella Constructions Pty Ltd over moneys owing totalling \$21,028. I ask: is the Treasurer the Mr Keith De Lacy referred to in that gazette? If so, is the Minister prepared to explain to the House the circumstances and nature of the dispute, and whether it reflects adversely on his credibility as Treasurer of this State?

Mr De LACY: Opposition members have been snooping again.

I understand that that entry in the *White Mercantile Gazette* does refer to my wife and me. That entry refers to a dispute that I am having with the person who constructed

my house. I am not sure that this Parliament wants to know all of the details. The dispute is being handled by my solicitors. I will certainly abide by the court decision.

I am not sure what the honourable member gains by raising such matters in this House. I do not think that because we are members of Parliament that in our personal lives we should give in to impossible demands by people.

There are times when one has to say that one is not prepared to bow to outrageous demands of that kind. I say that one of the reasons I decided to oppose the demand was that during my conversation with the builder it was said that I had no option but to pay because I was a public figure. I said, "Well, if that is what you think, you go ahead."

The dispute is to come before the courts. I will abide by their decision. I am confident that the position that I have adopted is the right one. I am certain that I would have the support of every member in this Chamber in my assertion that members of this Assembly have the right to contest such issues.

Increased Police Presence in the Strathpine/Bray Park Area

Mrs WOODGATE: I ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services: can he advise what measures he will take to ensure an increased police presence in the Strathpine/Bray Park area?

Mr MACKENROTH: Police numbers in the Petrie area, which covers Strathpine, have recently been increased and in the near future will be further increased. A new police station at Petrie is presently under construction and will be completed towards the end of this year. In the Taigum area, a new district police headquarters is under construction. The mobile patrols will operate from that area. Approximately 200 staff will be stationed at the Taigum centre, and that will provide the northern suburbs of Brisbane and the Strathpine/Petrie area with better police protection.

With the new community policing methods that this Government is adopting, and as a result of the legislation that I have placed before the Parliament, all areas, including the Strathpine area, will receive better police protection under this Government than under the previous Government.

Delays in the Office of the Public Trustee

Mrs WOODGATE: I ask the Honourable the Attorney-General: is he aware that, when honourable members receive inquiries from constituents concerning those constituents' involvement with the Public Trust Office, those inquiries often involve matters of considerable complexity? Is the Attorney-General aware that, as a result, correspondence is sometimes protracted, leading to dissatisfaction among constituents hoping for a quick answer to their problems? If so, what does the Attorney-General intend doing about the problem?

Mr WELLS: I thank the honourable member for her question and for her other representations on a variety of administrative matters.

In electing the honourable member to this House, the people of Pine Rivers, by replacing her distinguished predecessor, have done this Parliament as well as themselves an enormous favour.

The role of the Public Trustee as regards a variety of matters is very wide, but as far as those concerns relate to honourable members of this House and their constituents, they will most often involve the Public Trustee in matters regarding wills or the administration of estates. The Public Trustee often administers the estates of people who have suffered as a result of an incapacity, when any confusion or misunderstanding arises, or when there is a bureaucratic difficulty or slowness in dealing with those areas, that process can be quite stressful for the people concerned.

As a result of the concerns of constituents and the representations of the honourable member, I have decided to streamline this process. I have appointed a parliamentary

information officer in the office of the Public Trustee. The role of that parliamentary information officer will be to act as a one-stop shop, to provide information for members of Parliament and their staff making inquiries on behalf of their constituents.

Instead of having to go through the protracted process of writing a letter to the Attorney-General and having that letter referred to the Public Trustee, waiting for a response and continuing that correspondence, by speaking to the correct person who will ask the right questions for the honourable member within the administration, it may be possible to receive an early answer and perhaps lead to the resolution of difficulties quickly and thus relieve the stress and strain of many constituents. This service, of course, will be available to honourable members opposite as well as honourable members on this side of the House. The telephone number for the parliamentary information officer is 835 4237.

Tully/Millstream Hydroelectricity Scheme

Mr FITZGERALD: I refer the Minister for Resource Industries to the report on ABC television last night which quoted a Federal report that rules out the construction of the Tully/Millstream hydroelectricity scheme. The report, prepared for Senator Richardson in the heat of the Federal election campaign when the Labor Party is assiduously chasing the green vote, slams the Queensland Electricity Commission's highly regarded environmental impact study. Does the Minister agree with Senator Richardson's statement that no flooding will occur until yet another study is done on the State's electricity needs? Does he agree that a minor disruption of the habitat of the yellow-bellied glider would endanger the economic development of Queensland? Has he been rolled by Senator Richardson and Mr Comben, in spite of the most comprehensive and professional environmental impact study ever compiled for a major public project in Australia?

Mr VAUGHAN: I appreciate the concern of the shadow Minister for Resource Industries about the report on Channel 2 last night. I have had an opportunity to read the document which, I understand, was leaked to the press. I have yet to carry out further investigations into its background. I must confess that I am not convinced by the people responsible for that report, whoever they may be. I think a number of consultants were engaged.

On becoming Minister last December, my initial information was that the Federal department did not oppose the scheme. However, I am always willing to receive any information that may be forthcoming and may improve on the quality of our environment. If there are any problems that may have been overlooked by the QEC, I will certainly—

Mr FitzGerald: That is not Mr Comben's view.

Mr VAUGHAN: If the honourable member wishes to ascertain Mr Comben's view, he should ask Mr Comben a question. I cannot answer on behalf of Mr Comben.

I have taken the opportunity, with the QEC, to go up to the project. I have flown over it and had a good look at it. I also spent some time late one night looking at yellow-bellied gliders, which are very beautiful little animals. I am of the opinion that the environmental impact study which is currently being pursued by the QEC is comprehensive. The people conducting this study are still involved in the area. They are looking not only at the yellow-bellied glider but also the other animals that are prevalent in the area.

I can assure the honourable member that all action will be taken to ensure that all of the environmental aspects associated with the project are covered. If there is any doubt at all, the time will be taken to go into the matter further. As the House would be aware, we have given an undertaking to the various conservation groups—and there are quite a number of them—to determine whether the demand is as predicted by the QEC. We are setting up a task force to look at that particular aspect.

National Parks

Mr FITZGERALD: My second question is also to the Minister for Resource Industries. I ask: in view of the Labor Party's announced environmental policy to increase the area of national parks in the first term of the Goss Government, can the Minister assure the House that no land that is of geological interest to the mining industry will be locked up as a national park until a full exploration has been undertaken so that a value judgment, based on a full knowledge of all the facts, can be made on whether to mine or not?

Mr VAUGHAN: Again, on becoming the Minister last December, I called for numerous reports from the Department of Resource Industries on the various areas in this State which were subject to authorities to prospect or mining leases, particularly in regard to mineral sands and silica deposits.

I have had meetings with various environmental groups. I have received deputations from two of them, and have sat and talked to them about their points of view. I have explained to them that, as the Minister for Resource Industries, it is my responsibility to put forward to the Government my views on the development of our natural resources, and that any final decision taken on the development of those resources will be taken by Cabinet collectively, with me making representations in relation to my responsibilities to the future of this State and its rich natural resources.

Roadside and Travelling Vending Licences

Dr FLYNN: I ask the Deputy Premier and Minister for Housing and Local Government: is he aware of the apparent favouritism displayed by some local authorities in the issuing of licences for roadside and travelling vending? What progress has been made in the development of legislation to regulate this industry fairly?

Mr BURNS: I thank the honourable member for his question. In February 1989, a Green Paper on roadside vending was released by the previous Government. A number of matters have to be addressed. One is the disparity in the control by the Police Department and by the local authorities. We are following up the decision by the previous Government that the local authorities should control this matter.

There has been a series of consultations between the Local Government Association and other groups on the one hand and vendor groups on the other hand concerning itinerant vendors and roadside stalls, and the definitions of both of them. I am aware of many complaints in the Toowoomba area and other areas about this matter. The preparation of legislation is progressing and eventually it will be discussed by my parliamentary committee and introduced into the House.

At 11 a.m.,

In accordance with the Sessional Order, the House proceeded with the debate on the Address in Reply.

ADDRESS IN REPLY

Sixth Allotted Day

Debate resumed from 20 March (see p.) on Mr McGrady's motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, to which Mr Cooper had moved an amendment.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the honourable member for Whitsunday. I remind honourable members to extend the usual courtesies paid to a member making a maiden speech.

Mrs BIRD (Whitsunday) (11.01 a.m.): Mr Speaker, on behalf of the people of my electorate, I offer you sincere congratulations on your election as Speaker of this Parliament. It gives me the greatest pleasure to address you here today as the Labor Party's first ever representative of the seat of Whitsunday.

It has often puzzled me why Whitsunday should have remained a National Party stronghold for so long. When we pause to reflect on our history, the images are of cattle-drovers and field-workers. They were the men and women who came for the seasonal work in the sugar industry, the immigrants who came seeking opportunities and a stable future and the Kanakas who were blackbirded to work on the cane plantations. It was the grit and determination of these people that laid the foundations on which the Whitsunday electorate has continued to prosper ever since. I can think of no better example of the fortitude of the Whitsunday people than the Weil's disease strike of 1935, which was centred on the Tully region, but which had repercussions in all cane-growing districts along the eastern seaboard. The disease claimed many lives before its origin was traced to rats in the cane fields. In spite of miller and grower resistance, the workers of that era embarked on what became an emotive and sometimes violent campaign to see the cane burned before harvesting. Their bitter struggle was finally recognised when a general order for the burning of cane before harvesting was handed down by the Industrial Court in July 1936.

One must admire their fortitude, but there was nothing to be admired in the shameful trade in Melanesian muscle which began soon after settlement in the Mackay area. The sugar industry was firmly based on the supply of island labour, or the blackbirding trade, as the kidnapping of South Sea Islanders came to be known. The resilience of these native people to disease, isolation and racial discrimination is testimony to their great strength of character. It gives me enormous pleasure to see the influence of the Kanakas with their caring, compassionate and very family-orientated life-styles, still so strongly evident in the Whitsunday community today. It would be remiss of me if I did not at this point pay tribute to one of the area's most well-known citizens, Mr Noel Fatnowna, the mentor of the Islander community of Mackay. He and his family are widely respected throughout the State, and he has done much to instil a sense of pride in his people without distortion of the past.

Other very strong influences on the character of the Whitsunday electorate are the Italian and Maltese communities. One only has to leaf through the telephone directory to appreciate what a truly multinational country Australia has become. In my own electorate it is the Maltese and Italian immigrants and their descendants who have embroidered their traditions and beliefs on the fabric of our life-styles. These people, with their capacity for large amounts of work and dedication, have helped take us to the forefront of the sugar industry. Again, their sense of family and strong religious commitments have contributed much to the individual character of the Whitsunday people.

We are a mixed bag to say the least, but this makes us so much more ready to grasp the new opportunities that these uncertain times present, to take the risks of venturing new fields and to endure the inevitable hard times. We are a people who have learnt from the past that there are no easy solutions and that we must all make a positive contribution if the community as a whole is to prosper.

Some of the individuality within my electorate might stem from the district's topography. The Whitsunday region sits like a green oasis in an otherwise parched landscape. Formed from portions of the former Bowen and Mirani electorates, the seat takes in the coastal strip from south of Bowen to north Mackay and encompasses the Shires of Whitsunday and Pioneer.

The sugar-producing capacity of this region is well known, with more than 6 million tonnes of sugarcane crushed annually. It is an industry with an impressive history of solid management and professional organisation which has enabled Australia to compete so successfully in the international trading arena. It is indeed a pleasure to see that the industry recognises that, to remain competitive, reforms must be ongoing. I refer here to the wideranging review of the industry announced by the Minister for Primary Industries, the Honourable Ed Casey. Mr Casey is a man whose knowledge of the sugar industry would be unmatched in the Parliament, and he is to be commended on the swiftness with which he has moved to set this review in place.

The sugar industry working party has been given broad terms of reference which will enable it to look at such issues as the advantages and disadvantages of forming a Queensland sugar industry authority. This authority would take on responsibility for the Sugar Board, the Central Sugar Cane Prices Board and the Bureau of Sugar Experiment Stations. Funding options for the authority, reshuffling of research and extension responsibilities, and the possibility of the BSES and private institutions taking over pest and disease control boards all have far-reaching consequences for the industry. I look forward with interest to the outcome of this review and the long-term rationalisation plan.

The Whitsunday region has always been prepared to face the inevitable changes, both internally and externally. In 1988, our growers took up the challenge to rationalise the milling sector and formed the Mackay Sugar Co-operative, under the competent chairmanship of Mr Graham Davies. The move provides growers with greater control over, and investment in, their industry. In 1989—its first year of full production on continuous crushing—the five mills under the umbrella of the cooperative enjoyed a smooth harvesting and crushing season. Unfortunately, what was promising to be a record crop this year is now suffering under the effects of a prolonged dry season. As the hopes of receiving reasonable wet-season rains fade daily, cane-growers are resigning themselves to the sort of year they have experienced almost throughout the eighties. Seasonal fluctuations are part and parcel of farming, as any primary producer knows. However, weather patterns of recent years have severely taxed this most productive sector of our communities, with economic repercussions filtering through to most regional centres.

In Proserpine, we look forward to the completion of the \$46m Peter Faust dam around March next year, which will bring tremendous benefits to the Whitsunday district. In Mackay, the completion of the Eton irrigation scheme this year and the development of the Dumbleton weir stage 2 on the Pioneer River will do much to alleviate some of the hardships these drought conditions impose.

However, the provision of another water storage facility to take the Pioneer Valley into the next century is seen as a much-needed requirement. One likely location for such a facility would be at Blacks Creek. Although it is outside my electorate, its benefits to my electorate would make it more than welcome. This Government has given an undertaking to the concerned people in my electorate that no development of this type will proceed without a thorough investigation into the long-term water requirements of the area and the environmental impacts of such a development.

This will be the stand that I will be adopting on all issues of development, whether they be related to agriculture, tourism or other industry. The "development at any cost" era is over. It is time to face the challenge of building a future based on a sustainable ethic. Gone are the days when our only concern was the hip-pocket nerve. There is a new awareness in the community of the need for less haste, less waste and the responsibility we have in caring for our planet. The change in community attitudes must be harnessed and carefully nurtured if we are ever to truly enjoy the fruits that this great State has to offer.

While sugar remains the electorate's main source of income, with a gross value in the Pioneer and Whitsunday Shires of in excess of \$100m annually, the fishing and cattle industries also make a valuable contribution to our regional economy. The Queensland Commercial Fishermen's Organisation rates fishing as the fastest-growing and constant industry in the region. The industry must, therefore, be protected at all costs.

Our tourism industry has grown with breathtaking speed. According to a Queensland University report titled *Population Projections for Local Government 1986 to 2001*, the Whitsunday and Douglas Shires are the fastest-growing local authority areas outside the major urban centres. Numerous multimillion-dollar proposals are dotted along the coastline, as well as on the off-shore islands—Abel Point Marina, \$25m; Woodwark Bay Resort Stage 1, \$200m; Boathaven Bay Resort, \$300m; and Daydream Island Redevelopment, \$71m, to name just a few. Latest statistics from the Queensland Tourist

and Travel Corporation show that more people are choosing to holiday in the Whitsunday region every year—an annual visitation increase of around 15 per cent—and they are staying longer, averaging approximately four nights. But statistics and attention-grabbing headlines such as "Boom in Tourist Dollars" can be deceiving. I believe that we have reached the point at which unbridled, badly planned and environmentally insensitive development must stop.

That area of my electorate runs the risk of being overcapitalised, as developers continue to construct safe international-style hotels and resorts that are indistinguishable from those found anywhere else in the world. The high stakes involved make it tempting to add a little brass and marble to create five-star hotels, bringing in a \$250-a-night average room rate. The feasibility of it looks good, but it is totally unsuited to the character of the region. Without comprehensive planning, development will continue in the mishmash fashion of the past. The upper end of the holiday bracket—the luxury sector—is overcatered for, with a desperate shortage of affordable two-star accommodation.

While appreciating that much of this is the result of the meteoric rise of the industry, I stress that it cannot be allowed to continue lest it destroys the very environment that it seeks to showcase. It is a case of killing the goose that lays the golden egg. We must ask ourselves: who will benefit from development? Who will get the jobs? Whose jobs will be lost? Who will provide low-cost workers' housing? Who will supply the social workers?

Sadly, Australian institutions have never been enthusiastic in investing in tourism, preferring the better and quicker returns of other forms of property investment. As a result of this sustained lack of interest, Japanese investors, who are inclined to adopt a long-term view, have a virtual monopoly on the billions of dollars of resort property.

While tourism is widely applauded for making its contribution to the balance of payments, controversy bubbles away in the background. Increased tourism investments mean, in reality, increased foreign ownership, and whereas foreign ownership was not an issue a decade ago, it is now very much on the political agenda now. There is widespread disquiet about the extent and type of investment that is being allowed to occur. Therefore, I welcome the moves of this Government to look at the issue of foreign investment and its impacts.

The southern and interstate newcomers to areas such as Whitsunday are often refugees from a world that they then try to re-create. People who escaped to Airlie Beach and Cannonvale for their village-like appeal are now leaving the multimillion-dollar development behind to converge on smaller places such as Midge Point, Shoal Point, Halliday Bay and the natural haven of Cape Hillsborough. The costs of this undisciplined growth are very seldom acknowledged by the tourism industry. For too long the overly optimistic projections have gone unchallenged.

I am advocating planned tourist development, supported by research at national, State and regional levels. This will be the only path which promises to preserve Queensland's unique natural assets and life-style. I would like to compliment the Minister for Tourism, the Honourable Bob Gibbs, on his very professional handling of the portfolio to date.

The previous State Government's attitude to tourism was superficial and lightweight. It failed to set in place the structure necessary to secure the long-term viability of an industry which employs nearly 200 000 Queenslanders, directly and indirectly, and is worth about \$12 billion to the State's economy. The Minister has recognised that and has put tourism up where it belongs. He recognises that tourism is an industry with the same needs as any other industry in this State.

Much has already been said about the devastation caused to the industry by Expo, the pilots strike and, in the case of my electorate, unfavourable wet-season patterns. The Goss Government's announcement that it would provide \$2.2m for a marketing campaign is sincerely appreciated. However, recovery for many small operators in the Whitsunday area will not be possible without additional short-term financial assistance. So I would

urge both the State and the Federal Governments to give consideration quickly to providing an additional assistance package.

The environmental impact of tourism is an issue close to my heart. Having had a longstanding involvement in the conservation and national heritage movements in my electorate, I am particularly proud of the very responsible way in which our environment movement and individuals have sought to influence and educate the community. They are commended for initiatives such as last year's Visions 2008 conference which brought together representatives of more than 30 community groups and organisations to plan for the future—our common future. Phil Armit, Marilyn Wright and the committees worked tirelessly to provide a forum to discuss issues such as commerce, industry, welfare, the environment and social welfare in a non-threatening way. The understanding and sense of cooperation which was engendered from the conference has done much to foster greater community cooperation in preparing for the future.

Next month, the Mackay Conservation Group will again play a vital role in a seminar to discuss land care in the region. The group is combining with land-holders, land care committees and Government departments to tackle the problems associated with land degradation and to promote awareness in the community of the need for sustainable agricultural practices. This exercise in building on common ground rather than letting differences divide is setting an example for the rest of the State.

Poor planning has led to many environmental problems in Whitsunday, not the least of which is water pollution and the human impact of tourists on such natural treasures as the Great Barrier Reef and the coastline. Unfortunately, although community awareness of the need for environmental responsibility is growing, not all that is happening on the environment front in Whitsunday is good.

As a second-term councillor on the Pioneer Shire Council, I have had the benefit of dealing with a cross-section of the community on many varied issues. Although not everything my council does might be applauded, I believe that under the chairmanship of Councillor Gordon White we have evolved into a people-motivated council. The wishes of the people and their objections, complaints and grievances are given a fair hearing and a fair response.

That is in stark contrast to the neighbouring Shire of Whitsunday, previously known as Proserpine, which would win hands down as Queensland's environmental vandal of the decade. The senseless bulldozing of one of the area's top natural attractions, Cedar Creek Falls, is but one of that council's disgraceful actions of recent months. The other action that springs to mind is the Shingley Beach project at Airlie Beach, which the council approved, in spite of receiving more than 500 objections to it.

The council also continues to refuse to support, even morally, community organisations trying to improve living standards. Regardless of that attitude, the community continues desperately to fight on. I would like to mention Australia Day citizen of the year, Pam McLean, who has been instrumental in revealing the desperate need for welfare services in Whitsunday. Yet, a Whitsunday Shire councillor was instrumental in having Ms McLean sacked from her position as Neighbourhood Centre coordinator because she was "spending her time counselling clients instead of carrying out her duties—washing up and keeping the place clean". It could only happen to women in Whitsunday!

That brings me to the \$800m Aqua del Rey tourist proposal at Repulse Bay, about 70 kilometres north of Mackay. Although the project is in Pioneer Shire, the Whitsunday Shire has seen fit to support and promote the proposal because it promises an upgrading of the Proserpine Airport—once again ignoring the wishes of the people and presenting Queensland's tourist industry with its first real threat of vertical integration by that Japanese company. I believe that no other local issue during the State election campaign influenced voters more than the Aqua del Rey controversy and my pledge to fight for an independent environmental impact statement on the off shore development area.

The 318 hectare special development lease was signed just two days before the election. The lease will allow developers to reclaim more than 200 hectares of seabed, some of which is listed in the World Heritage area. The lease was signed in spite of strong community and fishing industry opposition based on the fact that the public environmental report prepared by Sinclair, Knight and Partners was felt to be inadequate. The report, in my view, can only be described as a whitewash used to secure the necessary State and Federal Government approvals. It exposes many of the problems inherent in the present assessment system, such as the confidential terms of reference, the lack of impartiality by the company undertaking the studies and the insufficient provision for public participation.

Aqua del Rey also highlights the other very important environmental issue in Whitsunday—the need for a comprehensive coastal management plan as outlined in the Green Challenge log of claims and agreed to by the Labor Party. Although I look forward to an announcement that the Goss Government will move on that issue in the future, I am aware that the neglect and abuse of the environment during the last 32 years will not be repaired overnight and that it would be irresponsible to act hastily just to appease some sections of the community looking for immediate solutions.

The Fraser Island inquiry, the adoption of the Australian Environment Council's strategy for ozone protection and the most welcome heritage legislation indicate this Government's commitment to fundamental reform on environmental issues set to a sensible agenda.

The neglect of the Whitsunday electorate in the areas of social welfare, housing, education, roads, aged care and transport was so complete that it is difficult to know where to begin to describe the living conditions of many of my constituents. Recently, I heard a local refer to us in Whitsunday as "we of the never never", which is a fairly apt description, especially when one considers that the previous member, Geoff Muntz, was for most of his political life a Minister holding various portfolios.

The Housing Commission in Proserpine is virtually non-existent, and hospitals at Proserpine and Mackay are under-equipped and understaffed. Of the 35 000 people living in the region, many are itinerant families lured to the tropics with the promise of endless sunshine and unlimited employment opportunities. The unfortunate reality is that, for unskilled employees, work competition is tough, the cost of living is high and community support such as community centres and child-care services are scarce. Many of those families are forced into the cheapest, and only, accommodation offered—at caravan parks.

My approach to issues of social welfare will be from the perspective of a woman who was married at 15, a mother at 19 and a sole parent at 26. Unlike the snooty, uninformed members from the other side of the House, financial need, lack of opportunities for training and social discrimination are not terms that I learnt from a book. On what experience can those middle-class, holier-than-thou individuals base their knowledge on what is and what is not a woman's issue? Remember, it was the previous Government that made miserable the lives of many of my electorate's single parents, underprivileged people and ethnic Aboriginal and Islander people.

However, the resilience of the people in Whitsunday and their preparedness to work together will be our greatest weapons in tackling those problems. It is the self-help attitude which needs to be encouraged. An example of that is the unofficial Airlie Beach library, which became a reality when a group of women, concerned at the lack of library facilities at Airlie Beach, decided to do something about it. Their approaches to the National Party controlled Whitsunday Shire Council over a period of five years had fallen on deaf ears, so they appealed to the public. Airlie Beach Rotaryans came up with the first major donation of \$2,000 for the cause, allowing for an initial purchase of approximately 1 500 books.

Education has also been badly neglected, and I welcome the decision by the Goss Government to apply one of its first additional funding allocations to the provision of 990 extra teachers in 1990. I will be urging the Government to recognise the need for

improved tertiary study facilities, to allow the young people of the Whitsunday district the opportunity to receive higher education without the necessity to move away from home. Preliminary negotiations and planning are already under way for the construction of the Mackay campus of the University of Central Queensland. It is hoped that the premises will be ready for the 1991 academic year. At present, students are able to complete only the first year of their course in Mackay, being forced then either to move to Rockhampton, as my own daughter did, or to take up external studies to finish their course.

By providing better educational facilities in regional areas, we are strengthening communities rather than seeing them fragmented as the young people leave to improve their future employment prospects. For the young people themselves, it means that they can maintain part-time jobs and stay with their families, which provides them with more financial security. They can also maintain their interests in sport, drama, music and church groups, which benefits the community.

We have many talented people in this State, and Whitsunday has certainly produced its share of them. Artists Peter Petrovic and Clem Forbes are just two of a dozen great international talents from the area. I mention also dancers such as Grant McLean and Danielle Denny, and the extremely popular—for Mr Casey at least—Graeme Connors. Perhaps it is because of our relative isolation that the arts have always received tremendous public support. We boast the only Conservatorium of Music campus outside Brisbane, offering full-time tertiary level courses. My love of live theatre and the survival of our one and only means of exposure to professional drama necessitates a plea on behalf of the people of my electorate for continued Government financial assistance to the New Moon Theatre Company.

Endeavours in culture and the performing and other arts demonstrate the high level of commitment in the Mackay/Whitsunday area to community-initiated projects. I must mention here the North Queensland Games, sponsored by Suncorp, which we will host this Easter. Pat Wright and Sheila Charlesworth have done a tremendous job in putting together this massive event, which will involve about 18 000 competitors from all over the north of the State. I wish them well.

An issue that affects us all and one that has received considerable attention during the current Federal election campaign is the state of our roads. According to the Bureau of Transport and Communications, road accidents cost the community a staggering \$6.2 billion a year. Each death costs almost \$500,000 and each injury an average of \$6,000. Vehicle damage costs a further \$1.8 billion. These figures provide no indication of the great suffering that the road toll inflicts on families throughout Australia every day. As a mother who lost her son in a motor bike accident, I commend the Minister for Transport, the Honourable David Hamill, for his efforts to improve road safety with his "Lights on Motorbikes" campaign and, more recently, the Bill that was introduced which will enable cameras to be located at intersections.

During the time of my predecessor, Mr Muntz, as the State representative of Whitsunday, community consultation became a figment of the imagination. Only those with the dollars to buy the ear of the few people who held the reins of power in Queensland were heard. I have already begun to organise community workshops, inviting representatives from all walks of life to discuss and plan for the economic and social development of the Whitsunday area. These forums will be a regular feature of my work in the electorate, and I encourage all my constituents to consider participating where appropriate.

I intend to continue as a councillor of the Pioneer Shire, as I believe that it gives me a valuable insight into the day-to-day running of my area. I thank the Chairman, Councillor Gordon White, and council members for their cooperation in being flexible enough to allow me to do this.

I am immensely proud of the fact that I am one of eight women in this Labor Government, which includes the first woman Minister in a Queensland Labor Government, the Honourable Anne Warner. The results of the December election were an enormous

plus for the women of Queensland, given the contempt, lack of concern and poor representation that the women of Queensland have suffered over the past 30 years. The lack of women's health facilities in this State is deplorable. It is something that this Government will be striving to redress. My own priorities will include the establishment of a cancer clinic in north Queensland, work-based child care, greater equality in job opportunities, housing for sole parents and the underprivileged, and a greater degree of community safety for women and the aged—goals that I am sure many of us share.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity to sincerely thank my many loyal supporters in the electorate of Whitsunday. We fought the December election against three high-profile conservative candidates, and we won. That victory would not have been possible without the endless encouragement and hard work of those supporters. Deserving of special mention are my very good friends Mr Ed Casey and Dr Rex Paterson, the former Labor member for the Federal seat of Dawson, whose knowledge and commitment I depended upon during the campaign. They doggedly refused to believe that there would be anything but a Labor win in Whitsunday, and I am very pleased that they were proved to be correct.

To my campaign director, Tim Mulherin, I am eternally grateful, not just for the professional and positive campaign but also for the patience of Tim and Bob Richardson in first scrutineering, then rechecking, and then re-counting 18 000 votes. Last, but, as they say, certainly not least, I thank my family—my daughters, Sandie and Trish, and my husband, John. Their unwavering loyalty, enthusiasm and encouragement has meant more to me than I can say. To all these people, I am truly grateful.

I thank all the citizens of the Whitsunday electorate for the trust and confidence that they showed in me on 2 December. I feel I can say with confidence that this Government will deliver the reforms that they so clearly voted for—the fruits of which will be enjoyed not only by the people of today but also by future generations of Queenslanders.

My way has always been to accept debate and honest criticism, which I see as both healthy and essential. A House of Parliament that was never criticised would cease to have any interest to the people; it would cease to function and would become moribund. I believe that, with the guidance and example of our Premier, this Government will show the people of Queensland that their faith in us and in our policies has not been misplaced.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Moggill. Before he speaks, I remind honourable members that this is his first speech in this House, although he has made speeches in other places.

Dr WATSON (Moggill) (11.31 a.m.): It gives me great pleasure to stand here today as the newly elected member for Moggill. On behalf of the constituents of Moggill I would like to convey to His Excellency their best wishes and confirm their loyalty to the Crown.

I should also add my congratulations and best wishes to you, Mr Speaker, and to the Chairman of Committees on your election to those offices. The Liberal Party has always held these offices of Parliament in the highest esteem and we are confident that both of you will carry out the duties of these high offices impartially.

I take it as an honour to tread in the footsteps of so many illustrious predecessors, the most recent of whom is the Honourable William Daniel Lickiss. Bill Lickiss was the distinguished member for Mount Coot-tha from 1963 to 1986 and then, after the 1986 redistribution, the member for Moggill until the election in 1989. I have known Bill, his wife, Elma, and his daughters, Robyn and Glenda, for some time. Bill and Elma are near neighbours living just two doors away from my family. Shirley and I count on them as friends. I can say from first-hand experience that Bill is in every sense a gentleman. He is well liked in the electorate. He is known as somebody one can turn to for considered advice and as somebody who always seems to know some way of helping alleviate a problem one might have. There are numerous stories in the electorate

of Bill Lickiss, even in the toughest of circumstances, being able to bring together diverse people or resources to help solve a problem. In his dealings with people he always demonstrated respect and empathy for the individual. He has set a standard that is difficult to follow.

The electorate of Moggill is named after the suburb of Moggill. It is generally thought that "Moggill" comes from an Aboriginal word "maggil" meaning "a large water lizard", although I have also seen reference to another derivation of the word Moggill from an Aboriginal word meaning "healthy place". The suburbs that make up the electorate of Moggill are steeped in history. The area was settled in the early 1840s following the closure of the Moreton Bay penal settlement and the land in the vicinity being thrown open for free settlement. Large areas were used as sheep and cattle runs, but as the colony expanded surveyors moved in and broke the land into small portions which became freehold. Following the declaration of the new State of Queensland in 1859 there was a large influx of migrants from Great Britain and elsewhere. Many settled on the small farms on the river and creek flats around Fig Tree Pocket and Seventeen Mile Rocks. Brookfield and further west was opened up mainly by timber-getting, there being at that stage fine strands of pine, cedar and hardwood. In fact, even today in the area around Mount Crosby and Lake Manchester we have a working timber mill known as the Moggill sawmill.

The settlers on the river banks engaged in mixed farming, the crops being mainly sugarcane, maize, potatoes and, during the American Civil War, cotton. The sugarcane was processed by a unique floating mill built by Captain Hope, a former member of the Legislative Council. The mill moved along the river, stopping at each farmer's wharf and crushing his crop of sugarcane. Heavy frosts on the Brisbane River during the early 1870s proved disastrous for the sugar-growing industry. The history of the region is extremely fascinating and much of the history has been recorded in a number of books and articles written by Libby Wager.

The area which is now occupied by the electorate of Moggill was established by people who knew that honesty, the survival of family life and respect for private property were crucial for the development of mankind and prosperity. They understood these virtues long before there was any explanation of how critical these virtues were to the generation of wealth. Those people had a vision for improving the lot of themselves and of their family.

In 1893, the *Queenslander* reported the following—

"The people of Brookfield are conservative, they take a deep interest in political matters but have not yet come to realise that in Australia an industrious man needs help from the Government to make his way to independence."

Many of the residents of the Brookfield and Moggill area would take exception to that characterisation. At the root of this characterisation is the idea that somehow economic independence is granted by Government and that success comes not from individual effort but from Government help. Hayek Hartwell and others have termed this attitude "the anti-capitalist mentality". The anti-capitalist mentality is an attitude of mind that sees very little good in capitalism and even less in the capitalist. The most consistent criticisms levelled at capitalism are directed against three prominent features of capitalism, namely, competitive enterprise, profit-seeking and individual responsibility. The critics seem to take for granted the wondrous multiplication of output which has transformed material welfare in Western civilisations. At this point it might be worth noting that this transformation has occurred despite the dramatic explosion in population which, two centuries ago, the Reverend Thomas Malthus thought to be the obstacle which doomed mankind to ever-increasing poverty. The modern-day Malthusians are to be found in the Club of Rome.

Before continuing, it would perhaps be useful to give a definition of capitalism and socialism. By "capitalism" I mean that socioeconomic system characterised by the market and private property, which are both protected by the rule of law. A capitalistic system is characterised by decentralisation and impersonal decision-making. Consumers and

producers react to the price signals of the market which coordinates and mobilises market information beneficially for society. Decision-making tends to be depoliticalised and the individual has the maximum degree of economic freedom. On the other hand, socialism is a socioeconomic system that is characterised by comprehensive regulatory intervention, central planning and the State ownership of property.

History tells us that there have been two great reforming forces. One is political freedom, which gave rise to representative government and democracy. Much of this was discussed by the member for Yeronga in his maiden speech. I have no intention of going into the same kind of detail in this area. However, the second great reforming force in modern history is economic liberalism, which has made possible industrialisation and modern economic growth. The second one, which Mr Foley dismissed by a reference to the "sterile nineteenth century quarrel between socialism and free enterprise and capitalism" being a "tired dichotomy", is the reforming force I wish to examine in some detail. I do so, because this "sterile quarrel" appears in current debates in more subtle forms, and it is timely to remind members of the basic reasons for the economic superiority of Western civilisation.

In discussing the issue of economic liberalism, I believe a starting point is to examine the three arguments that are usually put forward in various forms against capitalism. The first is that the market economy is less efficient than a planned economy. The second is that capitalism produces an unequal income distribution and leads to poverty. The third is that capitalism produces inequality and thus an unequal and unjust society. I intend to deal with each of these in sequence.

In the early part of the twentieth century—in fact, before 1917—capitalism was an economic system, the consequences of which could be seen in society. On the other hand, socialism tended to be an ideal with no empirical evidence on its functioning. Today, after some 70-odd years of socialistic systems lying side by side with capitalistic systems, there is no question that the capitalistic system is superior in terms of the wealth that is generated.

The superiority of the market economy rests on the fact that man's finite knowledge falls far short of the infinite complexity of physical creation. The extent of our limited knowledge and the uncertainty surrounding any action are compounded by the endless changes in production techniques, in the resources that are available to human beings and in the inventions and discoveries which human beings make, and the constant changes in consumer tastes and preferences. It is the constant change in these very important factors which influences the wealth of any country.

Accordingly, if society is to make the fullest use of its scarce and changing human and material resources, we have to draw on as much of the detail as is possible. The market system allows society as a whole to draw on much of this fragmentary, even contradictory, detail. This dispersed information set cannot possibly be available to any single group of central planners. The market, through the price mechanism, shapes this extensive information set and brings about an order. It is this process that Adam Smith termed "the invisible hand" and it is this resulting order which Hayek described as "the result of human action but not of human design". The capitalism/socialism paradox is that from diversity the market produces order while central planning, as Gorbachev acknowledges, leads ultimately to chaos.

As the member for Yeronga acknowledged, and the leadership in the Soviet Union and other countries of Eastern Europe now recognise, there is no real comparison between Western economic liberalism and a planned economy in terms of economic performance. I shall now address the other myths associated with the anti-capitalist mentality.

A second criticism of the capitalistic system involves the idea that inequality seems endemic to a capitalistic society. This criticism simply ignores the great lessons of history and the evidence that is provided by any appropriate historical analysis. In fact, the evidence with which history provides us is that mankind has been plagued by a combination of poverty, hunger, dirt, disease, ignorance and a short life which went hand in hand with servility, coercion and immobility. Most people came into their life

in a particular social or economic position and ended their life with very little having changed. In between, they fought in wars, tilled the soil, harvested and procreated at much the same low standard of living.

If history is about poverty and servility, it is also, in modern times, about wealth and freedom. Modern European history can be thought of as one of increasing political freedom, but it can also be characterised as one of decreasing human poverty. I find it intriguing that many social scientists and political journalists wish to concentrate on the former but ignore the latter.

The change in human circumstances came about dramatically with the rise of industrial capitalism and the rapid economic growth that this economic system achieved. Despite the doomsday prophecies of Malthus and his compatriots, economic liberalism has been able to produce increasing living standards as a result of increasing production and productivity. Mass production and mass consumption are the major forces which have liberated the masses. This is not to suggest that economic liberalism has produced a utopian society. But on the issue of poverty, there is absolutely no argument with empirical evidence that the last couple of hundred years have been a period of increasing wealth in Western societies. The issue of poverty seems, however, to persist. Consequently, I believe it is useful to spend a minute or two examining this concept.

Since the sixteenth century, the integral test for poverty has been in terms of those people who sought and received public or private relief. These people, either by self-choice or administrative agreement, were defined to be in a state of poverty. Once the relief of poverty became statutory, somebody was responsible for deciding who was or was not poor. For much of the two centuries following, poverty was looked at within a context of the Malthusian fears of overpopulation.

It was not until the late nineteenth century that the definition of poverty was put onto a scientific plane. It was Rowntree who in the late nineteenth century refined the concept of poverty by using physical deficiency as a criterion of poverty. Primary poverty was defined by Rowntree as a condition of those whose earnings were insufficient to obtain the minimum necessities for the maintenance of merely physical efficiency. Rowntree made precise calculations of the income necessary for physical efficiency by using nutritional standards to determine food needs and then added the cost of rent and household items, including clothing and fuel. By quantitative methods, Rowntree thus arrived at what is now referred to as a poverty line. While this approach was an attempt to arrive at a poverty line in an absolute sense, as these calculations were made over time they tended to rise in real terms. Today we no longer seem to view poverty in terms of income below some fixed subsistence level. Today, poverty tends to be defined in terms of incomes sufficiently below the general level of income so as to cause hardship in terms of an expected conventional standard of living. In this sense, poverty becomes a condition which is relative to that of the rest of society.

It should be noted that the idea of relative poverty came with the increasing wealth associated with the rise in industrial capitalism. The question has now become: what level of income is a minimum which is tolerable in our liberal society. While many of the critics would have us believe that poverty is a result of a capitalistic society, I would argue quite strenuously that the idea of relative poverty has been allowed to arise only because of the economic success of industrial capitalism. What level of income is the minimum acceptable in a liberal society is a question which is now far more complex and unveils far more issues than the single question of what is the absolute minimum for subsistence. It is this which has given rise to the arguments concerning the role of the State and has given rise to the negative terminology of the "welfare state".

The idea of a welfare State or of distributive justice has origins in the ideas of liberty and equality and the modern concepts of freedom from coercion and equal treatment under the law. The idea of redistributing wealth has unconsciously become an accepted part of the program of liberalism, both for the alleviation of poverty and for the creation of a just society. To the liberal, however, and I use the small "l" Liberal, there is a moral dilemma in the question of redistributive justice. The State has only

one source of income—its citizen's wealth—and the acceptance of the redistribution of wealth by the State assumes that it is ethically preferable to expropriate the fruits of each individual's talents and energies rather than to allow them to enjoy and deploy those fruits as they see fit. While this has been done in the name of constructing a fairer and a more equal society, it is not clear why a society characterised by widespread coercion and expropriation is fairer, more just, or in any other way more attractive than one characterised by the absence of those phenomena. However, as well as the ethical questions, there are some practical questions that arise concerning the State's intrusion into the provision of welfare services.

Economic analysis can point to dozens of examples of well-intentioned Government policies which have perversely led to deplorable results. The reason is that politicians take a narrow and short-term view that overlooks the full effects on human action of distorting price or income incentives. The classic example has long been rent control, which protects sitting tenants only by excluding others sometimes more deserving and unintentionally destroys the incentive for landlords to keep property in good repair or to build additional houses to rent.

In the area of social benefits—there is mounting evidence, at least in the United States, that social benefits have the perverse effect of undermining self-help by prolonging, deepening and extending dependency and voluntary unemployment. For able-bodied claimants, including heads of single-parent families, the social benefits intended to keep them out of poverty at the same time exert an unintended disincentive to strive harder for training, mobility and employment as more fulfilling routes to self-support, self-respect and self-fulfilment. Governments may very well argue that they do it only for the best of intentions but, because their expediciencies depend on suppressing market forces, they often finish up distorting production, discouraging enterprise, destroying wealth and retarding economic welfare. As Harris has said, "benign intentions are not proof against malignant results".

The third argument used by the anti-capitalist is that capitalism produces inequality. Again we can now resort to a comparison of a capitalistic system with a planned economy. There is simply no historical evidence to suggest that a socialist system produces greater equality, except perhaps in the manner attributed by Churchill, namely that "the inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of blessings. The inherent virtue of socialism is the equal sharing of miseries."

What does equality mean? We are born with differences or, if you like, inequalities. We have different height, girth, looks and speed. Are we to argue that someone who is tall, slim, handsome and speedy should be discriminated against because of those particular qualities or endowments. Each of those attributes may in some circumstances provide "an unfair" advantage to the individual who possesses them. Yet the argument on inequality implies there is some unnatural departure from the norm of equality. In fact, empirical observation would tend to suggest that the inequality—or differences—is more the norm of our society.

These inborn inequalities or differences are further multiplied by the variations in education, training and experience that we obtain as we go through life. The really essential question for serious social philosophers in a free society is: how can countless millions of people with such diverse talents and such obvious differences be brought together in voluntary cooperation to supply their own and others' requirements? In short, how can such unequal natural endowments be harnessed for the public good.

The anti-capitalist mentality tends to concentrate on two inequalities, namely income and wealth. Differences in income and wealth in a liberal society do not reflect intrinsic human valuations. High wages, interest or profit arising from a competitive market serve two purposes. The first is an incentive to increase labour, saving or investment. The second is to direct effort in a direction valued by the consumer.

Incentives of price and profit act as impersonal guides to consumers, workers, investors and entrepreneurs in a daily process of economising scarce resources. Rather than concentrating on an outcome which demonstrates some differences in income and

wealth, a truly compassionate society would rely less on the concept of envy and attempt to remedy this by some form of income redistribution and rely more on tackling personal handicaps and deficiencies, including education, training and motivation, which seem to inhibit self-support. The lessons of history show us that advancing frontiers of modern technology powered by dispersed initiative, competitive innovation, risk-taking and high enterprise generates more wealth for society as a whole, and a likely increase in the wealth of each member of that society, rather than the alternative policy, which concentrates on the redistributive effect.

I will turn to a second, but related, theme for this speech. I wish now to concentrate on the economic proposal put forward by the Treasurer on Wednesday, 7 March. Given the fanfare that preceded the launching of this paper, one would have expected a paper that demonstrated the Treasurer's vision for the development of Queensland. Certainly in the address given by His Excellency there was an indication that something great was to come. What the House received from the Treasurer was a paper which was factually incorrect, devoid of economic substance and totally uninspiring. The complete absence of quality in the Treasurer's first major statement to Parliament must have come as a rude shock to the new Government backbench members. However, I suspect it was welcomed by backbenchers such as the member for Brisbane Central in the knowledge that, if De Lacy represents the cream of Cabinet talent, their elevation cannot be that far off.

There are four major criticisms that could be made of the Treasurer's statement. The first concerns his now accepted inability to read the Budget papers put out by Treasury. I have no intention of detailing that error yet again. However, I do find it ironic that the Treasurer has tried to maintain that sophisticated interstate and overseas investors always knew the real position but that somehow Queenslanders, presumably because in the Treasurer's eyes they are not sophisticated investors, did not know the real situation. In market efficiency terms, attempting to maintain this distinction is absolutely ludicrous. It is blatantly obvious that the only unsophisticated person in Queensland was the Treasurer himself. The fact that his colleagues in the Ministry and the Premier failed to pick up the basic error only adds to the lack of credibility of this particular Ministry.

The other criticisms have not as yet been canvassed in this Parliament, so I intend to spend some time on them. The critique falls into three additional categories. The first is that the Treasurer provided no context within which to view his economic proposals. Second, he did not provide details on the assumptions underlying his statement or, in fact, details on the policies he enumerated. Third, the Treasurer failed to address the major microeconomic reform issues that face this State Government and face Australia if we are to revitalise our economy.

The Treasurer's statement gave no general economic analysis of where he thought the Queensland economy was going to be in the future and how the Queensland economy fits into a changing Australian and world economy. Sure, the Treasurer tabled a document which summarised the historical economic position of Queensland. However, the Treasurer's statement was to be about the future. Consequently the analysis of the world and Australian economies should have included future expectations. For example, the expected movement in items such as commodity prices and what impact these movements might have on a developing Queensland economy should have been canvassed. Since Queensland and Australia are to a large extent dependent on trade with other countries, the expected state of the world economy over the next two to three years is absolutely essential to any rational evaluation of the Treasurer's proposals.

The Treasurer may have informed the House of how he saw Australian prices and wages moving relative to those overseas. We could have expected to be informed of how the Treasurer saw the changes which are presently occurring in Eastern Europe and the changes occurring in Western Europe as 1992 approaches would affect the Queensland economy. Close to home we would have expected the Treasurer to tell us how he saw the Australian economy today. Is it expanding, contracting, or static? He might have

told us whether he expects the Australian economy to remain as it is for the next six months, the next 12 months, the next 24 months or the next three years. If not, how does he expect it to change over the period and what impact would this have on his proposed plans for the State of Queensland?

To repeat—what we should have seen laid out for us in the Treasurer's statement is the expected economic context. Without such an analysis we cannot judge the realism of any proposed changes. We do not know, for example, whether or not changes in interest rates or changes in inflation will affect any of the Goss Government's economic plans. We do not know whether the change in the Australian dollar or changes in the risk expectations of outsiders will have an impact upon those plans. We cannot judge whether or not the Treasurer and the Goss Government is realistic in its appraisal of external conditions and, thus, whether realistically it can carry out any of its proposed plans. The electors of Queensland have a right to know how the Government expects the future to unfold, because it is only against those expectations that the people can judge the realism of any proposed plan.

The second major area of concern is the absence of detail in the basic assumptions that underlie the Government's economic plan. Compounding this deficiency, some 15 new initiatives were not costed, nor were any details provided such that one could even guess at what the cost might be. This Government claims to be elected on a platform of honesty and openness in government. Honesty involves presenting the detail associated with the initiatives that the Government proposes without having to be hounded to do so. For example, given the current Federal election campaign and the importance of economics in it, the House could have expected a discussion on the major factors that could affect expectations. For example, how does the Treasurer see inflation in Queensland and in Australia? Does he agree with his Federal counterpart that the rate of inflation in this forthcoming year will be at 6 per cent per annum, or does he believe it will be different from this? Certainly, most economic commentators believe a 6 per cent inflation rate is optimistic, to say the least. When the Treasurer is laying out a blueprint for the development of Queensland, we have a right to know how he sees fundamental issues such as the rate of inflation and how he sees that as influencing the policies that he will adopt—and, of course, that will affect the data upon which any policy decision is based. Honesty begins by elaborating on these basic assumptions.

Let me go further. We do not know, for example, any details associated with expected stamp duty receipts, although assertions are made that these are running well ahead of budget. We do not know what level of economic activity is expected. We are not told how the Treasurer sees employment or unemployment, but the latter has jumped recently. All of these issues are central to estimating revenue and expenses, and central to being able to evaluate how realistic the proposals put forward by this Government are.

The third major issue that I would like to address is a question of the Treasurer's failure to address the key microeconomic reform issues facing this State, which is a particularly critical issue given yesterday's national account figures. As the Treasury document tabled by the Treasurer indicates, Queensland has a greater orientation towards agriculture and mining exports than the rest of Australia and consequently has been more exposed and vulnerable to variability in international commodity prices. In addition, the documents point out that Queensland has a lesser orientation towards the manufacturing sector than Australia as a whole, especially States such as New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Further, there is an indication that the State needs to broaden this economic base, particularly towards higher value-added mineral-processing and more diversified manufacturing. In his statement the Treasurer seems to imply that this Government will encourage diversification in some undefined manner. There is a widespread belief that Australia's economic performance has been severely and adversely affected by the reliance on a few commodities. A similar judgment is made of Queensland's economic performance, which, as the tabled Treasury document notes, is often compared unfavourably with other States on the question of diversity of industry sectors. The

implication is that our economy would be significantly better off if we moved away from mining, farming and tourism to manufacturing.

Historically, Australia has been able to achieve a relatively high degree of wealth based on exports of the agricultural and mining industries. Australia has prospered when commodity prices boom. The economy falters when commodity prices decline. While such volatility undoubtedly affects our wealth, it is not correct to conclude that we would necessarily be better off with a manufacturing-oriented export economy. For example, the Netherlands has a highly diversified economy, but it shows a high degree of instability in export incomes. Finland—a country whose exports are concentrated in manufacturing and machinery—also has a high degree of export income instability. Italy, whose exports are similarly concentrated, has a much lower degree of instability in export incomes. More recently, Australia's commodity mix has been protecting our export prices. The commodities that Australia produces have not been falling as sharply as a commodity basket weighted by world trade. Thus, the empirical evidence is not overwhelmingly supportive of the argument that we need a more manufacturing-oriented economy.

The economic theory of trade is based on the notion of exploiting a natural competitive advantage. In other words, a country or State is better off if it uses its natural endowments of resources and skills in the most efficient manner, and thus produces goods and services at a very low cost. It then trades these items for goods and services it produces relatively less efficiently. It does not really matter if a country is producing motor cars, computers, lumps of copper, or hotel meals. What does matter is that they are produced efficiently at a lower relative cost than they are in any other country or State. It does not really matter where Queensland ends up specialising. It does not really matter what Queensland produces in the final analysis. What does matter is that what we do produce is produced at the lowest cost possible, certainly lower than any major competitor, and at a quality that the market demands. Rather than making pious statements about encouraging investments in unspecified areas, the Treasurer should have detailed how the State was going to implement microeconomic reform in critical cost areas.

In his address to the Syntec Outlook Conference in February of this year, Mr A. S. Cole, Chairman of the Industries Assistance Commission, gave an insight as to where the Treasurer should have been looking. Mr Cole suggested that reform in specific industry sectors could mean a stimulus of some \$16 billion a year to the Australian economy. Gross Domestic Product could be clearly raised by 5 per cent every year over what it would otherwise be. The \$16-billion figure is partly made up by the removal of major inefficiencies in the transport sector, namely in domestic water transport, international liner shipping, the transport and handling of bulk commodities, domestic and international aviation and road and rail transport. These reforms would contribute around \$9 billion annually to the increase in GDP. These are large amounts. What is important about this list is that a lot of them are in the area controlled by the State Government. For example, much of the railway system in Australia is owned and operated by various State Governments, including Queensland. Electricity is basically run by the State Government. These two areas provide major opportunities for microeconomic reform and one would have expected issues such as these to be addressed by the Treasurer in his statement.

Further evidence for reform is noted in the royal commission set up by the Commonwealth, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, Western Australia and South Australia Governments into grain storage, handling and transport. The commission states—

"To the extent that market prices paid for off farm services do not reflect the true market realities (costs and competitive pressures) the production, marketing and investment decisions of growers, BHAs, transport, and port authorities and marketing agencies will be distorted and economic efficiency will be reduced".

Further, it goes on to say with regard to rail transport and pricing practices—

"This approach reflects the fact that apart from delivery by growers to the local silo the transport of grains is largely undertaken by rail despite the fact that road

may be an efficient alternative in these situations. Rail competition for grain freight is restricted generally through the use of protective legislation or government policy."

The point at issue is that there is great scope for microeconomic reform in these areas and it is something that we might have expected to see in the Treasurer's address. Let us go even further. With the sacking of the chief of the Brisbane Port Authority, the ports which are directly under the control of the State Government have recently been in the news. There is great scope for improvement in economic efficiency in this system. For example, overmanning is rife on the waterfront. Stevedoring gang crews can be three to four times the size of stevedoring gangs used on wharves of our trading partners. For example, it costs one Queensland scrap-metal exporter \$14 a tonne to load his metal onto vessels. To load the same cargo in the United Kingdom costs approximately \$1.70 a tonne and \$2.50 a tonne in the United States. It is cheaper in those countries because only four wharfies are required to do the same job there, whereas 14 are required here. Other practices on the waterfront are legendary. This is an area in which the Government could have a major impact on the economic inefficiency of the State and of the country. Queenslanders have a right to know why these privileged areas were not addressed by the Treasurer.

Finally, let me refer to a recent survey by Arthur Anderson and Company on small business. One of the questions that the firm asked was what were the three most significant main barriers to a first starting up or expanding export sales. The answer that many firms gave was the lack of cost-competitiveness of Australian firms. Much of the fault or blame for the lack of cost competitiveness of Australian firms lies at the feet of State Governments. If the Treasurer was really interested in expanding Queensland's manufacturing base or expanding its export base, he should have addressed the factors affecting the cost-competitiveness of Queensland firms which are under the control of the State Government. If the Treasurer had done this, he could truly have laid the foundation for an economic blueprint of Queensland. Instead, we received a statement, as I said previously, devoid of economic substance, factually false and sloppily presented. Queenslanders deserve better than that.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I wish to thank honourable members for their attention.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr J. N. Goss): Order! I now call the member for Broadsound. In doing so, I remind honourable members that it is the honourable member's maiden speech and that the usual courtesies should apply.

Mr PEARCE (Broadsound) (12.11 p.m.): I ask you, Mr Deputy Speaker, to pass on to the Speaker my personal congratulations on his appointment. I know that, if the performance of the Opposition continues in the way it has over these first few weeks, he has a difficult task ahead of him. It seems that the lack of leadership and discipline that was so evident before the 2 December election is still with our friends on the other side of the House. I hope that, in the name of good government, they move quickly to clean up their act.

Mr Speaker, five years ago I moved from Campbelltown, New South Wales, where I was an underground coal-miner in the Burrugarong valley, to Dysart, which is to the west of the Broadsound electorate. With five other underground miners, my family and I moved to Dysart to work at the Utah underground mine at Harrow Creek, east of Peak Downs, which held the promise of 20 years' work. After about 18 months of bitter struggle by the work force that lost 70-odd jobs in the industry, the mine eventually closed despite its being very profitable, safe and on a large lease. A nine-day, stay-down strike, in which I played a prominent role, was a protest against the attitude of the coal company BHP in closing a profitable and workable underground mine while retaining massive open-cut leases. Our protest was not one for higher wages or better bonus schemes; it was a protest over principles. We believed that multinationals operating in this State should be prepared to take the deeper coal reserves instead of just ripping the guts out of the easily accessible reserves and leaving the deep coal for some other company.

After just 18 months of living in Dysart, I was asked to run as an endorsed Labor candidate for Division 5, town of Dysart, Broadsound Shire Council, at the local authority election in March 1988. My running partner was Richard Witkiewicz, and we received tremendous support from the local people. We were elected to represent Dysart in the Broadsound Shire. Shortly after, pressure groups within the community saw me take up the challenge of campaigning for the seat of Broadsound for the Labor Party in Queensland.

In this House today, I stand as the member for Broadsound and I am very proud to have been given the great honour of representing 16 000 electors and their families, and downright proud to be an Australian. Being a Vietnam veteran and involved in the RSL movement, I assure all ex-servicemen and women, especially fellow Vietnam veterans, that I will always stand up for their rights and their dues.

I would like to express my appreciation to those who did their share in supporting me during the campaign. First, I must thank my very good wife, Diane, for standing by me during a very long and arduous campaign. There was one period during the campaign during which I saw my family for only five or six days out of 50. My three sons, Jamie, Michael and Shane, all helped in some way and they stuck by me during some very difficult times. To my very good friend, May Forest of Yeppoon, who took me in as a complete stranger and mothered me through 12 months, providing me with plenty of moral support, and to the small businesses, hotels and clubs which gave great assistance during the year, I say, "Thank you." To my three campaign committees at Yeppoon, Middlemount and Dysart, again I say, "Thank you."

There were many who gave me assistance in some way during the year, and especially on polling day when they all gave up their time to man polling booths, including people from Rockhampton who chipped in to help. On the Capricorn Coast, campaign manager David Timbs and his wife, Christine, played an important role in setting up the Labor win. Ross and Ann Dickson got behind the team and designed and supplied, at their own cost, the Goss T-shirt which branch members wore as a team at the polling booth gates. Reno Gastaleon and Peter Winterbottom did a marvellous job in Middlemount. They responded at very short notice to do letterbox drops and organised functions. My long-time friends Bob and Jan Bryce always found a bed for me when it was needed. In Dysart, Richard Witkiewicz, his wife, Marlene, and their daughter played a dominant role in the town. They were supported by a very good branch comprising members who are all personal friends and who mean a lot to me. I offer a special vote of thanks to Anne Lambley who gave up many days to work in the campaign office to do the boring but so very necessary jobs.

To the people of Broadsound who supported me at the ballot-box, I say, "Thank you." To those who voted some other way, I seek your support in working together to make the Broadsound electorate a better place in which to live. I would like to personally congratulate Wayne Swan, campaign director for the Queensland Labor Party, who, together with the team at headquarters, worked practically non-stop to ensure a Labor win. The assistance I received from headquarters went a long way in helping me to get where I stand today.

I turn now to the electorate of Broadsound. I am proud that this electorate plays such an important and leading role in the economy of Queensland. I am proud to represent no less than five coal mines, grain-growing areas, extensive beef-producing areas, a pineapple industry, a fishing industry, the very popular tourist attraction of the Capricorn Coast, and many smaller industries, including the fruit and vegetable industry, with the enormous potential for at least two major magnesite mines to the north of Rockhampton.

It is a great pleasure to me to be joining the honourable member for Bowen, Mr Ken Smyth, in making a second voice for the coal-mining industry, not only in this House but also in Government. Having worked in the coal industry for more than 11 years, I must tell the House about this vital industry. The two mining towns of Dysart and Middlemount are the most recent of coal-mining towns, except for the township of

Tieri, which is just to the west of the Broadsound electorate. Both Dysart and Middlemount fall within the boundaries of the Broadsound Shire Council. This council's work force in Dysart and Middlemount contribute greatly to the upkeep of the towns. They are responsible for keeping them looking in great condition, especially the sporting grounds. The Dysart Rugby League, Australian Rules and soccer fields are recognised as some of the best playing fields in the Central Highlands.

The coal companies, Utah at Dysart and Capricornia Coal Associates at Middlemount, deserve credit for the towns that they have constructed to house their work forces. But we should never forget that it was the long, hard struggle of unionism that made sure those conditions now enjoyed by the work force were put in place by the companies. They were never going to be conditions that coal companies would just hand over. But the coal companies have responded and have provided well. I should congratulate them on that.

The Queensland coal industry experienced strong demand conditions throughout the 1988-89 financial year. A combination of international growth, improving cost structures and depreciating currency in the later half of 1988-89 strengthened industry margins for most coal operations during this period. The market for coking and steaming coal strengthened as demand for electricity and steel intensified around the world, especially in the Asian region. Production of saleable black coal in Queensland increased by 12 per cent to a record 74.1 million tonnes in 1988-89, despite production losses due to bad weather. The production gain reflected, in part, a 6.4 per cent increase in labour productivity during the year, brought about by the gradual implementation of the coal industry tribunal decision regarding work practices.

Other factors contributing to increased production were a decline in manshifts lost due to industrial disputes from 5.4 per cent in

1987-88 to 3.8 per cent in 1988-89 and a general increase in capacity utilisation by many Queensland coal mines in response to growing world demand.

The development of the Bowen coal deposits is making a substantial contribution to the economy of central Queensland as well as to the entire State and Australia. The flow-on from wages, and other expenditures with establishing and operating mines, have had much to do with the prosperity of mining and adjacent coastal regions. Of the development expenditure for coal companies, about half has been for infrastructure, including towns, railways, powerlines and port facilities.

I would like to take up the point of infrastructure in the coal industry. The National Party was adept in ensuring that it not only overviewed the infrastructure arrangements of the coal industry whilst in Government but, in fact, owned and administered a considerable proportion of it.

The National Party ensured that rail and port facilities were more than adequate for the expanding industry and made sure that large foreign-owned companies secured leases for development. But, of course, the needs and aspirations of the employees were given little credence by the National Party. That short-sightedness has resulted in long-term difficulties. We have a spread of small towns with the inability to achieve the economies of scale required for large hospitals, schools and services that would have been available if several mines had been coordinated into one large service town.

The issue of people was left to the mining companies without any coordination from successive coalition and National Party State Governments. We now have the legacy of this pathetic attitude in trying to improve productivity and safety in central Queensland mines through the increase of shifts to mine workers. The difficulty of providing educational services, let alone medical, social and administrative assistance to large coal-mining communities spread over a wide area in a small town, is quite immense, even with the assistance of modern communication technology.

Advances in the industry by way of productivity and safety will require investment in the employees. That is the single most attractive advancement available to the industry

at present. Increase in productivity and safety, through the increasing of skills of employees, is the most effective way of developing an already technically advanced industry.

I pay tribute to the coal industry work force. Those workers are the most efficient coal-producers in the world. Mine workers, of course, are close to my heart. I spent nine years working in underground mines and two years in the open-cut mine at Saraji. Underground and open-cut mine workers are united and determined to have a safe workplace, proper working conditions and an industry that not only gives them work and a roof over their heads but also contributes significantly to the wealth of this State and Australia.

During my campaign for the seat of Broadsound, my opposition accused me of being a left-wing radical from the coal industry—a strike-leader—and published a photograph of me addressing a meeting of mine workers. In the photograph I was covered in coal dust and unshaven, a fine example of a man prepared to roll up his sleeves and have a go. I want to make it quite clear to the House, and in particular to those now sitting on the other side of the Chamber, that I am proud to be a unionist. I am proud that I have the guts to stand up for what I believe in.

It is clear that, unlike the previous Government, the new Government intends to develop our human resources and not be antagonistic and confrontationalist. The coal industry in Queensland is the largest income-earner in export terms and, as I have already said, the most efficient in the world, despite the antagonistic actions of the previous Government.

This Government, the Goss Government, is committed to developing our human resources as well as our natural resources. My colleague from Bowen, Mr Ken Smyth, and I, as members of this Government, will work toward cooperation and advancement in education and vocational training. We will work hand in hand with industry to develop employees at all levels in an effort to consolidate our position as the world's largest and highest quality exporter of coal.

Having lived in the coal-mining town of Dysart and having represented the community as a councillor on the Broadsound Shire Council, I am aware of the difficulties facing residents, especially women and youths, living in isolated townships. Medical services are still considered inadequate. Those services dealing with gynaecological problems, especially cancer, are seen as inadequate. Those seeking specialist treatment have to travel on second-class roads for three to four hours to get treatment in either Mackay or Rockhampton. Even that is not always possible. Many have to travel to Townsville or Brisbane to get the specialist treatment that they require. Women having their first child and those who may have difficulty giving birth have to do so away from their husbands. Women in mining towns are also constantly demanding more and better education and training opportunities, as well as expressing a desire for part-time work.

Men who control the policy-making in mining companies and relevant Government departments show little concern for, or knowledge of, women's needs for social and service infrastructure in mining towns. As the mining industry restructures and cuts costs, it should be aware that women may move to mining towns with a poor knowledge of the disadvantages under which they may have to live. They may find themselves increasingly trapped and isolated, to the detriment of their families and themselves. Women who seek employment find that opportunities are limited. Some part-time casual work is often available in motels, hotels, clubs and food shops, but otherwise the opportunities are few. For young women and men who have recently left school, the limited range of employment opportunities can have particularly serious implications. Faced with little prospect of employment in the area, young women and men must often leave their families and communities and move to large metropolitan centres.

I turn now to the education issues which prevail in my electorate. Other honourable members have indicated that electorates such as the one that I represent were well looked after by the National Party Government in terms of education. While it is true to suggest that they were better looked after than some of the "blue ribbon" Labor seats, this should not be taken to mean that all in terms of education is well and good in

Broadsound. The electorate is fortunate that it has a significant population of educationalists in that it has dedicated teachers, school principals, and, of course, parents. From my assessment, these groups have cooperated well to ensure that the best possible quality of education they can be delivered to the children of Broadsound is being delivered. However, let me address what I perceive to be the real education issues in Broadsound today.

Honourable members would know that my electorate has a mix of schools. There are those which are situated in the attractive Capricorn Coast community. Naturally, these schools are popular with teachers, and the tendency is for teachers to stay at these schools for a considerable period of time. However, at the other end of my electorate are the mining towns of Middlemount and Dysart, which are less popular on the teacher transfer list. The reason for this is not that teachers want to crowd themselves around coastal facilities; it is basically an economic consideration.

Teachers who are transferred to places like Dysart and Middlemount are inevitably worse off financially than those who teach at, say, Yeppoon. In other words, to their own financial detriment, teachers are expected to give their skills to these communities. The end result of this is that every three years there is a massive turn-over of staff at schools in places like Middlemount and Dysart. Inevitably, those who replace these teachers on transfer are normally of first or second year status. While I want to record my satisfaction with the efforts of the young teachers who work in these areas, it must also be said that the educators at places like Middlemount and Dysart are entitled to the same mix of experienced and less experienced staff that is customary in other schools in provincial centres throughout Queensland. It is therefore good news for the electorate of Broadsound that this Government is committed to introducing a system of remote area incentives for teachers at places like Middlemount and Dysart, so that no longer will teachers be expected to go to these places at their own financial detriment.

Another education issue in my electorate is that of the need for remedial and resource teachers to be stationed in centres like Middlemount and Dysart. I am informed that schools such as those found in these towns are in need of such specialists, but these are hard to attract to such centres. Again, I point out to the House that it is necessary for this Government to consider the question of incentives for such specialists to encourage them to gain appointment to schools like Middlemount and Dysart.

There are other issues which prevail in mining centres such as Dysart which I believe ought to be addressed by our education system. Honourable members would be aware that the prime source of employment of any mining town is the mine itself. This means that the job horizons for school-leavers who want to stay at these centres are limited to the mining industry. This carries with it a twofold problem. It may surprise honourable members to learn that there is significant unemployment in the 17 to 20 year-old bracket in places like Dysart, and that the percentage of females unemployed in that bracket is extraordinarily high. The other problem is that the frame of reference for students attending school in a mining town is narrow. It is restricted to the mine and other service industries associated with mining. It has been my experience that many families send their children away to boarding schools to avoid these problems, but I contend that our own State education system ought to be able to respond to this issue. We need to address this issue by ensuring that guidance officers and career advisers are available at such centres to point our students in the right career direction.

I turn now to the beautiful Capricorn Coast, which is situated in the east of the Broadsound electorate. The Capricorn Coast is the first tropical resort in Queensland. It stretches almost 50 kilometres from Keppel Sands, south of Yeppoon, to the Byfield area in the north. The Capricorn Coast enjoys a mild climate, a beautiful coastline and enchanting islands. The Great Barrier Reef marine park has over 200 000 visitors annually who cruise from Rosslyn Bay to the reef and Great Keppel Island. Rosslyn Bay, which

is the only harbour for the 500 kilometres between Mackay and Gladstone, is currently being transformed into a marina that is being developed by Keppel Gateway.

Great Keppel Island and other islands of the Keppel group are situated just 12 kilometres off the Capricorn Coast. They provide a spectacular backdrop to people driving to the coast. In fact, the first glimpse of the Capricorn Coast from the top of a hill overlooking the coastline is breathtaking and warms the heart in anticipation of other places of beauty that may lie hidden in the green surrounds.

I take this opportunity to mention just a few of the many attractions that can make holidaying on the coast relaxing and memorable. The laid-back attitude of the people, their friendliness and the climate all contribute to making the Capricorn Coast the place to go to get away from it all.

The most popular attraction is Great Keppel Island, which is probably one of the most popular tourist destinations in Australia. It is fringed by 17 kilometres of white sandy beaches and beautiful off-shore coral reefs. The Iwasaki tourist resort, which is now known as the Capricorn International Resort, is situated just a few kilometres to the north of Yeppoon.

Other attractions include the Byfield State forest, with its popular picnic areas. The Nob Creek Pottery, which is known both nationally and internationally, is located in the tropical rainforest just south of Byfield. Cooberrie Park, which is a bird and animal sanctuary, Coucom's Shell Museum, Capricorn Hearts Tropical Flower Farm and Ross' Run, an historic village that is a reminder of the life-style of yesteryear, are all attracting visitors.

We have our own Giant Whale, museums and a unique attraction, namely, the Singing Ship at Emu Park. Koorana Crocodile Farm, which is a commercial farming operation with hundreds of freshwater and saltwater crocodiles, is proving to be a very popular tourist attraction.

I know that the Tourism Minister, the Honourable Bob Gibbs, is already aware of these and the other attractions in Broadsound and look forward to taking him around the area to refresh his memory.

The success of tourism in Broadsound is determined by the self-help attitude of tourist operators, their staff and friends. This self-help attitude is evident in two projects that readily spring to mind. Recently, the Capricorn Coast Chamber of Commerce and Industry offered \$4,000 to the Livingstone Shire Council to beautify the main street in Yeppoon with decorative lighting. That area was endorsed by the Capricorn Coast tourist organisation, which voted \$1,000 of its funds to help with the project. Both of those groups are prepared to pitch in and use their own funds for the betterment of their own community.

The CCTO backed its faith in the Capricorn Coast by totally funding its own tourist information centre at Ross Creek. The organisation took out a bank loan of some \$55,000, combined that sum with voluntary help from builders, businesses and members, and created an asset of rare beauty that combined commercial sense. When it saw the finished project, the local community realised that such guts and determination needed solid encouragement. As a result, more than 100 tourism operators, businesspeople and individuals pledged \$560 each to be paid over two years to pay off the mortgage. I am pleased to say that I am one of those who pledged support.

Such is the strength of the community spirit that, last week, the mortgage had been reduced to under \$25,000. Only 15 months after the information centre was opened, that sum is all that is left to pay. This venture will be debt free probably later this year, and I have already spoken to the Tourism Minister, Mr Gibbs, about the help that we as a Government can extend to such an enterprise.

Another fine example of self-help is the annual run through the coastal region by Santa Claus on top of a white Holden station wagon. Former Yeppoon fire chief Lex Semple conceived the idea and ran it for almost 20 years without thought of reward.

Sadly, Mr Lex Semple died this month. His name will live on in the memories of thousands of coast residents who loved his annual visit.

Recreational fishing around the coast, islands, reefs and the Fitzroy River provide a variety of fish that will satisfy the fishing fraternity. The causeway lake between Yeppoon and Emu Park is an excellent fishing ground, particularly during the winter months. Coorooman Creek is a popular spot where whiting, bream, flathead, cod, grunter and salmon are caught throughout the year. The seaside resort of Keppel Sands is well known for its fishing. The biggest yielding grounds off central Queensland are at Corio Bay, which is approximately 17 kilometres north of Yeppoon.

Just as Lee Marvin made Cairns famous for his visits for marlin fishing, I am looking forward to the Local Government Minister and fisherman extraordinaire, the Honourable Tom Burns, putting the Capricorn Coast on the map with his many regular visits.

Mr Deputy Speaker, you have heard just a little of what the Capricorn Coast has to offer the tourist. However, because of its location, tourists have to travel almost 50 kilometres off the Bruce Highway to get to Yeppoon. To leave Yeppoon and return to the Bruce Highway visitors have to travel back along those same 50 kilometres. They waste several hours and make no headway up or down the coast. Most northbound visitors from southern Queensland or northern New South Wales who target Cairns as their destination aim to make the outward trip as quickly as possible and do not engage in sightseeing on the way. They do not deviate from the Bruce Highway, the objective being to reach northern destinations as quickly as possible. By the time they reach the central region on the homeward trip, they are quite often running short of money or time—or possible both—and, as a consequence, make another dash for home.

Therefore, locations such as the Capricorn Coast often miss out on the tourist dollar. The actual alignment of the Bruce Highway, with only a few glimpses of the coast between Brisbane and Cairns, is not conducive to the coast town-hopping that typifies car-traveller behaviour on the New South Wales coast. This detracts from the potential of the Capricorn Coast.

For the Capricorn Coast to reach its full potential as a tourist attraction there must be a northern link road that will allow visitors to travel into Yeppoon and drive out and rejoin the Bruce Highway further to the north. During the campaign, I spoke of pushing for that connection road which would greatly benefit the coast. I will continue to move in the direction of the future development of this road which will involve looking at the route and the costing of such a major construction.

While tourism appears to be the future, for many years the pineapple and fishing industries have provided the backbone of the Capricorn Coast's economy. Pineapple production for cannery production is expected to remain stable. However, production for the fresh fruit market is expected to grow over the next few years. Cannery pineapples are sent to Brisbane for processing, and the amount being sent is determined by the number of certificates that are held by the growers and, of course, by unknowns such as weather, pests and disease. The importance of the Yeppoon railway station in the transport link with the Brisbane cannery is recognised by our Government, and growers can rest assured this important and historic facility will remain.

Over the past 16 years, the number of growers has declined steadily. There has been a steady move toward concentration in the industry, with a few large growers expanding production and a steady stream of small growers leaving the industry. Technology has helped this process but it is mainly economic considerations that have forced out smaller growers and led to fewer, larger production units that can avail themselves of economy of scale.

Commercial fishing, based at Rosslyn Bay, is an industry that has provided a solid primary industry for years, but at present it appears to have its problems with declining catches forcing up costs.

I would now like to address the seniors of my electorate. On the Capricorn Coast, more than 1 400 people are receiving a full pension and many receive a part pension. I am lucky to still have alive a wonderful grandmother and parents, and therefore I can relate to the seniors in my electorate.

I have learnt to respect our seniors for their past experiences and what they can contribute to this community. They could also contribute to the future if we, the younger generation, would just stop and listen. The seniors, as we know them today, are from a memorable part of Australia's history. In their lifetime, they progressed from the Model-T Ford to walking on the moon.

We still number among us those who were involved in, and people who lived at the time of, the Great War. Then there are even greater numbers of our parents who lived through the Great Depression and fought in the Second World War. Many of our grandparents have done it the hard way. They lived through tough times, with big families and few luxury items to make living easy. We, the inheritors, have been fortunate to learn from their experiences. We are determined that our children will not face the same hardships as our grandparents did. Our seniors deserve respect. As the member for Broadsound, I will always be available to assist them.

I support a wider range of concessions and benefits, in particular, the proposed seniors' card that will increase the range of concessions available. Long distance bus travel and rail travel are major concerns to the Capricorn Coast's residents who have to travel to Rockhampton for specialist treatment and who often face long trips to Brisbane for further treatment.

Concessions in this area would be of great benefit to all seniors. I strongly support community input into Government decision-making. Therefore, with the co-operation of pensioners' spokesman, Bill Shuttlewood, I will be meeting on a regular basis with seniors living on the Capricorn Coast and throughout the Broadsound electorate.

I turn now to the opposite end of the human life-span, to our youth, the leaders of tomorrow. It is a matter about which I have great concern. The youth of today are important to me, because I have one 18-year-old son who has just joined the work force and I have another two sons who will soon be faced with the decision of choosing their careers.

In Dysart and, before that, in Campbelltown, when I coached Rugby League teams I was lucky enough to be able to come into regular contact with young people. Later, as a Broadsound Shire councillor, I became even more directly involved when I helped set up a youth drop-in centre. We, the all-knowing adults, found that young people needed our advice on only rare occasions.

There are intelligent, well-mannered, well-meaning young people out there. I say "out there" because for the past 32 years, there has been a them and us outlook. Well, out there, there are some great kids who are very concerned about the way in which we, the older generation, are carrying on. They need to be heard. We of the sixties generation made our voices heard. The least we can do is listen to the nineties generation! It would be foolish of me to stand in this House and not admit that we do have problems with the younger generation. However, it is most unfair to brand all young people as druggies, hippies and sex maniacs.

If there are such young people, it is not necessarily their fault. They are the product of what we made them. The recent State Governments in Queensland contributed by providing poor education facilities, resulting in great masses of young people being unprepared for the future that lay outside the schoolgates. We, a Labor Government, will provide an education system attuned to tomorrow's needs. But we will not write off the present young people.

I want all young people in my electorate to try to understand that they have a friend. I do not claim to have all the answers, but I want to hear their questions. They can come to my office at any time to discuss problems, in absolute confidence, or to suggest ways and means by which we can improve their lot. I want them to tell me

what facilities they need, both sporting and social. They have the ideas but they must be heard.

The lack of housing accommodation for the younger generation on the Capricorn Coast and in the coal-mining towns is one of my particular concerns. I will be working with community groups to develop a strategy to ensure that the current and future needs of young Broadsound residents are attended to by this Government.

The matter of police on the Capricorn Coast is of particular concern to me, the elderly and the businesspeople. There are people who live on their own who may never have been burgled or had reason to be frightened, but they do feel uncomfortable. Businesspeople like to know that patrols are out and around at night. There is no doubt that the presence of police in cars acts as a deterrent to would-be thieves, thugs and vandals. Rosslyn Bay, in which fishing trawlers tie up with other boats, needs to be covered by patrols. I understand that very expensive equipment is often removed from those vessels.

The National Party let the police force slump to an all-time low in numbers, resources and morale. This Government faces an enormous task to rebuild the police force and to re-establish the dignity and the respect it so rightly deserves. Criminals and drug-pushers in the State of Queensland have had virtually a free go and have reaped the benefit of having a police force that lacked resources and manpower. Evidence of the total ignorance of previous Governments to the requirements of the police in this State is highlighted by the lack of attention paid to meeting the need to provide more police at Yeppoon.

In 1979, a police report recommended that the Yeppoon Police Station be upgraded, but nothing has been done. Currently, there are seven uniformed police officers in Yeppoon for a permanent population of around 8 000, and this population doubles during holiday periods. In other States, as a ratio, police number 1 to 450 people. In Queensland the ratio is about 1 police officer to 550 people. In Yeppoon, we have the disgraceful situation of 1 police officer to 1 140 people. I have already made representation to the Minister for Police, the Honourable Terry Mackenroth, because I am committed to increasing police numbers at the Yeppoon Police Station and providing a 7-day, 24-hour service. Many of my colleagues have touched on the Fitzgerald report and the corruption of the Queensland police. The problem of corruption in the police force presents itself to almost every officer from his first day on the job. Free liquor, food and girls are an everyday offering to police everywhere. Police, like the rest of us, are human. Some resist temptation; some embrace it with open arms. Thankfully, the vast majority of Queensland's police understand the supersensitive nature of their position in life and do the right thing.

The problem for police the world over is that they are the front-line troops on show daily and, while individuals, because of their uniform, they have a collective anonymity and, should one of them step out of line, they all receive a collective blast from the public.

We have all criticised taxi drivers, young drivers and police in general for the actions of one or a few. Our Government must address this problem and seek the cooperation of all police in setting standards of behaviour and publicising the actions of the many rather than the few.

How many of us, in this great house of Parliament, could knock on the door of a suburban home late at night and break the news to the occupants that a loved one has been killed in an accident? Could we do it with the care and compassion that our police officers are called on to display? Could we hold someone's hand while they coughed out the last of their life in a smashed vehicle on one of our antiquated roads? I doubt it.

By all means, let us punish the wrong-doer in the police force because that one person has damaged the reputations of all police, but let us praise the individual police officer who is doing his or her job properly, without fanfare, without great material reward. I, for one, am totally opposed to corruption, not just in the police force but anywhere, and I will defend to the hilt anyone doing his or her job properly.

I would now like to address activities centred on the central Queensland region in relation to sand-mining. At Shoalwater Bay, the military training area, Pivot Group Limited has applied for five mining leases to mine heavy mineral sands under the terms of the licence to prospect agreement with the Commonwealth Government.

I propose to make comment on Shoalwater Bay, which is used by the Royal Australian Army as a military training area and which is currently a proposed sand-mining site. Shoalwater Bay is the largest and most diverse undeveloped coastal region south of Cooktown and is the only key coastal area in Queensland where the major features of the geographical regions, the brigalow belt and south-eastern Queensland, are found on such a large scale. Most would say that, because the Shoalwater Bay area is used as a Commonwealth military training area, this form of land use may not be ideal for such an important natural area. When one thinks of tanks, personnel carriers, trucks and troops running around, one thinks of irreparable damage being done on a large scale. This in fact is not true. Shoalwater Bay exists as it is today in an essentially natural state because it is being properly managed to minimise the environmental impact of the exercises that take place.

The Shoalwater Bay area includes some of the least disturbed coastal and subcoastal habitats of eastern Australia. Central coastal Queensland is rich in fauna and is of considerable geographical interest because it is a zone of major overlap of both tropical and temperate species. Many species of mammals, birds and reptiles are known to be in the Shoalwater Bay area and are distributed throughout the general area.

The second sand-mining proposal in the Byfield area also attracts many species of fauna, including kangaroo and wallaby. The brush-tail and the ring-tailed possum are present and possibly all five species of the glider inhabit the tall open forest, which includes many forest red gum, a preferred tree species for koala. My colleague the Minister for the Environment, the Honourable Pat Comben, would be aware of the bird life that shelters in the Byfield area, which is under threat from sand-mining. In fact, there could be more than 115 bird species living in the Byfield forest. Fruit pigeons, for example, are most prolific not only in closed canopy communities but also in the fringing forest and along watercourses; the red-crowned pigeon and the purple-crowned pigeon have been recorded in the area as well as the top knot, white-headed, wompoo, green-winged and brown-crowned pigeons. There is no doubt that the foredune thickets along the east coast beaches play an important role in the seasonal migration of rainforest species, and every effort should be made to maintain them.

In these sand systems there are unusual shallow freshwater lakes called perched lakes or swamps. They have been formed from depressions in which vegetation has collected. This impermeable layer is very fragile and would not need much disturbance with their water-holding capacity and, if fractured, the lakes or swamps could be irretrievably damaged.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I can see that I am running out of time. I would just like to point out that the people on the Capricorn Coast have been devastated by the results of the final EIS handed down by the Pivot Group. People were concerned about what Pivot was promising. It meant big dollars for roads, housing and a processing plant. It meant that local haulage contractors may receive contracts, but now Pivot are saying it wants to barge the mineral sands to Gladstone.

Many people now believe they were conned by Pivot Mining Group. There will only be a few jobs for the area; no road upgrading; no housing requirements; and no processing plant.

Time, on motion of Mr Elder, extended.

Mr PEARCE: I thank the honourable member for Manly.

There is further information available warning us of the dangers to the environment that can be caused by sand-mining. A 1975 coastal management report, which was included in the 1983 Cook report on sand-mining, stated that a potentially important and irreversible result of sand-mining is interference with the watertable. I find it very

alarming that environmental impact studies done in the area did not take into consideration the Water Resources Commission of Queensland.

The central Queensland coast from Shoalwater Bay to Bundaberg contains some of the most important natural areas in the State and is also a region of great scenic beauty. However, despite these values, the region can boast only about one per cent national park, even though some key conservation sites were identified by national parks and wildlife services more than a decade ago.

There is a great deal of concern on the Capricorn Coast about sand-mining. The people of Broomsound, and in particular those on the Capricorn Coast, can be assured that I will not change my mind on the issue. I will not back down from my commitment not to support sand-mining in the Byfield area north of Corio Bay. The Capricorn Coast to the north and beyond to the Shoalwater Bay area is the most beautiful, natural stretch of coastline that I have ever seen, and I do not want it destroyed. It must be preserved.

I will wind up by saying that I was on active service with the army in South Vietnam. Upon my return, I spent eight years with the New South Wales Grain Elevators Board. For the past 11 years, until 2 December last year, I was a coal miner.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I know what it is to get dirt on my hands, and I am proud to describe myself as a worker.

Mr HOBBS (Warrego) (12.53 p.m.): I take this opportunity to congratulate all new members of the House. I recall that it was not easy for me to make my maiden speech. I wish them all the best for the coming term. In addition, I wish their families and friends well.

It is my pleasure today to speak to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply. I take this opportunity to express, on behalf of my constituents and myself, loyalty to Her Majesty and to His Excellency. I thank His Excellency for his best wishes to us in our endeavours to uphold the authority and dignity of the Forty-sixth Parliament.

Try as we may to fulfil this wish, the events of the past few weeks have somewhat strained the boundaries of constraint. Much of that spirited debate could have been avoided if the Government and the Speaker had not made so many statements in the press about reforms of the parliamentary process in Queensland, such as allowing full debate, being impartial, and there being no late sittings and a fair question-time, as well as statements about the Forty-sixth Parliament being different from previous Parliaments. It appears to me that what the ALP says to a newspaper journalist bears no relationship to the truth.

What do we have? The comments of the Premier have been referred to the Privileges Committee, because it has been alleged that he was misleading the House. The other day, the Treasurer made a goose of himself, and he is still doing so. There has been a general decline in the standard of decorum in the Chamber. Last night, for the first time in the three years that I have been a member of this Parliament, I heard an honourable member referred to as a sleazebag. I wonder what the next reform will be under this Government. Will the Government turn Parliament into a pig-pen? I hope that the standard of decorum will improve. I am sure that it will with the honourable member for Archerfield occupying a seat on the front bench and keeping an eye on things.

I was surprised to find, in His Excellency's Speech, reference to electoral laws and the fact that the next election can be contested on fair and honest boundaries. That is very honourable. I was not aware that the commission had made a decision on whether the boundaries were fair and honest. I certainly hope that the Governor was not pre-empting a decision of that very important commission.

Mr Ardill: You could hazard a good guess.

Mr HOBBS: We will wait and see what happens.

I invite the commission to go out into the western areas. Many people do not realise the size of this State, the long distances that need to be covered and the huge social problems that exist in the west. So that new members will have some conception of what a large electorate is like, I point out that my electorate is the same size as Victoria. The length of the council roads and main roads in my electorate is more than the length of the road round Australia. Some constituents of mine have to travel the same distance as a person travelling from Brisbane to Mackay.

Mr Palaszczuk: The telephone.

Mr HOBBS: I am pleased that the honourable member is listening to me. I am pleased that he mentioned the telephone because new radio telephones are being installed in western Queensland. They are wonderful except that it costs \$1,400 to have one connected. What working man in the smaller towns, such as Wyandra, Eulo and Eromanga, could afford \$1,400 to have a telephone connected? That matter should be looked at quickly and carefully. It seems that the ALP policy in this regard is wrong. No doubt the Federal Government is not particularly interested in this problem. In any case, it will be out of office next week, so we might be able to fix it up.

Mr Ardill: Is there any way of sharing facilities?

Mr HOBBS: No. For any connection after the closure of an exchange there is a standard fee of \$240. In addition, there is a pro rata fee of \$50 per kilometre for distances up to 40 kilometres. For any distance beyond 40 kilometres, a standard fee of \$1,400 is charged. Subscribers in the smaller towns who already have phones have paid the standard connection fee, plus an installation charge. However, any future connections will cost the earth.

Mr Hayward: What about privatising Telecom? I assume that you and your Liberal colleagues will be doing that?

Sitting suspended from 1 to 2.30 p.m.

Mr HOBBS: Before the luncheon recess I was about to answer an interjection about the privatisation of Telecom.

Mr Mackenroth: You've had an hour and a half to think of the answer.

Mr HOBBS: No, I have not. I had the answer at the time, but unfortunately lunch-time arrived. I have no hesitation in supporting the privatisation of the maintenance side of Telecom, but I am certainly opposed to the privatisation of Telecom as a whole. Everyone knows that that would create a lot of problems, particularly for the people living in the sparsely populated areas in my electorate.

Mr Beattie: Particularly for the people out of Brisbane.

Mr HOBBS: Yes, that is correct. There are problems. There is no problem with the privatisation of the maintenance side of Telecom, because much of that work can be contracted out. People would still be employed and the service would be more efficient.

Yesterday I was fortunate to be able to attend the funeral in Mount Isa of Mr Bob Katter, Snr. I wish to place on record my sincere regrets to his family and friends. Bob was a great mate of mine. In the early years he and I did a lot of campaigning together. I wish his family all the very best. It was a very sad occasion. Queensland and Australia will be far worse off for the loss of such a great man. He was a great Queenslander, a great Australian and a great mate.

The issue of daylight-saving should be discussed at length, because there are divisions throughout the whole political field. Daylight-saving crosses all boundaries. Not very many people in my electorate support daylight-saving; in fact, by far the vast majority are totally opposed to it. I appreciate the speech on daylight-saving that the honourable member for Tablelands, Mr Tom Gilmore, made recently during the Address in Reply

debate. He put a lot of time, work and research into the matter and came up with some good facts. Daylight-saving is having a devastating effect on people living in the western areas of Queensland, and even some people living in the south-east corner of the State do not like it. The further west one travels, the worse it becomes. Children are affected by daylight-saving, because they go to school in the dark and come home in the heat of the afternoon.

During my travels throughout the electorate many women have told me that their husbands leave for work in the morning in the dark and they have a long wait in the afternoon until their husbands come home. All honourable members know what it is like to have to wait for someone. Many members in this House would have waited an hour for their wives to do the shopping. Sometimes an hour seems like a day.

Mr Beattie: It takes much longer than an hour.

Mr HOBBS: That is right; it does take much longer than an hour. Sometimes it feels like ten hours.

Wives living in those areas have to wait until about 6 o'clock in the afternoon for their husbands to come home from work, and there are still three hours of daylight left, which is a very long time. Those people never get to see news broadcasts. Perhaps the news is not all that good, anyway, but people need to have access to that form of communication, and that fact should be borne in mind.

Daylight-saving would perhaps benefit the whole economy if everyone across the length and breadth of Australia worked an extra hour. People might think it was worthwhile putting their shoulders to the wheel for an extra hour.

A recent article in the *Longreach Leader* headed "Thumbs down to Daylight Saving" stated—

"Daylight Saving is not popular in Western Queensland. This week the 'Leader' failed to find anyone in favour of it.

Petitions against Daylight Saving are getting good support all over the west and the Longreach branch of the ALP is now urging people to sign a petition to be presented to State Parliament."

This issue crosses all political boundaries, and a positive approach as to what is best for the State must be adopted. The article continues—

"The ALP branch has prepared a petition and circulated it to other branches in the west seeking their support to get as many signatures as possible."

The article quotes Mr Jim Nilon, a branch spokesman, as saying—

"Many difficulties with the trial have become apparent since its inception."

I was pleased to discover that the *Sunday Mail* conducted a poll. I do not believe in polls, however, some are better than others. This one does not look too bad to me.

Mr Perrett: The one last night was pretty good.

Mr HOBBS: Yes, the one last night was pretty good.

Mr Stephan interjected.

Mr HOBBS: We will remind Mr Beattie of the result of that poll next week.

The *Sunday Mail* article states—

"The Sunshine and Gold Coasts have voted against daylight saving."

I was pleased to read that, because it adds weight to my argument. The article continues—

"In an exclusive Sunday Mail/Channel 7 survey conducted last week more than half of the leading tourism destinations' residents (57 percent) said they already had enough sunshine."

That suits me down to the ground, and I was pleased to read that accurate poll.

Mr Beattie: What about Mick Veivers? Are you saying you should divide the State into zones? Or are you saying there should be no daylight-saving at all? Mick Veivers quite genuinely argues for it. There are a lot of people in the south-east corner who support it. You are putting up arguments against it. What are you saying? Are you saying it is totally out?

Mr HOBBS: What I am saying is that first of all we must look at the question of daylight-saving very broadly and not from a political point of view. The findings of the daylight-saving task force must be considered, because it was established to monitor the daylight-saving trial. It is my opinion that the question should be decided on an individual basis. If at some time in the future a referendum is thought to be necessary, the question could be looked at seriously at that time. In the meantime, I think that, in the best interests of Queensland, the question should be approached by adopting a broad view, not by using tunnel vision, which is sometimes done when questions are decided.

The interesting fact revealed by the poll is that only 4 per cent of the people agreed that it was a good idea to bring Queensland into line with other States. The argument that was advanced on the basis of having a uniform time zone is not accurate. One only has to reflect on the chaos that occurred during the last couple of weeks in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia. I do not agree that Queensland simply should adopt the same time zones as those in the southern States. Those who favour uniform time zones can adopt Queensland's standard.

Mr Stephan: I don't think that they take into account the number of people who are against it.

Mr HOBBS: The member for Gympie is quite correct.

During the maiden speeches made by some members of the Australian Labor Party, I was pleased to note that reference was made to daylight-saving, particularly by the member for Mount Isa and the member for Barron River. I was pleased to hear that they are prepared to take a stand on this issue.

I turn now to discuss the position of country racing clubs throughout Queensland. I acknowledge that the Minister for Racing is new to the job. I have a good deal of respect for him.

Mr Perrett: He has a lot of worries.

Mr HOBBS: Yes, he has; there is no doubt about that. Shortly he will have more worries because I will be one of the many people who will be meeting with him to discuss the future of smaller racing clubs in Queensland.

I know of three racing clubs in my electorate that have had their funds frozen pending the review. Those clubs are presently marking time. If the end result improves the industry, I have no objection to any type of review being undertaken. Although I am prepared to allow the Minister some time to sort out the operation of the review, by the same token, to ensure that the best decision possible will be made for the racing industry in Queensland he should give a sense of direction and positive input to the review.

Racing is probably the most important recreational sport in Queensland. Part of a ministerial portfolio has been allocated specifically to the industry. Races are held everywhere throughout Queensland—from Brisbane to the gulf, from Rockhampton to Birdsville and all places in between. The people who attend race meetings come from both sides of the political fence. Even the Minister for Administrative Services, Mr McLean, enjoys a day out at the races, which is good. I also enjoy the races. People from all walks of life—not just the professionals involved in the industry—get a lot of enjoyment and satisfaction from attending various race meetings throughout Queensland.

If the Government closes down the smaller clubs, that will break down the cycle of racing in this State and will destroy the enthusiasm shown by many of the newcomers to this sport, such as racehorse-breeders and jockeys. The issue of distances must be

understood in relation to administration of racing clubs in Queensland. Queensland is a massive State but does not have a large number of starters and racing clubs. Australiawide, there are 235 000 horses, 61 000 of which are started in Queensland. Queensland has the second-highest number of starters of any State in Australia. The figures indicate that the racing industry is, indeed, a major enterprise in this State.

In comparison with other States, Queensland is not oversupplied with clubs. There are 158 clubs in Queensland, 153 in New South Wales and 93 in Victoria. Compared with the area of New South Wales, Queensland is probably two to three times greater. Therefore it is reasonable to expect that, given Queensland's larger area, this State would have more racing clubs. Because Queensland has a relatively small population, many of the clubs are minor ones, but it is very important that the smaller clubs are given Government support to enable them to continue to be viable.

The racing club in my home town of Tambo is the oldest registered racing club outside the metropolitan area of Brisbane. The club holds four or five meetings a year. Magnificent facilities that have been provided mainly on a voluntary basis are made available to racegoers. Although the club has received some financial support from the Racing Development Fund, the money has been spent on the purchase of materials only. The construction of facilities such as running rails, grandstands and horse stalls has been carried out by volunteers. I am very proud of that fact.

Mr Smyth: They all do that.

Mr HOBBS: Actually, that is not the case. Some clubs apply for a grant that will cover the costs of construction and materials.

Mr Smyth: In the last Government, it depended on which electorate it was in.

Mr HOBBS: Not entirely. Many clubs throughout Queensland have not been the constructing authority that is involved in the work, but the Tambo club was.

Tambo is typical of clubs that hold only a few meetings each year. Unfortunately, the last two meetings had to be cancelled because of rain and, as a result, at the end of the financial year the figures may not present a good picture. However, the enthusiasm is still there, the people are still there, and the horses are still there.

The point I make is that the Minister should bear in mind that Queensland is a vast State and that minor clubs need financial support. Someone once said, "If you look after the pennies, the pounds will look after themselves." Similarly, if the Minister saves the smaller racing clubs, the people involved in the larger racing clubs will be supported also, somewhere down the track.

Another important issue that I wish to discuss is road-funding. The Government can boost regional Queensland and regional Australia through road-funding. The injection of funds through the road network keeps the shire councils, the Main Roads Department, contractors and the small towns throughout Queensland and Australia going. It decentralises this great State and makes road travel cheaper, because the roads are better. Many roads throughout Australia at present could be declared clinically dead.

In this place numerous members have stated a case for more funds for roads. If I raised those issues again, I would be only chewing the bone. However, responsible organisations such as the RACQ, the shire councils, industry organisations and many citizens are saying that Queensland needs more money for roads. At present, we pay 30c a litre in petrol tax and receive 5c back from the Commonwealth Government. I do not know where the money goes, but it seems to be wasted. It goes to consolidated revenue and is used for various questionable causes.

I will refer to some statistics taken out a couple of years ago on the amount of fuel tax that is paid in some areas. The figures reveal that the people of Blackall used 4.5 million litres of fuel. The Blackall Shire, with a population of 2 070, paid \$2.7m in fuel excise, which amounts to \$1,300 for each person.

On the Australian scene, in 1986-87, \$4.5 billion was paid in fuel excise. With Australia's population of 16.3 million, the amount paid in fuel excise averaged \$276 per person. The people of Blackall pay 4.7 times more in fuel tax than the national average. I can produce a graph which supports those figures.

The system certainly has anomalies. Recently, fuel tax has increased again. It goes up and up all the time. It is costing the country people more than ever.

Mr Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr HOBBS: For the benefit of the member for Archerfield, I will come to the wool scour soon. I have not forgotten that.

Mr Beattie: Why did you support last night taking the toll off the Sunshine Motorway?

Mr HOBBS: I will deal with that. The simple point with the tollway is that the Labor Party broke its promise. As far as I am concerned, Labor Party members should either put their hands up to support something or say that they are against it. Members of the Labor Party said that they would not support it, and suddenly there it was. They knew the figures beforehand. Quite frankly, it was a laugh.

At Blackall, avgas is 95c a litre, which is very expensive. Because my area is so large, I use a considerable amount of avgas. Soon, in Blackall, petrol will cost 70c a litre.

Mr Prest: Are you after a fuel levy?

Mr HOBBS: Is the honourable member talking about fuel relief?

Mr Prest: You might as well have that, too.

Mr HOBBS: As a matter of fact, there used to be a fuel equalisation scheme in Australia. However, that has been phased out by the Federal Labor Government. After the Federal election next week-end, the National Party will be attempting to reintroduce that scheme.

I will discuss the roads in my electorate. The provision of dollar-for-dollar funding to the shires has been a tremendous boost. It gives them incentive. If the shires are keen to improve a road, they must provide some of the money themselves. Yesterday, the Minister for Transport said that some shires want certain roads treated with priority, but not many cars use them. Under the present funding arrangement, the shires provide part of the funding for roads to which they wish to give priority. That is of great benefit to them.

Some of the main roads in my electorate are: Barrington to Cunnamulla, Roma to Morven, Tambo to Blackall, Tambo to Springsure and Alpha, and Cunnamulla to Thargomindah and beyond. Of course, there are many other roads, but the ones I mentioned are the ones that are in desperate need of funds. Not much traffic uses those roads; perhaps 180 to 360 cars a day. Those roads will not come under the national arterial program for funding. The problem of allocation of funds from the Federal Government should be examined. When the Federal Government makes money available for roads, it merely puts money into the metropolitan areas.

Mr Beattie: How can you say that after supporting the taking of the toll off the Sunshine Motorway yesterday?

Mr HOBBS: I accept that many roads throughout Queensland and Australia need maintenance work. The National Party is prepared to examine that.

Mr Smyth: Did you have anything to do with the Japanese tourist who got lost yesterday at Birdsville?

Mr HOBBS: The honourable member brought the matter up. Perhaps he should have been out there, too.

Mr Smyth: I thought you might have been out having a look for him.

Mr HOBBS: It just goes to show that the honourable member does not know where he is. Birdsville is not in my electorate.

Mr Perrett: He's lost again.

Mr HOBBS: That is right. He is lost again. The honourable member should have known that, but he has not got any idea. Anyway, he is working pretty hard.

An important project that I wish to discuss is the bridge over Cooper Creek.

Mr Beattie: A very important project.

Mr HOBBS: It is.

Mr Hamill: What's it going to cost?

Mr HOBBS: It will cost \$1.2m.

Mr Hamill: Only \$1.2m?

Mr HOBBS: Yes. It is being funded on a dollar-for-dollar basis from the shires. The shires are trying to raise extra funds. They are prepared to work at it.

I do not want to harp about distances. However, it is interesting to consider that the distance travelled when crossing from Darwin to Melbourne is probably greater than the distance travelled when crossing the Indian Ocean.

The back road crosses Cooper Creek. Last year that creek was in flood for months. The particular site that has been chosen for the bridge is located in the only area in which the width of the creek is 200 yards. During the big flood in 1974, a satellite photograph was taken of that region, and that was the only area that was not under water. The bridge will be a narrow one. I suppose it cannot be a double-lane bridge, although that would be nice. It will be good just to have some means of getting across the creek. Years ago, when the area around the Nappamerri property was first developed, it took three years to get back the money from the woolclip. That gives an indication of how far out that property is. The wool was put onto camel trains and away it went. Eventually the wool was sold and shipped to Britain and then some of it came back to Australia in a processed form. I think it would be terrific if the people who live in that outback area could be assisted.

There is a great deal of concern in western Queensland and, indeed, throughout Queensland about the deterioration in the standard of services under this Labor Government. As I have said——

Mr Beattie: We have only been there three months. That's a bit rough.

Mr HOBBS: I ask the honourable member to let me finish.

What I am saying is that there is a great deal of concern in many areas about hospitals boards, fire brigades and local authorities. I am happy for reviews to be carried out. That is okay.

Mr Hamill: I will tell you what: we are happier.

Mr HOBBS: I bet that the honourable member is happier.

It is most important that any review be conducted objectively. If that is done, that will be good. Everybody will be happy. However, if a review is carried out by people wearing blinkers, that will not be good at all.

There is a real problem in regard to the availability of doctors and hospital services in the west. The hospitals boards themselves have been working very, very hard and have advertised for staff. The Government has been advertising and trying to attract staff in order to provide a better service. I understand the problems that are facing the Government. No doubt the same problems are being experienced throughout Australia.

By the same token, a promise is a promise. Before the election, the former Opposition Health spokesman, Mr Pat Comben, visited Cunnamulla and promised that if a Labor Government was elected, there would be a doctor on every corner.

Mr Hamill: No.

Mr HOBBS: Perhaps not on every corner, but just about.

Cunnamulla presently has one doctor. The Labor Party proposed—and the National Party supported it—that there would be a second doctor in Cunnamulla. At this stage nothing further has been heard from the Government. I will be taking up that matter very soon with the Minister and trying to find out just where this doctor is whom the former Opposition Health spokesman promised would be appointed immediately after the election.

The fire brigade boards are to go. I will not go over old ground. A review is being undertaken. I just wonder what will happen in regard to volunteers. There will still be a need for an army of volunteers to run those brigades. The lack of a fire brigade board is perhaps not a problem in metropolitan areas. However, if some of these smaller towns do not have a fire brigade board that can encourage people to volunteer their services, who is the Government going to get, at the end of the day, to man those fire brigade units?

Mr Beattie: Staff.

Mr HOBBS: But the Minister will find that he cannot get staff. We will see. I simply draw the attention of the Government to the problem and ask that it be alert to it. It will not be quite as easy as it sounds. The National Party has been through it. It is difficult now to try to find enough people to man those types of operations.

Mr Beattie: Staff.

Mr HOBBS: And what will it cost? Now there is silence from the Government side.

Mr Hamill: I thought you were going to tell us. I was waiting for another pearl of wisdom to drop from your lips.

Mr HOBBS: I wait with bated breath to see what happens.

There is no need for an amalgamation of local authorities. However, I can certainly see why the Labor Government has suddenly rushed out to look at the boundaries of local authorities. Surprise, surprise! The Labor Government found that it needed to have a look at the boundaries for any redistribution that might take place. That is something that needs to be looked at very, very carefully. The Opposition understands why it is happening, and it will be watching to see what happens.

Mr Beattie: What about fair boundaries? Do you support fair boundaries?

Mr HOBBS: It is very difficult to support a fair boundary system unless one can define what a fair boundary system is.

Mr Beattie: It means your vote is worth the same as mine.

Mr HOBBS: That is crazy when one is talking about local authorities in remote areas.

In some areas of Queensland, there simply are not enough people to allow the system to work that way. I cite the example of a shire in which the total population is 700. That shire might be 50 miles long and 20 miles wide. Another shire further west might be 500 miles long and 500 miles wide and have a population of 150 people. It is difficult to come up with a system that is fair. Consideration has to be given to the circumstances of each shire.

The road network has to be considered. I have already mentioned Cooper Creek. That creek runs through many shires. What happens when it floods? One cannot get

across the damned thing. That must be taken into consideration. Who is responsible for the road network and who pays for it have to be considered. One just cannot draw a circle around an area and say that there will be an equal vote throughout the local authorities.

Mr Beattie: Are you going to make a submission to EARC?

Mr HOBBS: My word! We certainly will.

Mr Beattie: They are independent and they will take those views into account.

Mr HOBBS: That is terrific. That is what the Opposition is looking for. That matter will be discussed many times down the track.

I turn now to tourism. The severe blow that has been dealt to the tourist industry during the past nine months is beyond a joke. It could probably be compared with the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. The pilots dispute resulted in the loss of \$35m a day, 5 000 jobs and approximately \$12 billion in property development investment.

Mr Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr HOBBS: A recent newspaper article claimed that at the last State election the donkey vote in Archerfield was the highest in Queensland. Is that true?

Mr Palaszczuk: It is not true.

Mr HOBBS: The honourable member says that it is not true. I read that in a newspaper article which must have been written by a reporter who really had a set against the people of Archerfield. I am pleased that the honourable member tells me that that was not the case.

Because of the pilots dispute, during the past nine months oil companies lost approximately \$3m in fuel sales. Even though many people would not be concerned about oil companies, they still must make a profit. Domestic airlines constitute 50 per cent of the total A1 jet fuel sales in Australia.

The Matilda Highway into western Queensland will be of great benefit to the area between Charleville and Karumba. Mr Gibbs made a pre-election promise about the establishment of a Cobb and Co. factory in that area, and I will be following that through with him. The former Government and this Government have made a commitment to fund a wool scour at Blackall.

Mr Palaszczuk: How is it going? Have you been up there lately?

Mr HOBBS: Yes, I have been up there lately. It is a little short on funding.

Mr Palaszczuk: How long ago?

Mr HOBBS: Recently I visited Blackall, but I did not visit the wool scour.

Mr D'Arcy: You don't know what you're talking about.

Mr HOBBS: Yes, I do. As a matter of fact, I spoke recently with the Minister for Environment about the wool scour. He said that funds were coming through but that they were a little bit slow. I will be pushing him along as much as possible to ensure that that project becomes a reality.

I turn now to Federal issues and the economy. A recent newspaper article headed "Workers worse off under Labor" stated—

" . . . a man on average weekly earnings, a dependant spouse and two children—had the greatest decline in household disposable income.

Their household disposable income—a measure of their standard of living—fell 7.3 percent between the last quarter of 1982 and August last year.

The household with the greatest rise in disposable income was a married unemployed couple with two children. Their income rose 20.9 percent over the same period.

A single-income family with two children, with the male on average earnings was 7.3 percent worse off."

The Federal Labor Government is targeting people who are not as productive as others. Before honourable members get too excited, I point out that I agree that those people who are in trouble should be supported. However, Mr Hawke is on the wrong track. The average nuclear family should be far better off, should have more incentive to do better and should be doing better. However, under Labor it is not. That is a complete disaster.

Mr Hawke claims that Australia's national debt is not his fault. What rubbish! His policies have forced up interest rates and compelled people to borrow money from overseas. Hawke and Keating are creating bludgers. Where else in the Western World can a person go from leaving school to the grave and receive a pension or Government support all the way?

Time expired.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Campbell): Order! I call the member for Cooroora. As this will be the member's maiden speech, I ask that it be heard in silence.

Mr BARBER (Cooroora) (3.05 p.m.): I have pleasure in supporting the motion moved by the member for Mount Isa and seconded by the member for Barron River. My address seeks to raise some matters of environment and Westminster democracy and to consider my electorate.

I am the Labor representative for what used to be National Party heartland. For instance, the Federal seat of Fairfax was considered one of the safest National Party seats in Australia. Some people, including John Stone, still consider it to be so. Saturday, 24 March, will tell.

It is a great irony that National Party heartland so often can be physically idyllic. I have observed it in other places. The seat of Raglan in the Waikato area of New Zealand is a favourite area of mine. Although it is National Party heartland, when I was last there I was pleased to learn that it was represented by an independent-minded, feminist daughter of a local grazing family.

The thought of National Party heartland in South Africa makes me shiver. Often idyllic countryside such as the Transkei or Natal is presided over by a party of grim, self-defending farmers who are drawing the laager in their minds to fend off the twentieth century. I am told by people who have lived in South Africa that our Nationals have been puppies by comparison.

Nonetheless, my home seat of Cooroora used to be the Waikato to the New Zealand Nationals or the Pretoria to the South African Nationals—it would never fall; but it did fall. Whilst it was a prize to be handed out amongst doughty National farmers, it and the rest of the Sunshine Coast seats that were so safe for the Nationals suffered decades of budgetary neglect. More recently, they suffered the imposition by the National machine of ambitious outsiders. Former Finance Minister, Brian Austin, who was a former Liberal, was foisted upon the electors of Nicklin, who could be trusted to loyally return the Nationals no matter what.

The most recent imposition by the machine is that of John Stone on the electors of Fairfax. That move from above prompted National Party activist Alex Somlyay to resign from the party and to take that well-trod Sunshine Coast path to join the Liberal Party. In the forthcoming Federal election those on the conservative side have the choice of a party-imposed National machine man over a miffed former National looking for the main chance.

In the seat of Cooroora at the last State election, all of the three non-Labor candidates were current or former Nationals. In the seat of Nicklin, the three highest-polling, non-Labor candidates were all current or recent National Party activists. Again, an outsider in Neil Turner was imposed on Nicklin by the National Party machine. All of that illustrates that, throughout the past decades, "National" was the magic word on the Sunshine Coast, but a few sniffed the wind in 1989 and found that the times were changing.

The fall of Cooroora to Labor was a sign of things to come. Demographic changes on the Sunshine Coast, together with resentment of National arrogance, mean that the Sunshine Coast will continue to embrace the politics of Labor. I look forward to a Labor win in the Federal seat of Fairfax on 24 March in the person of a long-time and committed Sunshine Coast resident, Beryl Muspratt.

Contemporary Australian singer, John Williamson, describes the person who is Australian as having an increasingly Aboriginal relationship to this land, and I hope he is correct. I believe that the election to Parliament in the Goss-led landslide of the young, reformist Government back bench heralds the end of the politics of greed in Queensland. There is a flood on in this House that I trust reflects the changing political geography of Queensland.

No more will Aborigines be paternally ruined in the name of assimilation. No longer will the electorate tolerate anti-democratic regimes because it was undereducated through starved education budgets. No more will those developers known as the "white-shoe brigade" impose environmental vandalism on the State in the guise of job creation and economic growth.

The Labor back bench influx into the House, with its greenie, civil liberties and social welfare bent, is, I think, a middle-class revolution—but, in my view, unashamedly so. The middle class in Queensland has abandoned the conservative parties—the Nationals for their patent anti-democratic excesses, and the Liberals for their inability to temper the Nationals.

For myself as an emerging, educated lawyer, there was a dearth of ideology to be found in the conservative parties when my political beliefs were being moulded. In banning street marches, the Nationals stood for the suppression of free speech; and, in vilifying the Opposition and starving it of resources, for the suppression of the Parliament. The Nationals stood for the active persecution of pro-environment lobbies, none more glaring than the personal hounding out of Queensland of FIDO's John Sinclair. They stood for the displacement of Aboriginal settlements to mine the ground beneath them. I refer to the settlement of Mapoon in the gulf.

The Nationals stood for a sloping economic playing field on which privilege prospered over ability. They represented active sexism, with National Party Ministers actively proposing that women should be undereducated and in the home. The Liberals, ever an irrelevancy in Queensland, stood nationally for "fighting inflation first", and if any suffered, well, "Let them eat cake."

In my view, the Labor Party did, and does, distinguish itself from the other parties in that it is the only major party made up of people who treat the welfare of others as more important than the welfare of self. It is the only party that is prepared to depart from the popular desire to be self-regarding and to temper it with a desire to be "other-regarding". In short, the conservative parties exist to further the interests of self—the entrepreneur and the squatter. The politics of Labor recognise that the economic playing field is never quite level; that many in our society start life well and truly behind the eight ball; that the invisible hand of market forces must, in a just society, be tempered by the welfare state; that the hard edges of capitalism must be knocked off.

The middle class has concerned itself historically with a just society. The wasteland that has been Queensland politics for many decades can be partly explained by the absence of an educated middle class to adjudicate it. If the Labor homecoming in Queensland has middle-class ramifications then, I say, so be it.

On the Sunshine Coast and in the seat of Cooroora, Labor had difficulty in joining the civil liberties protests of the seventies and early eighties, as those protests occurred mainly in Brisbane. However, I do recall that on one occasion a dentist in Bundaberg, together with his dog, made a lone street march. Of course, the SEQEB pickets extended to the Sunshine Coast.

Most of our battles were fought in and around the environment. Once again, if this was a mainly middle-class war, I say it was unashamedly so, as the mainly white-collar Labor members on the Sunshine Coast fought to protect the amenity of that beautiful district. Greenies such as Paul O'Donnell, Jim Cash, Ian Matthews and Karen Robinson fought, often at great personal cost, such environmentally disastrous proposals as the Kabaskal and Marina Gardens developments at Bli Bli. They opposed helicopter spraying of Blackall Range residents and the mindless high-rise mushrooming on the beachfronts. Their efforts were most often stifled by interventionist National Party Ministers—the sloping playing-field syndrome—and staunchly pro-development, pro-National local authorities at Maroochy and Landsborough Shires; and the crippling costs involved in being an appellant or co-respondent in the Local Government Court.

In Noosa Shire, the Noosa Parks Association—and notably Dr Arthur Harrold—fought a longer term and relentless campaign against National Party intransigence to extend the Noosa and Cooloola national parks. The former entrenchment of pro-National anti-environment power on the Sunshine Coast is illustrated by the campaign to save Mount Coolum with which I was involved.

In December 1985, the Maroochy Corporation Pty Ltd first floated the proposal for a chairlift and summit restaurant on Mount Coolum. Of course, Mount Coolum is the coast's own miniature Ayers Rock. It is an isolated volcanic dome sitting right on the coast south of Coolum Beach.

Opposition to the proposal rose almost immediately. On 17 January 1986 at the Coolum Civic Centre, a packed public meeting of more than 450 people voted "hands off Mount Coolum". The Maroochy Shire Council, however, had quarried the mountain for road base in the 1970s and on 21 January 1986 voted its support in principle for the development concept.

I would like to record the details of the vote. The present electors of Cooroora deserve to be reminded of their councillors' stance on the issue, to be contrasted to images presently sought to be projected. On that day, the late Councillor Tom Watkins moved a rescission motion regarding the December 1985 support-in-principle granted by the council. He is recorded, in opposing the development, as having said—

"I believe the public has been disregarded and ridiculed. I'm upset that the Councillors charged with the future of the Shire took their responsibility so lightly."

He was supported by Councillors Hermann Schwabe, Moss Day and the late Noel Parry.

Voting in favour of the desecration of Mount Coolum were Councillors Jim Birrell, Harold Steinhardt, John Blanck, Ken Hicks, Arn Barnes, Bob King, Barry Duff and Allan Templeton. I desire that Cooroora electors remember that these were the bad guys on the Mount Coolum issue.

Shire Chairman, Fred Murray, did not vote, but was reported as saying that if the vote had been deadlocked at six-all, he would have voted with the motion, that is, in favour of Mount Coolum and against the development.

All of the councillors voting to shaft Mount Coolum represented a ticket in the then council called "Progress '85"—a ticket variously comprised of those pursuing financial self-interest or those duped by the cargo-cult mentality of tourist development. The "Progress '85" ticket was the most anti-environment pro-white shoe brigade development lobby on the Sunshine Coast. That ticket, a National Party front, single-handedly represented and presided over the exploitation of the coast's natural bounty at the expense of the many on behalf of the few.

The then Lands Minister, Bill Glasson, aided the cause of the developer in refusing to consider environmental park status for the Crown reserves at Mount Coolum. His wish was stated to be to wait for a more suitable land use.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BARBER: Well, that is code, is it not? He was, of course, waiting for a better idea to come from the white shoe brigade.

It is a great condensation of the issue to say that over a period of three years the Save Mount Coolum Committee fought a relentless fight against the development proposal for Mount Coolum. The assistance of Michael Halliburton of Griffith University and Paul O'Brien of Mr Labels, South Brisbane, should be noted with thanks.

And let the Chamber note that, under the last Government, if one wanted to achieve any environmental progress or oppose a development, one had to do that sort of thing. One had to spend three years of one's precious time opposing a Government that had no sympathy whatsoever for environmental issues.

In the end, the council relented, and I mention that Lands Minister Bill Glasson was most courteous in his conferring with the committee to approve the national park proposal. Mount Coolum national park is not far off, but it is scary what might have occurred had the National Party retained Government. We could have had Disneyland-by-the-sea in one of the Sunshine Coast's most attractive natural attributes.

I have spoken of the young people's injection into State politics represented by the bulging back bench of the parliamentary Labor Party. The old order is passing away and the politics of the environment have arrived to stay. I feel that it is only fair to explain to the members of the National Party how this revolution occurred because, while they were not paying attention, my generation was getting involved with its landscape and the environment and developing an entrenched devotion to the land—this "Aboriginalness" that singer John Williamson refers to.

Surfboard riding in my electorate provides a prime example. I am afraid that I cannot contribute to the ongoing Rugby League debate in this House this afternoon. Surfboard riding is a popular pursuit along the beaches, reefs and points of my electorate. It is a sport that I love and that I pursue whenever possible.

The sport almost necessarily entrenches environmental consciousness in the enthusiast. The surfboard rider is in the water soon after dawn. The ideal conditions are light winds off the land brushing the sea and causing waves of geometric precision, compared with the wind-chopped maelstrom of the afternoon north-easterly.

The surfer will seek these waves on an isolated beach with as few other surfers as possible. He may, as I have, enjoy a stretch of wilderness beach such as the environmental park opposite Mount Emu. At dawn, Mount Emu looms above the beach; the sky is brushed clean by the off-shore wind and the moon might hang above the mountain. The experience is as unfettered by civilisation as one can imagine. At this isolated beach of white coral sand, with only a board, some friends and the elements, a devotion to the coastal environment is entrenched.

Little surprise then when board-riders join political campaigns to protect the coastal fringe. The Save Mount Coolum Committee that I have already mentioned; the opposition to a marina development at Kirra; the campaign against the so-called "Academy" development at Byron Bay; the Save-the-Platform stand at Mooloolaba; and, paramountly, the unsuccessful opposition of the Caloundra City Council sewerage outfall at Kawana.

Let me here clearly confirm that I am staunchly opposed to any proliferation of ocean outfalls on Australia's sea coast. Any such proposals in the seat of Cooroora will invite my strongest opposition. The Sydney beaches afflicted by sewerage outfall are a joke. Like the warning on cigarette packets, surfing in Sydney reduces your fitness. The stand taken by Councillor Andrew Champion and others, and the lobby CRAAP-PROOF to oppose the Kawana ocean outfall, was both lonely and brave. I am sorry that it failed.

It may be that local authorities will need State assistance to realise non-outfall alternatives. I commend any such assistance to the members of this House.

The electorate of Cooroora contains many of the coast's premier surf locations. Granite Bay at Noosa national park is a world-class point break. Pitta Street and Coolum enjoy beach breaks of consistent high quality. Second Bay at Coolum is of lower quality, but is an area of much natural beauty and unlikely to suffer the excesses of development. Finally, there is an island reef off Cooroora of undoubted world-class quality. I should like to see the island granted park status, to protect it for sightseers, surfers and recreational divers.

Given the surfing overview above—and I noted that the honourable member for Stafford appreciated it—it will be no surprise that I have observed democracy American-style as it is practised in the American State of Hawaii. There are elements of the United States democracy towards which I would like to see this House move.

First of all, the concept reigns that the House of State is the people's House. It is not a House where one may not take notes in the gallery, not a place where distant men speak to each other in antiquated style, and not an unattainable place of privilege, but a place where the people's will is done and the actions of the Government scrutinised and criticised.

Attendant to this style, Congress people feel free to sit in the House in casual dress, such as floral shirts. They strip Government of much of its pretence and bluff. Representatives are reduced to being mere human beings. I believe that the Hawaiian dress code reinforces the people's control of their representatives. It drags them down to an accessible level. Any method that reminds politicians of their accountability and humanity, and removes the trappings of power, has much to commend it. I recommend that the dress code of this House be watered down in the interests of participatory democracy. I note with approval the Speaker's decision not to wear the wig.

Secondly, the committee system in Hawaii appears to be much refined. I sat in on a committee hearing that was considering a Bill to deal with the delivery of specialist medical services. The casually dressed congress people I mentioned earlier sat, in informal surrounds, across the table from various medicos, medical lobbyists and nurses, listening to oral submissions and answering questions. It was an admirable type of democracy.

It was aided in its efficiency by the prominence that congressional and committee activities are given in the *Honolulu Advertiser*. Debate in the House and even in committee can often find its way onto the front page, but never in an overblown or exaggerated manner. Pages 2 and 3 are often given up to State politics. The calibre of the reporting and editorial conduct is very high. In short, the people are given every chance of overseeing the debates on current issues occurring in the people's House.

Until some long discussions with some Swiss friends, I had thought the Westminster system of democracy to be pinnacle of representative democracy. I now feel that some of the conventions that have grown out of centuries of action and reaction are not ideal. In Switzerland, the rigidity of party line does not exist. Politicians are

more representative of their electorates and their consciences. Party members cross the floor from time to time with impunity, and it is considered commonplace.

I believe that Australian politics will move inexorably towards the greater use of referendums. My belief is founded in my perception that Australians want greater participatory democracy and are not content with only the ballot-box. Whilst I believe that we will see that trend, I retain my scepticism of the activities of the minority groups that have jumped on the referendum band wagon in recent years. The people who want citizen-initiated referendums and voters' veto, I believe, desire that power so as to impose their minority world views on the majority. Among the ranks of citizen-initiated referendum supporters are those who believe in the worldwide conspiracies of Fabian socialism, of Zionism and of non-Right parties to bring in world Government and totalitarianism. These superstitious extremists should not be allowed to railroad the referendum debate unopposed.

I turn now to consider the seat of Cooroora. In his maiden speech, the former member for Cooroora, Mr Simpson, described the electorate, which is centred around the resort town of Noosa Heads, as the most beautiful part of Australia. I think he was correct.

Cooroora is named after Mount Cooroora, which looms over the town of Pomona, and that mountain is the focus of the famous annual King of the Mountain race. The nearby Cooran and Kin Kin rural districts are attractive to new settlers. Boreen Point on Lake Cootharaba holds similar natural attraction to new settlers. Cooroy has been a growth town for decades and has a fledgling tourist industry in the old butter factory and Tric Tracs restaurant. Eumundi is an increasingly attractive tourist town. The Blackall Range towns will retain their charm if the Liberal-led white shoe brigade can be stopped from subdividing the range into Kawana Heights. The drive from Yandina to Coolum is one of the prettiest around and is marred only by the present state of the road. The stretch from Coolum to Sunshine Beach has seen rapid population growth in the last three years, whilst Marcoola, Mudjimba, Pacific Paradise and Bli Bli have also flourished.

The attraction of Cooroora to tourists is its combination of volcanic plugs, rivers and beaches. Mount Pinbarren, a postage stamp size national park, presides over a landscape that, last century, was one of the largest rainforests in the Southern Hemisphere. Mount Cooran, Cooroora and Cooroy echo its pyramidal shape. Mount Ninderry is distinctive and was a banana terrace and hang-gliding venue. Mount Tinbeerwah gives amazing 360-degree views of the Cooloola region. The escarpment at the Blackall Range has incomparable views the length of the Sunshine Coast and out to Moreton Island. Of course, Mount Coolum is Coolum's own ziggurat, offering coastal and hinterland views. Up the road, Mount Emu is a wildflower garden in September. The tourist industry owes a lot to these natural assets, and Cooroora is indeed blessed to have this volcanic heritage.

The decades of National Party neglect of Cooroora already mentioned are never more apparent than in Cooroora's roads. Although the Bruce Highway outside Cooroora has enjoyed major upgrading with the Tanawah and Nambour by-passes, the arterial road in Cooroora has not. In its northern reaches, the David Low Way, which is still the major route from Maroochydore to Noosa, is little more than a goat track. Last year the Yandina-Coolum road, which is one of the prettiest drives in the world, and which meanders along riversides and through cane-fields, was Queensland's worst main road. The residents on the Eumundi-Kenilworth road have been up in arms over its dangerous condition, particularly in the face of heavy commercial use. The Bli Bli road is a dangerous, underfunded road. Boreen Point, which is an increasingly popular tourist destination, is serviced by a road that is still unsealed for most of its length.

With all due credit to people power and the Goss Government, some of this neglect has begun to be addressed. Remedial work on the most dangerous bridge approaches on the Eumundi-Kenilworth road was committed a fortnight ago by the Goss Government. Four weeks ago the Federal Land Transport Minister, Bob Brown, was the first politician ever to allot the Cooroy by-pass a definite planning and design date and a definite date for commencement of construction in 1992-93. This long overdue construction was always a "one day" project for the State National Party, which, after all, for decades had the responsibility of allocating priorities for the Federal funding of State projects. It all comes back to the idea held by the National Party that Cooroora would smile and cop it because it was such a safe seat. The statistics are graphic and I have with me a graph of road-funding for the last two financial years in Nicklin and Cooroora. The black line is the pork-barrelling in Brian Austin's seat of Nicklin, done in an attempt to buy that electorate. The line that honourable members cannot see is the funding provided to Cooroora in those same two years. Over its next six years in Government, the Goss Government plans to put Cooroora's failing road system together. Our tourists and locals deserve a safe road system.

Last night in his House the subject of the Sunshine Motorway was debated at length. The issues surrounding the Goss Government's decision to retain Mike Ahern's

toll on Stage 1 of the motorway were well canvassed. I have not previously sat as late in this House as we did last night. My regret that I was unable to deliver my promise of no toll on the Sunshine Motorway is a matter of public record. However, I was successful in removing the harshest effect of that toll by removing, as promised, the toll from the Maroochy River bridge. That toll, which was the result of a game of political football on the part of Messrs Ahern, Austin and Simpson, was imposed on a bridge at the northernmost stream of the motorway system. It meant that Mike Ahern's constituents could drive on the new motorway free of charge, whilst the Coolum and Pacific Paradise commuters over the bridge paid for the road. That will not be allowed to continue. At the present time two toll plazas are being constructed on Stage 1 of the motorway. Upon their being commissioned, the preposterous bridge toll will be removed.

This Government requires that Stage 1 pays for itself and is not to be paid for by the poor commuters who live at its northern extreme. The proposed Stage 2 of the tollway provides a clear contrast of the styles of the former Ahern Government and that of this Government. Stage 1 was imposed by Mr Ahern on the Sunshine Coast with no consultation. When the issue of the toll blew up, Messrs Austin and Ahern shifted the tolls out of their electorates. However, when first attaining office, the Minister for Transport, David Hamill, made it clear that Stage 2, from Maroochydore to Noosa Heads, would not be proposed unless, firstly, full consultation with the community resulted in the community asking for the road, and secondly, that the community appreciated that Stage 2 would be a tollway. That consultation has proceeded and the Sunshine Coast electors have welcomed their first opportunity to have a say in the matter. The process is nearing completion and I confirm that the people's will shall be done in respect of Stage 2.

The natural assets of Cooroora have already been outlined. The rate of population growth makes it imperative that Queensland's national parks be expanded to retain the naturalness of the coast amongst the growing suburbs. The Noosa Shire is the second-fastest growing municipality in Queensland, second only to Logan City. It has experienced an 8.86 per cent growth in the coastal areas and a 6.04 per cent growth in the hinterland over the last period of measurement. This year I will push for the early gazettals of the Lake Weyba national park from Noosa to Peregian and the Mount Coolum national park. The Peregian environmental park must cross the David Low Way to take in Mount Emu and its surrounds. I support the implementation of the Mount Cooroy environmental park to prevent any further nonsensical quarrying proposals. I am firmly behind the Noosa Shire Council's maximum conservation/minimum development desires on the Noosa north shore, as reflected in that council's continual town-planning thrust over many years.

I have half a dozen other environmental initiatives on my plate which will receive my keen attention this year. Cooroora residents are up in arms that agricultural spray drift has continued unchecked by successive State Governments. Certain negligent farmers have been allowed to poison their neighbours with impunity. I will investigate this travesty with the new Minister.

The lack of regulation of the small-crop markets and the alleged corruption at Rocklea markets is a major concern of small-crop growers in Cooroora. Both the low quality product of some growers and the collusion of fruit-marketing agents have conspired to deprive the growers in my electorate of their just returns. The Minister and I will investigate these matters.

Because of the wishy-washy provisions of the Mining Act, hinterland residents have had their lifestyles ruined. Prospecting in rural acreage subdivisions has taken these people by surprise and has left them with a very sour taste in their mouths because, when the prospectors leave, they have undertaken only minimal restoration work. The situation must be reviewed.

Cooroora is a district that depends for its continued growth and success partially—and importantly—on the tourist dollar. Repeated surveys have shown that middle-class Australia, generally within one day's drive of the Sunshine Coast, is the area's bread

and butter. The tourist organisations on the coast are active in targeting and fostering this market and shall have my every support in their efforts.

I turn now to discuss education. Currently more than 700 high school students are transported by bus daily from Noosa Heads to the nearest high schools at either Cooroy or Coolum—a distance of approximately 15 kilometres each way. This has been the state of affairs for many years, and it is not satisfactory. Not only are the costs of transporting that number of students prohibitive, but also, as children have to stand in the bus as it travels along Cooroora's goat-track roads, the journeys are dangerous. There is an urgent need for a high school in the Noosa/Tewantin area. When the area's annual growth rate of 8.86 per cent is taken into account, it is surprising that the previous Government did not identify the need years ago and undertake action to remedy the position. During the last month of the election campaign, the previous Government promised no fewer than four State schools for the area, a point which is worthy of note.

The National Party Government continually underfunded education in this State. Over the past years, enrolment in Cooroora schools has grown significantly without any corresponding increase in funding having been received. This has led to the following situations: Noosa District State High School lacks a teachers' common room, adequate art space, speech and drama facilities and modern and adequate toilet facilities. Mapleton State School has an inadequate and inaccessible amenities block. Eumundi State School does not have an administration block and its amenities block is too small and too isolated. Cooran State School has no pre-school facilities. Pomona State School has insufficient pre-school facilities and insufficient class facilities, including poor electric wiring and plumbing, and wobbly class room floors that effect the computers.

The concern of parents about transport regulations on the Sunshine Coast must not be understated. The present regulations must be reviewed immediately. Of equal concern to parents is the withdrawal, under the Cooper Government, of specialist teachers from many schools. Under the Labor Government, those schools have been restored and small schools are now looking for a better deal in the provision of specialist teachers. It is my belief that, under the Goss-led Labor Government, the education of Queensland's children and the funding of education will be seen as an investment in the future of the State.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my former employers in law, Steve Watson and Bruce McDiarmid, for making it clear that I was free to practise whatever politics I chose while in their employ. I thank Bruce McDiarmid for ushering me into the Labor Party. My heartfelt thanks go to Peter Shooter—that stalwart of Sunshine Coast Labor politics—for his early encouragement and to Dr Ian Matthews for his encouragement and friendship. I owe a debt to the Eumundi and Coolum branches of the party for nurturing the leadership of a young Labor activist.

My thanks also go to the Save Mount Coolum Committee for its confidence in my leading a truly green campaign, despite my partisan attachments. I give my thanks also to the gifted editor of *Cooroora Opinion*, Doug Tainsh, and the ever-present, hard-working, Vince Walker. I must acknowledge the thankless hard work of Del Clarke and the Coolum branch, the Noosa branch, the Cooroora North branch, and the Sunshine Coast hinterland branch of the Australian Labor Party. In the Goss landslide, many non-members felt moved to help change Queensland. To them I give my heartfelt thanks. Let me nominate the Robinson residence at Eumundi as a Labor Party heritage building and thank my law practice partners and my Coolum staff for their understanding and help during my campaign year.

I also wish to thank the Attorney-General, Dean Wells, the Honourable the Speaker, Jim Fouras, and the Minister for Justice and Corrective Services, Glen Milliner, for their warm welcomes to this place. Finally, I thank Jill Gatehouse for her companionship and support, and my parents. My grandfather and my parents are in the gallery this afternoon.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Cooroora is a jewel on the Queensland coast, but a place that has pressing needs. His Excellency the Governor's address outlined those matters to which this Government is committed. The people of the Cooroora electorate voted a firm "Yes" to those reforms last December. I am proud to represent them in the reformist Goss Government and, as one of the youngest members of this House, hope to grow old representing Cooroora.

Mr FITZGERALD (Lockyer) (3.45 p.m.): In rising to speak to the amendment to the motion for the adoption of the Address in Reply, I firstly pledge the loyalty of my constituents to Her Majesty The Queen. I congratulate the Speaker on his election. I ask you, Mr Deputy Speaker, to pass on my congratulations to the Chairman of Committees and wish the panel of Temporary Chairmen all the best during their term of office. I extend a welcome to all the new members of this Parliament. I note with interest the ambitions, views and sentiments that they have brought into this Parliament as representatives of the constituents in their electorates.

I acknowledge that the last election effected a change of Government and that many Government members say that they have a mandate to govern. I can assure them that members of the Opposition will do everything in their power to ensure that they govern properly, correctly, and in accordance with the promises they made to the people so that, at the end of this Government's term, the people can judge the its performance. I believe that the term will run for three years, but I suppose the Premier will keep open his options as he sees problems developing in his own party. He may even be considering the option of having an early election. I invite honourable members who have just entered this Parliament to look at the honour board in Parliament House and witness the number of members who came to this House in 1929 and who went out in 1932. That board provides the salutary lesson to them that their term here can be short, particularly if the pendulum swings very strongly in one direction.

I was elected to represent my constituents on a platform that I put forward at election-time. I intend to represent all my constituents in every part of my electorate. Even though other electorates may have changed their allegiances for a brief period in history, Lockyer will remain firmly conservative. Any future seat based on the area in which I live will always remain conservative. Provided I am willing to serve my constituents again, I am certain that I will be judged according to the job that I have performed and I am reasonably confident that they will judge me sympathetically.

I will comment on remarks made by the honourable member for Cooroora. He stated that he would like to see a change in the dress code in this Chamber. I urge him to consider that matter carefully. I can understand the younger generation, which is full of new ideas, advocating a change in dress standards. However, we should maintain reasonable decorum in our dress. When the ALP was elected to power in New Zealand, at the Assembly some of the gentlemen—I prefer to call them male members—dressed in short-sleeved shirts. They looked very untidy. In New Zealand, Parliament House is air conditioned. I prefer not to say what a couple of the women members in New Zealand dressed like, but it looked as though they had been performing domestic duties all day and had not had time to clean up. I will leave it at that.

Mr Beattie: Oh!

Mr FITZGERALD: That is fact of life. The honourable member for Brisbane Central sits there in sartorial splendour, which uplifts this place. It would be a pity if the tone of this House were lowered. However, that is a matter for this House and the Speaker to decide.

The member for Cooroora also stated that we should adopt the practice of the Hawaiian Parliament in which members often vote across party lines. Last night, if he could have squirmed his way to the other side of the Chamber, he would have. I sympathise with him, because when the tollway issue is raised at the next election he will have great difficulty in claiming that it was somebody else's promise. People know what promises were made and they will judge the matter accordingly. I will not spend

more time on the issue. The toll-road was a local issue on the Sunshine Coast and it will probably cause the demise of a number of members in that area.

The member for Cooroora mentioned problems with the Mining Act. The former Government amended the Act. I understand that the present Government is considering repealing it. The honourable member also spoke about problems with education-funding. He should be examining the economy of this State and the provision of finance for Government coffers.

I wonder if the Treasurer read the booklet that was handed out recently dealing with the review of Queensland's economy. Does he believe that Queensland can manage without exports? The mining industry contributes approximately 48 per cent of Queensland's exports, which is an enormous amount. If the Government kills off the goose that lays the golden egg, it will be in real strife. I have great respect for the Premier; however, in some areas he is known as "Goosey". People who involve themselves totally with environmental issues at the expense of the economy will cook not only their own goose but also the goose of the Government. It is impossible to be so one-eyed in the electorate. A balance must be achieved.

Mr Randell: There must be a balance.

Mr FITZGERALD: There must be a balance.

Mr Prest: Do you mean to say there has got to be give and take?

Mr FITZGERALD: I believe that there must be a balance on the issue. When answering a question that I asked this morning, the Minister for Resource Industries revealed that he understands the problem.

The Tully/Millstream experience has demonstrated that north Queensland needs a more assured power supply. The population is growing and the tourist industry has created a demand for additional power, particularly in north Queensland. The Government must bite the bullet and say, "Yes, it will be at a cost to the environment, but only in a small area and in a small way." It must balance up the pros and cons.

Prior to the election, the Government promised to double the area of national parks in Queensland. I am not sure whether the Government honours its commitments. When it comes to toll-roads, it does not; but when it comes to other issues, it would probably like to honour its commitments. Before any land is locked into national parks, locked away from the mining industry and other industries, the community should know what has been locked up. The Government should not adopt never-never time and allow exploration companies up to 30 years of exploration before a decision is made. The position should be clearly spelt out. The companies should be invited to indicate to the Minister for Environment any areas of geological interest so that he can put them aside until studies have been carried out.

I think that there will have to be a lot of give and take between the two departments on this matter. I am not opposed to increasing the area of national parks in Queensland. In fact, I love camping, and I love to visit national parks. Every year I camp with my family. I quite enjoy the hiking. I can understand the feelings of people who enjoy that life-style. However, when it comes to the overall view, it is only fair that the value judgment should be made by the Government of the day, with all the facts before it. It is not good enough for a Government to say, "We are going to lock up large areas. Tough luck. We have made a commitment." I do not think members opposite could disagree with that argument.

I want to raise another matter that I believe has far-reaching ramifications. I refer to the fact that people often apply for registration of their particular profession in Queensland and cannot obtain it. I know that the various professional bodies guard jealously the standards that they set and that they are opposed to people with lower standards being allowed registration. However, I believe that in some instances a more sympathetic method of reviewing applications should be adopted.

What led me to raise this matter was a letter that I received from a Dr Balachandran, who is a constituent of mine. Dr Balachandran is a 64-year-old medical practitioner who received his primary qualification in Ceylon, which is now known as Sri Lanka. It could be said that that qualification does not allow him to practice medicine in Queensland. However, in 1979 the gentleman concerned received the qualification FRACOG—Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. He then went to Great Britain and in 1981 was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in that country. He practised in England for a considerable period and then came to Australia.

Dr Balachandran is a licensed medical practitioner in the State of New South Wales. He was in private practice in Guyra for 10 years, from 1978 to 1987, with appointments as visiting medical officer to the Guyra District Hospital and the Armidale and New England Hospital. So he has practised in New South Wales for 10 years as a GP. He is currently registered as a GP in New South Wales.

Dr Balachandran has moved up to Queensland because his son lives in my electorate. He says that he does not want to practise as an obstetrician or gynaecologist in Queensland but that he wants to do some GP work here. He points out that he is registered in New South Wales. Would honourable members believe it—the Queensland Medical Board will not accept him. He has spent 10 years practising as a GP in New South Wales and is currently registered in that State. He can go over the border to Wallangarra and see patients. Dr Balachandran wants to be available as a GP. He says that he still likes to do locum work a couple of days a week.

I believe that the Queensland Medical Board really has to examine this man's application and the applications of people with similar qualifications. The board says that his primary qualification is not recognised and that, therefore, he is not recognised.

Mr Beattie: That's crazy.

Mr FITZGERALD: It is crazy. I think I have made the point.

I cannot get anywhere. I contact the board and I get letters from it saying, "No", full stop. I asked the gentleman if he minded if I mentioned his name and he said, "Certainly not." He is a constituent of mine and I would do anything in my power to support him. There are instances of people whose certificates of qualification have been recognised in other States and are also recognised in Queensland. Why is not this particular person's certificate of qualification recognised in Queensland?

I was speaking earlier about mineral exploration. The mining industry is quite concerned that large areas of land will be locked up. I am aware of the debate that has raged about the Mineral Resources Bill which, I understand, has not yet been proclaimed. I understand the concern in the rural industry and in the mining industry. I was on the committee for quite some time and I understand that one will never get complete agreement between the parties. I believe that the correct way to go is to proclaim the legislation and for the Minister to use the powers that he has under it to ensure that it is fair for the graziers and the farmers and also for the mining industry.

The importance of the mining industry to this State has to be realised. Although relatively small numbers of people rely on it directly, we are all indirectly dependent on the mining industry. If we cut off our nose to spite our face, we deserve our fate. We could lie on beaches and ride surfboards every morning, but then we would have no schools and no hospitals, and we would live a very primitive existence. If that is what people want, they should say so.

I am very critical of the Federal Government over the taxation review that it has promised the Australian Petroleum Exploration Association Limited. It has procrastinated. It promised to have the review completed by February or March so that at least those who explore for petroleum products know exactly where their future lay. A very serious situation has arisen in Australia in that, because of taxation and the high cost of exploration in this country, most of the exploration companies are now moving off

shore as fast as they can. Many of them have already done so. Not only are our proven reserves depleting all the time, because we are using a high percentage of our petroleum product in Australia, but also in the very near future that product will have to be replaced with an all-imported product, unless a very vigorous exploration program can be maintained to see whether there is any more product to be found.

The industry itself is quite confident that there is more product to be found in Australia. The fact is that it is quite costly to explore in Australia. A report of the Australian Petroleum Exploration Association Limited states—

"With Australian offshore wildcat wells costing \$6 million each on average, and some costing \$20 million and more, this places Australian marine exploration in the high risk category."

We know that in the Gulf of Mexico exploration costs are extremely low. The report goes on—

"In the past two years the Australian oil search has split into two unequal parts: offshore activity has risen sharply, although it is still constrained to a few areas of known prospectivity by the resource rent tax system, but onshore activity has declined dramatically, and on present indicators is not likely to improve in the near future."

The industry has been asking the Federal Government for quite some time for a review of petroleum taxation. Quite frankly, I think that the Government has just been procrastinating. I do not think that it has seriously considered the impact on the Australian economy of the importation of a much larger percentage of the petroleum product that is required to keep the wheels of Australian industry turning. Australians should be very concerned about the Federal Government's snub to the petroleum industry, which is very sensitive to taxation measures and Government policy.

Honourable members would recall that when Whitlam came to power Australia had a very healthy prospecting industry, but it declined overnight. When Rex Connor came to power—

Mr Beattie: World prices, too.

Mr FITZGERALD: No, they went off shore. I cannot quote the figures off the top of my head, but world prices did not cause that dramatic collapse in Australia in 1972. Because of the taxation policy that Connor supported at that time, wells were drilled off shore from other countries. Eventually that situation had to be reversed.

Because of the fluctuations in world prices, the industry does go through troughs. Increased oil exploration should be occurring in Australia.

Another matter about which I feel strongly and in which the Government is being remiss is the provision of future water needs for southern Queensland, particularly the Brisbane area. This Government has made great play of the use of parliamentary committees to undertake research and to report back to Parliament so that the Government can act upon those committees.

Mr Borbidge: When it suits them.

Mr FITZGERALD: As the member for Surfers Paradise says—when it suits them.

The former Government decided to establish a Public Works Committee, which undertook quite a lot of research into whether or not that Government was correct in planning the Wolffdene dam. The committee made a positive finding. Admittedly there was a minority report. However, any person of reasonable intelligence who reads both reports and makes up his mind about which one was accurate will realise that one was politically motivated and the other was based on fact. With all due respect to the members of the committee, I believe that the report was politically motivated.

There is no doubt that the population of south-east Queensland is increasing dramatically. The *Review of the Queensland Economy*, which was released recently by the Treasurer, states—

"Between 1979-80 and 1988-89, Queensland recorded an average annual rate of population growth of 2.5%, compared with 1.5% for Australia."

The review also states—

"ABS population projections indicate that Queensland will continue to have a higher rate of population growth than Australia over the next 20-30 years.

Queensland also has a more widely dispersed population than most other States. In this regard, only 45% of Queensland's population lives in Brisbane."

Mr Borbidge: It is only four years since the Gold Coast was within 53 days of running out of water.

Mr FITZGERALD: Yes. I well remember that the Gold Coast City Council and the Albert Shire Council were considering the construction of a pipeline into northern New South Wales to overcome a water-shortage problem before the completion of Stage 2 of the Hinze Dam.

Honourable members should not forget that, prior to the 1982 Commonwealth Games, if rain had not filled up the Wivenhoe Dam a disastrous situation would have existed in which an insufficient water supply would have been available for people who visited Brisbane at that time.

How critical must the situation get before people with fuddled, muddled minds realise that a substitute for water has not yet been discovered? Although the minority report to the Parliament stated that some effluent water can be recycled, that would have very limited use. Because most people would not want to drink that water, it could be used only for industry, and the tremendous cost of locating industry near those water supplies would make that impossible.

This Government will go down in history as the Government of disaster for future planning. Whether the Government likes it or not, people are attracted to Queensland and they are continuing to come here. Population projections indicate that that trend will increase.

Page 4 of the dissenting opinion on the Wolffdene dam report states—

"Statistics can be rearranged to suit various arguments, but it has been established that the population of the Moreton and Brisbane statistical divisions is increasing rapidly with the 1986 population of 1.6 million expected to increase by 500,000 by the year 2001 and a further half a million by 2011".

How on earth could the Government accept the proposition—

Mr Palaszczuk: You've lost that one.

Mr FITZGERALD: The people of Queensland have lost the argument. For various reasons the people of Queensland voted for a change of Government. Perhaps it was the toll-road on the north coast road or another issue somewhere else. However, because of what this Government has done about planning for the future water needs of this State, particularly southern Queensland, the members of the Labor Party will owe an apology to their children and their grandchildren.

If my memory serves me correctly, the minority report went on to say that all streams in southern Queensland should be investigated so that they can be dammed if necessary. I accept that great pain would have been inflicted upon the people in the vicinity of the proposed Wolffdene dam. I felt great sympathy for those people. However, in the long term, what sort of pain will be felt by people in similar situations? Will they be marching in the streets? I remind the member for Cooroora that the people in the vicinity of the proposed Wolffdene dam organised marches and were able to put forward their message to the Parliament.

I do not accept that this Government should not have severe criticism levelled at it. The people have been sold out. For a long, long time I have been concerned about the provision of water for my area, for my farm, for the city of Toowoomba, for the electorate that I represent and for Queensland.

The minority report speaks about desalination and the fact that its cost is falling. Water cannot be obtained any more cheaply than the water that comes out of the sky. At this stage no-one can convince me that there is any scientific evidence to prove that we can live on anything else but water and that we do not need water. We do require water; that is all there is to it.

When I look at this report I am inclined to laugh, except that it is so damned serious when the Minister for Primary Industries states—

"I have further instructed the Water Resources Commission to instigate new studies into the water needs of south-eastern Queensland and to review all potential alternative sources including storages, groundwater, waste water reuse, demand management and desalination."

What can be done?

Further in the report the Minister states—

"I expect this review to be completed during the latter half of this year."

What will the Minister do if the review determines that we need water? I suggest that the Minister and the Government should have put Wolffdene dam on hold until the review was undertaken. I think that could have easily been done. Then a value judgment could have been made on whether the previous Government was correct or not. I believe that this Government's decision to discontinue the Wolffdene dam project is an absolute disaster for Queensland. I know that many members opposite will not be here when the chickens come home to roost, because I have a feeling in my bones that people will wake up to the Government's economic management ability. One has only to look at the front bench of the Government, starting with the Treasurer, and ask, "How long will this crew last?"

I will admit that the environment is becoming important when people are making up their minds about who they intend to vote for. I believe that over a long time the Nationals have been portrayed as being bulldozer experts who ravage the environment—"Chop everything down. If it moves, shoot it." I know the quotations. Some people actually believe that. Members opposite do not realise that all of us have children.

Mr Randell: Didn't the member for Cooroora say that the young backbenchers would make the old members move over?

Mr FITZGERALD: I will take that point. I can understand the ambitions and the enthusiasm of the young brigade that has come here. It has already served notice on the old-timers in the place to move aside; the new brigade has arrived. It has told Mr Prest and Mr Palaszczuk to move out. I can understand that it is healthy for a debate to have input from people who are idealists, and I know that idealists are generally a sign of youth. I know that when some people become a bit older, cynicism becomes the preoccupying force that drives them. They become real cynics. People move from one phase to the other. They start off being idealists and then turn into old cynics.

I can assure honourable members opposite that, unless the Government gives major consideration to economic management, we will all be left not only in the dark but also without water.

I want to make a few more comments about the Government sticking to its election promises. The Government has reversed its decision on Fraser Island. What was its promise about Fraser Island before the election? It depended on whether Mr Dollin was making the promise, whether Mr Comben was making the promise or whether—

Mr Borbidge: Mr Goss.

Mr FITZGERALD: Or whether Mr Goss was making the promise, or whether——

Mr Borbidge: Mr Burns.

Mr FITZGERALD: Or whether Mr Burns was making the promise. I am not sure who the spokesman for the Opposition at that time was. They all made different statements.

After the election, what did the Government say about Fraser Island? It said that it would send Fitzgerald up there to carry out an inquiry. It would put a cloak and a wig on a gentleman who is so well respected in the community and send him up there so that he can take all of the politics out of the Fraser Island issue, because it is a bit of a political hot potato—and I mean with the wig on top of the head, not under the chin. Therefore, under this cloak of judicial propriety and respectability, Mr Fitzgerald can make a finding that will save the Government's skin. No matter what the finding, everyone will have to accept it. The Government can change its decision. About four different promises were made in relation to Fraser Island. I think that at present only one has been broken, or maybe even the whole lot of them have been broken.

The Government changed its commitment in relation to the Sunshine Motorway toll-road. It did not change its decision in relation to Wolffdene dam. I am not sure whether the Government has changed its mind about the Government jet. Has it been sold yet? Because so many strings have been attached to the sale of that jet, I doubt that it would get off the ground. Whoever buys it will find that, because there are so many strings attached to the sale, it will not even be able to roll down the runway; it is tied to the ground. Talk about a joke! The people of Queensland just laugh. They say that if the Government intends to sell the jet, it should send it over to the United States. If the jet is needed here for the retrieval of medical spare parts for people—and honourable members opposite should remember that it could be their child or one of their constituents who needs to receive a liver transplant—and if the decision is made that this medical practice will continue in Queensland, the first question that has to be asked is: do we need the jet?

The Government has to ask: is that the only way in which to retrieve those organs? Then it has to ask: is there any alternative? After that, it has to ask: do we need the jet or not? If the Government needs the jet, it keeps it. If it does not want the jet, it should sell it to the highest bidder and it should not con the people that it will be sold with all these strings attached to the sale.

When it wants to, the Government breaks promises one after another. The Government does not want to be committed to the promises that it made to the people of Queensland. I think that the Government was elected on very, very shaky grounds. When the next election is held, it will be judged on whether it honoured those promises.

Another issue that must be considered is the need for waterfront reform. On a number of occasions in this House I have spoken about this matter. On 8 August 1989, I spoke on waterfront reform. In his maiden speech the honourable member for Moggill also made reference to the subject of waterfront reform.

I will review those figures again as they highlight that the average Australian wharfie loaded 9.7 to 10 containers per hour; New Zealand wharfies, 22 containers per hour; European wharfies, between 25 and 28 containers per hour; and Asian wharfies loaded at least 30, and up to 50, per hour. The point I am making is that the containers, the gear, the cranes and the ships are the same.

Mr Welford: Was that in the same year?

Mr FITZGERALD: It was in the same year. It is just not good enough.

If the waterfront industry is not efficient, what will the Government do about it? It will have a review. The Federal Government conducted a review of the waterfront. What happened in this State? This Government sacked members of the board. If that

is the way the Government intends to reform the waterfront, it will certainly be re-formed.

Mr Borbidge: The wharfies federation gave \$50,000 to the Labor Party.

Mr FITZGERALD: If that is not a conflict of interest, I do not know what is. In the near future the Opposition may need to concentrate on that to ascertain whether strings were attached to that donation.

It is criminal for the main arteries of our import and export industries, which use the waterfront, to be choked and clogged. The calluses are beginning to appear. Australian industries are being bled white by this group. The average age of wharfies is between 50 and 55 years. I do not want to attack wharfies. The problems could easily be the fault of management. If the structure is faulty, the system needs to be changed. The waterfront needs to be more efficient. I do not know personally those who work on the waterfront; I am not from a waterfront area. However, I know that something is wrong with the system because the figures spell it out.

This Government has to do something about the problems on the waterfront. Industry should be assisted to develop export markets. Government initiatives do exist and this Government has stated an intention to concentrate more on Asian markets. A review of this country's exports shows that the bulk go to Asia. Asian markets play a prominent part in the export statistics. Our industries need to be reliable suppliers to those markets.

Why should it cost between \$14 and \$20 a tonne to export scrap metal through the port of Brisbane? In some other countries that cost is under \$2. The honourable member for Moggill earlier referred to those figures. I cannot understand what lies behind them, and I want some answers.

It is with pleasure that I speak in this Parliament and take the opportunity to raise various issues. It is not often that one has the opportunity to cover a wide range of topics. I thank the people of my electorate for the confidence that they have placed in me to represent them for the term of this Parliament. I am greatly honoured to do so. I look forward to working hard not only for my constituents but for all the people of Queensland. I assure them that, as a member of the Opposition, I shall vigorously support the Government on issues that I believe deserve support. However, I shall convey to my electors the shortcomings of this Government; at present, I am afraid that those shortcomings are many and manifest.

Debate, on motion of Mr Mackenroth, adjourned.

The House adjourned at 4.19 p.m.