



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## THURSDAY, 31 MAY 2012

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Madam Speaker (Hon. Fiona Simpson, Maroochydore) read prayers and took the chair.

### PETITION

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, lodged by the honourable member indicated—

#### Nambour Hospital, Car Park

**Mr Wellington**, from 90 petitioners, requesting the House to build a multi-storey car parking facility for workers, patients, families of patients and visitors at the Nambour Hospital [204].

Petition received.

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

#### Urban Land Development Authority




**Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.32 am): I am pleased to report that my government is well on its way to delivering on its responsibilities as part of its 100-day action plan. This government believes that it is important to shift power back to local government and, where appropriate, give this important tier of government the autonomy to make decisions for their communities. This is about empowering local governments to make local planning decisions. If Queensland's planning system worked well there would not be a need for an Urban Land Development Authority. The ULDA is symptomatic of a system that has failed Queenslanders, and it is the system of the Australian Labor Party.

I am therefore happy to inform the House that the Urban Land Development Authority board will delegate its development assessment functions to councils. The Deputy Premier is progressing that initiative. Section 136 of the ULDA act allows the ULDA to delegate its functions to the chief executive officer or an appropriately qualified officer of a local government. I will stop right there and point out that this is the Labor Party's odious legislation. Let me read it again: it allows the ULDA to delegate to a CEO—not to the council, not to the democratically elected leaders of a local community, but to a public servant who should be working for the democratically elected leaders. Nevertheless, that is the legislation at the current time. But it does allow for that. We will use the current legislation as an interim measure and roll out a delegation to 17 urban development areas that currently exist across Queensland. This is, of course, subject to each council's willingness to take on that responsibility. The Brisbane UDAs of Fitzgibbon, Northshore Hamilton, Bowen Hills and Woolloongabba will be the first to be transferred. Councils will need to perform to the same standards and timeframes that the ULDA has to ensure the delegations continue.

The Deputy Premier's department will provide support, direction and assistance to smaller councils and those under resource development pressure in integrating UDAs into their planning programs. The delegations will apply to new development applications to avoid disruption to existing applicants and landowners. I would like to assure all property owners within existing UDAs that they will not be adversely affected by this decision; it is business as usual. We will also engage with affected landowners during the transitional process. Work to officially delegate the development assessment powers is already happening. The Deputy Premier's department is working closely with the ULDA and local governments to ensure that this transition is achieved smoothly and as quickly as possible. It is part of the process in the Deputy Premier's department to consider the long-term role and functions of the ULDA. This might mean that in the longer term the transfer of powers may become broader and require legislative amendment. I have foreshadowed that issue about delegation. Using the clause in the act of delegation means newly elected mayors and councils can get on with the job of planning their local communities, which is exactly what they were elected to do.

This is a good and quick first step and key in the state government's agenda to create a more efficient planning and development assessment system. It is important that councils have stronger input into planning decisions because they know their local communities best and they will make more effective decisions with these powers. What a contrast it is to the Labor Party's centralist, we-know-best-here-in-George-Street approach. This state government continues to deliver on its promise to empower local government to better plan for the future growth of their own communities as part of the government's plan to get Queensland back on track.


### Abbot Point, Infrastructure

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.36 am): Labor made a complete mess of building infrastructure in Queensland and the lack of any real progress at Abbot Point is an example of that failure. The LNP government has taken decisive action to end uncertainty over the proposed expansion of the Abbot Point coal port. It was becoming abundantly clear that industry was not supportive of the multicargo facility and the continued development of the T4 to T9 terminals in the form put forward by the previous Labor government. As a government we have a responsibility to ensure that any plans for the port at Abbot Point are deliverable and take into consideration the short- and long-term needs of industry. Our government, therefore, believes that it can no longer support the continued development of the multicargo facility and T4 to T9 proposals. Instead, our government will involve the industry in developing plans and proposals to build the capacity of Abbot Point in a more measured way and intends to do so in a manner that provides greater development certainty and better process control going forward.

The government appreciates that many companies will have made varying levels of commitment to North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation and that those commitments will need to be considered in detail by all parties in planning a better way forward. The government is confident, however, that a measured, incremental, staged approach to development at Abbot Point will provide a better growth solution to Bowen and Galilee basin miners and see more coal exported sooner for the benefit of all Queenslanders. The port of Abbot Point is a very important strategic asset for the state and its successful future expansion will play a key role in Queensland's economic development.

The proposals outlined by the failed Bligh Labor government were simply unrealistic and not deliverable. They were never going to become a reality. Our approach to expansion of infrastructure at Abbot Point is more practical, more realistic, more sensible and more deliverable. We will be working hard to obtain the remaining approvals so that we can proceed quickly with the T0, T2 and T3 terminals and will discuss with industry what additional capacity is needed at Abbot Point beyond that. These three new terminals will provide something like 160 million tonnes of export capacity—still a huge increase on Queensland's current export capacity which is around 200 million tonnes. A practical and commonsense approach will be one of the hallmarks of this government as we work with industry to build the necessary infrastructure to ensure Queensland's economic future in a responsible, measured way.

### Carbon Tax

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): From 1 July this year the impacts of a devastating new tax will be felt by Queensland businesses and Queensland families. Of course, I am talking about the federal Gillard government's new carbon tax, a tax supported by the last state Labor government at every stage of the debate. This toxic carbon tax will harm Queensland's economic growth, reduce standards of living for everyday Queenslanders, increase electricity prices and significantly harm our state budget to the tune of up to \$1.2 billion over the next four years. Next year our state government expenses will rise by \$148 million as a result of Labor's carbon tax.

**Mr Newman:** What about the councils?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I hear the Premier say, 'What about the councils?' I have more bad news that I will get to directly, because I have not finished talking about the impact on our state's finances. Next financial year it will be \$148 million, rising to almost \$200 million by 2015-16. So \$200 million that could have been spent on delivering front-line services will now be paid to Canberra.

Queensland government owned corporations will be forced to pay about \$700 million to \$750 million in carbon tax costs and this tax will hit businesses, particularly in the resource sector, as well as a number of local councils. Stanwell Corporation will be the hardest hit with an estimated total carbon cost of \$389 million. CS Energy will be slugged about \$225 million and OzGen Holdings Australia will be hit to the tune of approximately \$230 million. As many as 108 companies in Queensland will be affected by this insidious new Labor tax. Unlike Victoria, which receives compensation from the Commonwealth for its dirty polluting brown-coal electricity generators, Queensland receives not one cent from the Gillard Labor government. We are taking the pain of the increased cost, the increased price and the increased expenses, but not one cent of compensation is received by the state of Queensland. For Ergon Energy and Energex, the full cost will be passed on to Queensland families and businesses already doing it tough under a broke federal Labor government.

The LNP government realises that when the Brisbane City Council is asked to fork out about \$6.5 million under this tax, Brisbane ratepayers will be worse off and the same can be said for those living in the Maranoa Regional Council area and the Gladstone Regional Council area. This tax will have a more pronounced effect in Queensland than in any other state in Australia. Modelling by Queensland Treasury and Deloitte Access Economics, which uses the Commonwealth government's own


assumptions, found that under the carbon tax Queensland's gross state product can take a hit of up to \$9.6 billion in the decade out to 2020. By 2020 up to 21,000 jobs could be lost and average real wages could be reduced by up to \$2,940 a year. Those are real facts that are impacting on families and businesses throughout Queensland.

In this state we rely on cheap energy. Our manufacturing sector relies on it, our construction sector relies on it, our tourism sector relies on it and our agricultural sector relies on it. It is our one great advantage in the world, but what is happening to it? At a time when things are tough, when those businesses need support to grow, what is the Gillard Labor government doing? It is making it more expensive and putting a whopping new big tax on it. It is being taxed in an uncertain world where global markets face even more turmoil.

It will not be just the big end of town that will cop it; everyday Queenslanders will find the cost of utilities like electricity going up or they will find their job in a trade exposed industry threatened. The plain and simple fact is that Queenslanders would have received a reduction in their electricity bills this year had it not been for the carbon tax. This carbon tax is being introduced at a time when Queensland families and businesses are already suffering cost-of-living pressures that skyrocketed under the former Labor government.

The LNP government has already started delivering relief with the introduction of the Treasury (Cost of Living) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which members of the opposition shamefully tried to delay. Federal Labor seems determined to make things harder for Queenslanders by introducing the carbon tax—a tax cheered on by every single state and federal Labor member of parliament, a tax that the opposition leader sat around the cabinet table and supported. When it comes to dealing with the cost of living and standing up for Queenslanders, only the LNP will do what it takes.

### Queensland Health, Payroll System

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (9.44 am): This House knows the financial pain caused by the faulty Queensland Health payroll system installed in March 2010 by the former Labor government. Front-line nurses and clinicians bear this pain. They have had to explain payroll failures to their creditors. Now, many must make repayments for random allocations that were never sought but were made regardless. Queenslanders are angry about this. Labor commissioned the payroll replacement without due diligence. The legal loopholes they opened engulfed tens of thousands of our most valuable, hardest working employees. The financial cost has passed half a billion dollars. Few Queenslanders accept that the government, with all its legal resources, had no remedy. Few would believe that a responsible government could stand by while hundreds of millions of taxpayers' dollars walked out the door. It is more than two years since the payroll went live. Even now Queenslanders expect law suits. They cannot believe so much pain could be caused without some clear evidence of bad faith somewhere in the process.


With this in mind, last Thursday I asked my director-general whether legal advice was ever commissioned on the question of culpability for this mess. The answer was yes. I then instructed my department to track it down. Today, I have information that a former division of the department of public works sought advice from the prominent law firm then known as Mallesons Stephen Jaques in May 2010, a few weeks after the pay system went live. At my request, the law firm was approached for information, but, of course, its advice is privileged to its clients.

At least the client formally known as CorpTech confirmed two things. First, the legal advice does actually exist and, second, access to it is denied because the former minister for public works took that taxpayer funded legal advice to cabinet. This vital information is now a privileged cabinet document and it will remain secret for 20 years unless released by the Leader of the Opposition. Three weeks ago, when I called on the Leader of the Opposition to release all Labor's hidden cabinet documents, she said, 'He has a large team of bureaucrats at his disposal with all the information he needs.' Wrong! Information is missing and it is missing because the opposition leader keeps it hidden.

What we are discussing is legal advice that is now impossible to replicate because of the passage of time. Whatever that advice says, it is a fact that Labor did absolutely nothing to sue the payroll implementation partners or anyone else. Denied that advice we can only speculate that grounds for a legal challenge were presented. We can speculate that they were ignored because of likely damage to the reputations of Paul Lucas and Robert Schwarten. We can speculate that the Labor government had other dealings with the managing contractor that may have been compromised through recourse to the law. Incompetence in Queensland government agencies themselves may have rendered the proposed action untenable.

However, that valuable advice remains hidden away. Like the hundreds of millions of dollars invested in the payroll system, it was wasted by Labor. That advice may still provide the case for a successful challenge or it may not. All we do know is that the one person who can authorise its release is here in the chamber today. The opposition leader is the one person who can authorise the release and she should do it today to clear up this sorry saga once and for all.

### Leeding, Mr D

 **Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (9.49 am): This week marks the first anniversary of the brutal murder of Senior Constable Damian Leeding. I would like to thank all members for wearing ties and scarves to commemorate this tragic event. I would also like to thank the good member for Coomera for organising the commemorations here in parliament.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr DEMPSEY:** Senior Constable Leeding was gunned down on 29 May last year when he went to investigate an attempted armed robbery at the Pacific Pines Tavern. The commemorations began on Tuesday, with a golf day at Palm Meadows to raise funds for Queensland Police Legacy. Tomorrow, Friday—the anniversary of Senior Constable Leeding's death at the Gold Coast Hospital—a memorial service will be held at Damian Leeding Memorial Park at Coomera.

It is a suitable time to reflect on all the police officers who daily put their lives on the line in the fight against crime. It is a fight we in the LNP are determined to win. We have been waging war on crime on several fronts and I would like to provide an update on some of our successes to date. However, I acknowledge that there is still much hard work to be done, but we have the team to ensure those achievements.

The successful conclusion of Task Force Perpetual has brought an end to a spate of ram-raid robberies and burglaries across the state. A total of 57 people have now been arrested on 362 charges, with police noticing a drop in break-and-enter and burglary offences in targeted areas across the south-east. Acting Detective Chief Superintendent Darryl Johnson, State Crime Operations Command, brought together officers from all across the state to investigate 190 burglary, break-and-enter, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, stealing, armed robbery and evade police offences. I want to congratulate everyone involved in this operation, which again shows coordinated policing at its best.

This successful operation comes shortly after police on the Sunshine Coast also recorded great success in dealing with offenders in that area. The police operation, named Juliet Stilton, saw 22 people arrested on 70 charges. It was the culmination of months of hard work by the Sunshine Coast Drug Enforcement Team. Arrests stretched from Caloundra to Maleny and north to Noosa. Ten of those arrested are accused of trafficking amphetamines and marijuana. Detective Inspector Dave Drinnen's team seized more than \$200,000 worth of drugs.


The success of this operation means drug networks on the Sunshine Coast have been severely impacted, and this is very good news for all Queenslanders, particularly young Queenslanders. But it is on the Gold Coast that we have been concentrating our efforts in the war against organised crime. The QPS has put an extra 20 detectives into the battle against criminals and illegal bikie gangs and operations at a cost of \$750,000. At least 100 of the 1,100 new police promised by the LNP will go to the Gold Coast and Logan areas.

Our Serious and Violent Crime Squad is making life tough for criminals on the Gold Coast, and Task Force Hydra has made a number of significant arrests in the battle against illegal bikie gangs and operations. The Serious and Violent Crime Squad was formed in the wake of Senior Constable Leeding's murder. In the seven months since the squad was formed its officers have arrested 84 people on 308 charges. These officers, under Detective Inspector Scott Knowles, all go above and beyond the call of duty and are to be congratulated for their successes.

But crime, as everyone knows, knows no boundaries. I have been working with my counterparts interstate, Customs and the federal government to explore new ways of cooperation. We want to make sure—and this is quite simple—that organised criminals, drug runners and those who trade in illegal firearms have nowhere to hide. This will be a major theme when police ministers from across the country meet next month.

All of these activities go to prove how determined we are to crack down on crime wherever we find it in Queensland. The public have told us that they expect nothing less and we are determined not to let them down. Again, we spell it out loud and clear: the easy days for criminals in Queensland are over.

### Public Transport

 **Hon. SA EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.53 am): The LNP Newman government will be a passenger focused government and will take steps to encourage people back onto public transport. From next month Queensland Rail will publish a list of maintenance track closures over the next 12 to 18 months for event goers, whether they are football fans, music lovers or show goers. Queensland Rail will consult with event organisers to ensure that organisers can plan their events around track closures and, if changes are necessary, this can be done well before there is any cost to taxpayers.


There will be a passenger friendly and community focused approach that was sadly lacking under Labor. Why are we doing this? On 17 May I advised the House that in January, under the former minister for transport and current Leader of the Opposition, a track closure was scheduled to coincide with the Ipswich show. I can advise the House that also under the previous minister track closures were scheduled between Toombul and Gympie North and between Toombul and Shorncliffe on the same weekend as the Caboolture Show this year, from 9 to 11 June. The cost of cancelling the closure of the Caboolture line at this late stage would be in excess of \$3 million. When you are heading towards \$85 billion in debt and having to pay \$100 million a week in interest, that is a cost we cannot afford. But I have been assured that Queensland Rail has met with the Caboolture Show Society chairman, Max Herschell, and is working with the society and TransLink to ensure that there are adequate bus services to the showground.

Looking further ahead, the Ipswich line between Corinda and Rosewood was to be closed from 4 to 5 August. V8 Supercars fans in the chamber might think that these dates sound familiar. That is because there is a race on at Willowbank that weekend. With the public outrage that we saw two years when the Labor government did the exact same thing, you would think—

**Mr Newman:** Who was the goose who did that?

**Mr EMERSON:** Well you would think, Premier, that they would have learned their lesson. Once again, this closure was scheduled while the Leader of the Opposition was the minister for transport. I have asked Queensland Rail for the closure on the Ipswich line to be rescheduled to a more appropriate time. Contrast this with the Leader of the Opposition, who is happy to leave race fans stuck in pit lane. I have made it very clear to Queensland Rail that the LNP government will be a passenger focused government, and that means better coordination of track closures with weekend social events.

### Queensland Government Estate

 **Hon. SL DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (9.56 am): Queensland is the lucky state. We have a diverse range of natural beauty, valuable resources and viable land at our back doorstep, but many Queenslanders have either barely glimpsed their own backyard or, worse, never seen it at all.

The message from the previous government to Queenslanders, tourists and businesses has been that it is all locked away—you are not allowed to go there. Under this government the message is loud and clear: our state is magnificent, we want you to see it, we want it to be used for the benefit of all Queenslanders. A sizeable portion of our state comprises Queensland government estate and it belongs to all Queenslanders. There are over 12 million hectares of terrestrial estate and 72,000 square kilometres of marine park waiting to be realised.

Access to public land can mean many different things to an array of different people and groups. Moving forward in this government we will work with those at the coalface to define access to Queensland government estate. We will deliver it in a manner consistent with the promises made by this government to grow our four-pillar economy. To support the definition, as the government we will honestly assess the definition and the attributes of the current tenure classifications espoused by the Nature Conservation Act and the manner in which they are utilised. We need to ensure that land that is part of the government estate is classified appropriately so that we are not locking away useable land just because the default option is the easiest one.

We need to ensure that we are managing land in a way that interacts positively with modern realities. There is no doubt that there are many areas of Queensland that have high conservation values, and some of them are already recognised as great icons in this state. We will continue to respect and preserve the spaces to conserve our state's natural beauty for future generations. We will do this by ensuring the higher protection tenure classifications afforded under the Nature Conservation Act and World Heritage protection are used appropriately.

Public land is for public use. Queenslanders are entitled to use the land and they are entitled to derive a benefit from it. As a government, we need to ensure that we can be flexible with public land. We need to strike a balance of the objectives of different stakeholders and give paramount consideration to the benefits to be reaped for all Queenslanders.

Inaction, mismanagement and exclusionary attitudes taken by the previous government towards government estates allowed its potential to wither away. We will not sit idly while our state suffers as a result. We will take action. The possibilities and potential of our public land at this time are a wealth yet to be realised, but they will be realised under this Newman government.

## STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

### Report

**Mr MALONE** (Mirani—LNP) (10.00 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 1 of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee. This report examined subordinate legislation No. 225, the Water Resource (Cooper Creek) Plan 2011. The subordinate legislation has a disallowance date of 6 June 2012. Although the committee identified an issue relating to the possible retrospective operation of clause 14 of the plan, the committee found that the objectives of the plan outweigh this concern. Therefore, the committee is satisfied that the plan is lawful and within the scope of the power. I commend the report to the House.

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 1—Subordinate legislation tabled on 15 November 2011 [205].

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### School Group Tours

**Madam SPEAKER:** Today we will be visited by Oxenford State School represented by the member for Albert.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### National Disability Insurance Scheme

**Ms PALASZCZUK** (10.01 am): My question without notice is to the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. Will the minister please explain the difference between the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the National Injury Insurance Scheme and how each will assist people with a disability in Queensland as well as their family and carers?

**Ms DAVIS:** I thank the honourable member for her question. I think it is an interesting question because last week on her whirlwind tour of Toowoomba where she was out listening to people—which is probably an interesting new concept to your government—

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, I ask you to refer comments through the chair and refrain from using the term 'you'.

**Ms DAVIS:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. During that trip the Leader of the Opposition could not tell the difference between the NIIS and the NDIS to the media. For the benefit of the chamber, I will outline the differences between the two schemes. They are not aligned with each other, although they were both talked about in the Productivity Commissioner's report.

The NIIS is an insurance scheme. It is for individuals who require lifetime care as a result of a catastrophic injury, whereas the NDIS, to quote from the Productivity Commissioner, is to provide an insurance cover for all Australians in the event of a significant disability. There is much talk in the disability sector about the NDIS. The Newman government has always supported in principle an NDIS, but the federal government has stumped up no cash in any meaningful way for this scheme. The Productivity Commissioner's report clearly indicates that the federal government is the level of government that needs to pay for an NDIS. We have seen nothing on the table that gives us any indication of how they are going to—

**Mr Bleijie:** False hope.

**Ms DAVIS:** I take that interjection from the Attorney-General. They are giving Queenslanders, the most vulnerable people in our community, false hope and an expectation that they will deliver a scheme but it is underfunded and undercooked. We have been presented with nothing at all that gives us any indication of how we need to move forward on this very important matter to people with a disability.

### National Disability Insurance Scheme

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. I refer the minister to her comments earlier this month that a National Disability Insurance Scheme was not a priority. If helping people with a disability is not a priority for the minister, then what is?

**Ms DAVIS:** I thank the honourable member for her question. I am pleased that the honourable member takes all of her information from our media outlets. I did not at all say that we would not be supporting an NIIS. What I said was that we have some priorities as a government to deliver services to the disability sector. For the benefit of members I will remind the House of the things that the Newman



government is looking to deliver for people with a disability. We have \$22 million over four years for extra respite hours for people with high needs between the ages of 16 and 25 and that will help them with more flexible arrangements. I am sure members in the House would have been approached by people with a disability or their families and carers about the lack of flexibility in the system provided by the former Labor government.

We have \$4 million over four years to establish ParentConnect to assist parents with newborns with a disability to navigate the mire, which can be going through the system with the department. We can be there to help them because it is a very difficult time when you find the child that you had aspirations for now has extra challenges in its life with disability. That will top up the \$92 million that we have going towards the mums and bubs program, which has been very well received in the community.

We are working with the Attorney-General on the re-establishment of the independent Public Advocate. That is a \$3.2 million investment—again, well received by the sector. But it does not stop there. We have \$9.5 million through the department of education for additional speech therapists who will help children with a disability, particularly those with autism and cerebral palsy. We are absolutely delighted to outline those priorities that we have. We will be considering an NDIS when the federal government stumps up the money for it and an NIIS when we have a proposal that is worthy of looking at.

### Electricity Prices

**Mr HATHAWAY:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Given the former Labor government promised Queenslanders in 2004 that electricity tariffs would only rise in line with inflation and then in 2005 they promised savings of \$150 a year on power bills, can the Premier advise what has been the real cost to Queenslanders of the previous government?

**Mr NEWMAN:** I thank the honourable member for his question. Under Labor, electricity costs had been allowed to spiral out of control. Before I talk about that, let us see what the Labor Party said about it. Back in 2005 Peter Beattie said, 'Here in this place we can guarantee no-one will pay any more.' The then Deputy Premier, Anna Bligh, said, 'Most importantly it does not matter where you live. Nobody, not one Queensland, will be worse off under the government's proposal.'

Hands up if you are worse off? I know we have been. In the *Townsville Bulletin* on 10 May 2007, Acting Premier Anna Bligh described the 10 per cent electricity price hike as a slight increase despite price rises having been previously capped at the rate of the consumer price index. It goes on and on and on.

What has happened here and what are we going to do about it? We said yesterday that this government is not prepared to stand by and accept that electricity prices should go through the roof. Labor guaranteed that no-one would be paying more when full retail competition came into effect in 2007. But what happened is that prices went up by 60 per cent since they made their statements in 2005. We have seen record dividends from government owned corporations. They were sucking the money out and as a result the GOCs are burdened with a huge amount of GOC debt. There has been a 20 per cent blow-out in GOC debt in the last five years.

We want Queensland to be the most attractive place in Australia to do business. We want low taxes and charges. We want minimal red tape, and electricity costs are a key pricing input decision when people are considering business decisions such as what will happen when the carbon tax comes in. We are not going to lie down and accept that electricity prices will go up. We have to deal with a whole lot of legacy issues that we have inherited from Labor, but I assure honourable members that the things the member talked about yesterday will be implemented. We will make no apologies for relentlessly driving costs down in our electricity GOCs and ensuring we take pressure off electricity prices to the fullest possible extent.

That is why the government has already acted to immediately freeze the standard domestic tariff—tariff 11—for 2012-13 to address soaring electricity bills and to provide that cost-of-living relief. The more that we do and the harder that we work, the better we can deliver for Queenslanders. But, again, we will not lie down and just accept that electricity prices should inevitably go up by 10, 12, 13 or 14 per cent—as these people in front of me did under their supposed leadership.

### Autism

**Mr MULHERIN:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. I refer the minister to her statement on 12 April 2012 that regional Queensland was a priority for her. Will the minister please update the House about the progress on the \$1.4 million autism early intervention centre in Mackay?

**Ms DAVIS:** I thank the honourable member for his question. I will have to take some of that on notice as to where we are up to exactly on that, but it gives me an opportunity to talk about the great work that AEIOU and Autism Queensland do in support of young people with autism. I had the very great opportunity of going out and visiting the Nathan campus for AEIOU and I had a great time talking to both—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! I warn members on my right and on my left.

**Ms DAVIS:** As I was saying, AEIOU have locations around Queensland and I had the opportunity to visit the one in Brisbane. They offer a wonderful program to young people with profound autism that puts in place early intervention strategies so that those young people can move into mainstream school. They do fantastic work, and the parents are very positive and very involved in the education of their children. This government is interested in all disability types, including autism, and we will continue to work hard with the sector to get the best possible outcomes for people with a disability, their families and their carers.

**Mr Mulherin:** Madam Speaker—

**Madam SPEAKER:** Do you have a point of order?

**Mr Mulherin:** When will the minister get back?

**Madam SPEAKER:** That is not a point of order.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! I have warned members on my right and on my left.

### **Urban Land Development Authority**

**Mr JOHNSON:** My question is to the honourable the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. I refer to the Premier's statement this morning. Can the Deputy Premier explain what role the ULDA will have in solving the housing crisis left to the people of Central Queensland in mining towns like Blackwater, Moranbah and Emerald by the failed former Labor government?

**Mr SEENEY:** I really do thank the member for Gregory for this question because it is a question about an issue that is important to him, to me and to other members who represent electorates in Central Queensland. Right across those communities, we live with the evidence of the failure of the former Labor government to do anything in regard to planning for the impacts of the resources boom that was so important to every Queenslanders. That government has long gone, but the evidence of their failure is there every time the member for Gregory and I visit some of those communities. In places like those he mentioned—such as Moranbah, Blackwater and Emerald—there is a pressing need to do something about the housing crisis. The accommodation crisis has effectively meant that the local community and the country town that existed there has been smothered and taken over as a mining camp. This has happened because the planning was not done and the accommodation infrastructure was not provided in a way that would have protected the community and ensured that the resources industry could function in the way that it should.

As the Premier indicated this morning, the ULDA is itself a symptom of the failure of the previous government. We have begun the process of unpacking the ULDA and delegating those powers to the large urban local governments here in the south-east of the state. In those areas that the member for Gregory referred to, the ULDA has also been given a role but that role is going to be taken into the department. The Premier indicated that legislation will be necessary to complete this unpacking of the ULDA. As part of that legislative program, we will ensure that the powers the ULDA currently exercises—and not very well, I would suggest, in those places—are taken into the department and a discrete unit is formed within the department of state development to address these issues.

This is an issue of state development; it is an issue of regional development. This issue is important to country towns and country people. We need to make sure that our communities continue to function as communities. I agree with some of the statements I have heard the member for Gregory make—that country towns and country communities are about families and not about mining towns and that the two should be kept separate and distinct. We are going to make sure that we build good mining camps that can provide the accommodation that the resources industry needs and that we build good country communities that can function as communities and provide attractive places for families to live and grow. If we do that, it will provide a great outcome for regional Queensland.

As members who represent regional Queensland, the member for Gregory and I are determined to provide an outcome to this issue. This issue is just yet one more failing of the previous Labor government. They had no idea about country towns and country people and no idea about how to plan for their future.

### National Disability Insurance Scheme

**Mr PITT:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. I refer the minister to the benefits flowing to carers from the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the spokesperson's statements reported in the *Sunday Mail* on 27 May that funding for carers was a Commonwealth issue. Does the minister support the view that carers deserve the respect of our community and should be supported within their community by all levels of government, institutions and organisations?

**Mr STEVENS:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Speaker. The Manager of Opposition Business has asked for an opinion which is expressly prohibited under standing order 115.

**Mr Pitt:** Madam Speaker, that is untrue. I have actually asked, 'Does the minister support the view?'

**Mr Seeney:** You've got to rise on a point of order if you want to speak. You say, 'Madam Speaker, I rise on a point of order.'

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr Seeney:** You should have watched me a bit more closely.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order on my right and on my left. I will remind members that I am in the chair and I do not need the assistance of members in regard to my rulings. I would ask the member to make it clear whether he is bringing a point of order and under what provisions.

**Mr PITT:** Point of order, Madam Speaker. I do not think you have dealt with the first point of order.

### Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

**Madam SPEAKER:** I will make a ruling in respect of the question. The question is asking for an opinion and I rule the question out of order.

**Mr PITT:** Point of order, Madam Speaker. The question says, 'Does the minister support the view that the carers deserve this?' That is not asking for an opinion. I have not asked her for an opinion.

**Madam SPEAKER:** I have ruled the question out of order. If the member is seeking to dissent from my ruling, there are procedures to do so.

### Election, Costings

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question without notice is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade. Can the Treasurer inform the House of the different approaches to election commitments and the costing of election commitments at the most recent state election?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** What an unexpected yet pleasurable question from the member for Chatsworth, who I know took a vital interest in the election costings of both the LNP—which was the then opposition seeking to become the government—and the then government. I know that because I had the good fortune to go out there and launch the member for Chatsworth's campaign. I am very pleased to see him in the House today. I must say that the quality of representation in Chatsworth has improved immeasurably since the member came in, as it has in fact in many seats—I think 48 seats—across Queensland.

The issue of the different approaches to costing is of course of vital importance, because earlier this week I heard the Leader of the Opposition make reference to some activities that were going on with the independent Commission of Audit. In fact, she released a media statement in which she said that Mr Costello, who is chairing the Commission of Audit, should meet with Queensland Treasury Corporation head Gerard Bradley to discuss the previous government's financial strategy that would have delivered a surplus in 2014-15. Well, there you have it—the previous government's financial strategy! We never heard those words go together too often when the previous government was in power.

During the course of the election campaign we provided a fully costed document, but early on in the campaign a briefing was provided to both the then opposition and the then government about some extra money that was expected to come through the GST—about \$480-odd million. I presume each side received the same advice about what should be done with that money, and the conservative, fiscally responsible thing to do with that GST money—that extra money, that windfall coming through—was to allow it to flow through to the bottom line of the budget and then through to reduce the deficit and then through to reduce the borrowings. That was the financial strategy that the LNP took. But what was the financial strategy of the Labor Party? Members will not be surprised to know that the financial strategy of the Labor Party was to spend it, and away it went! Those opposite said, 'Here it is—for Queenslanders. We're going to throw away another \$430 million!'

People will know that we went to the election with a fully funded 26-page costing strategy and our friends across the road there turned up with a whole two pages. That was the difference between the financial strategy of the LNP and the Labor Party across the road. When I hear or read something from the Leader of the Opposition asking why we are not talking about their financial strategy to get back to a surplus and I look at the facts, I say no-one in their right mind would talk to the Labor Party about any financial strategy if they want to have money in the bank and make a profit. The Labor financial strategy is debt, deficit, taxes and more waste!

### **Sisters Inside, Funding**

**Mrs SCOTT:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. I refer the minister to the story of Renee, whose life was turned around because of the support she received from Sisters Inside and whose story was featured on *7.30 QLD* recently, and I ask: will the minister reconsider the decision to cut funding of \$120,000 to Sisters Inside to provide vital front-line services to disadvantaged women at Townsville Women's Correctional Centre?

**Ms DAVIS:** I thank the honourable member for her question. At the outset I place on record that no money was cut to Sisters Inside. The funding amount that the honourable member is referring to was a non-recurrent \$120,000 grant for outreach work with the Townsville Correctional Centre and Sisters Inside, particularly for Indigenous women inmates. The letter from the former minister, which I will table, is very explicit in its outline that this is a one-off non-recurrent grant, and that is exactly what it is.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! I wish to hear the minister.

**Ms DAVIS:** I also advise members that there are other outreach services that work with the Townsville correctional service other than Sisters Inside. This \$120,000 grant will not stop those services provided by other non-government agencies to women in the correctional centre. Also for the benefit of the House, I advise that my department has granted around \$1.4 million to Sisters Inside on top of that \$120,000 grant.

**Mr Bleijie:** And mine!

**Ms DAVIS:** I take the interjection from the Attorney; there is grant funding from his department as well. So I think it is a little mischievous to be saying that we have cut funding to Sisters Inside. I very much welcome all non-government and community groups to put in applications in the new financial year for programs which will be considered equally with openness and accountability and no 'nudge-nudge, wink-wink, we'll just sign off on your grant again'.

### **Public Transport, Passenger Safety**

**Mr KAYE:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister please update the House on recent actions taken by the Newman government to improve safety on buses?

**Mr EMERSON:** I thank the honourable member for his question. It is wonderful to see someone in this House who has had such a longstanding commitment to public safety. As a former policeman, it is great to see him here. I was shocked and I think most Queenslanders would have been shocked to see the principle of no child left behind reportedly being abused and exploited by some trying to avoid paying fares. The reality is that operators have been reporting for some time—well before the LNP came to office—that there was a growing incidence of children, possibly with the connivance of their parents, getting on buses telling the driver that they had no money, refusing to provide any ID and citing the no child left behind policy while saying, 'You can't stop us getting on the bus.'

Let us recall why this principle was put in place, and it was put in place for very valid reasons: the terrible tragedy of the disappearance of Daniel Morcombe in 2003. This principle was put in place because of that circumstance so that no child would be left behind in those legitimate circumstances where they had no money. This principle was to ensure that they got safely on the bus and were safe in getting home or wherever they were going. Unfortunately, we are seeing reports from some operators that as many as one in 10 children are citing the no child left behind principle as a reason not to pay. That, I think, would disgust many Queenslanders and I suspect many people in this chamber.

Tomorrow we will be holding the first meeting of the Bus Safety Committee under the new government, and that committee is made up of drivers, unions, bus operators, TransLink, Transport and Main Roads officials and myself and my assistant minister, the member for Chatsworth. The first thing that we will be looking at as part of that committee will be this issue. But it does concern me that, as I said previously, this is not a new issue. This issue has been going on for some time. It was of interest to me to hear the Leader of the Opposition—the former transport minister—admit earlier this week to the media that she was aware of this issue. She was aware of this issue but chose to do nothing about it. She did not act upon it. Her decision was to put her head in the sand and ignore this issue. The LNP tackles these issues. I accept that there is not a simple solution, but it is a problem that we need to address and not run away from.

### National Disability Insurance Scheme

**Mr BYRNE:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. I refer the minister to statements by the Spinal Injuries Association which say that the National Disability Insurance Scheme could positively transform the lives of 410,000 Australians with a permanent disability, and I ask: will the minister advise the House how many Queenslanders are in that figure and does she support Toowoomba, Rockhampton or any other regional centre as a possible trial site?

**Ms DAVIS:** I thank the honourable member for his question. I cannot give a figure because we have seen no detail from the federal government so we do not know what the figure is, and that is the core issue here. We have no plan. We have \$1 billion put on the table when the Productivity Commission suggested the minimum amount was \$3.9 billion, so we are already 75 per cent under what was recommended by the Productivity Commission. Of that, \$650 million is for the duplication of IT systems and other processes—

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms DAVIS:** More red tape.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! There are too many interjections on my right and I cannot hear the minister.

**Ms DAVIS:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. There is no doubt that the disability sector is very interested in what is to happen with an NDIS. I say again that the Newman government has always supported in principle an NDIS, in line with the Productivity Commission recommendation that it needs to be funded by the Commonwealth.

So once again I say to federal Labor—and perhaps those opposite might like to pick up the phone and speak to their colleagues: stump up the cash so that people with a disability have a long-term assurance that they will have a scheme that is funded, that is functional and that gives them everything they expect from an NDIS.

**Mr Johnson** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! I warn the member for Gregory under standing order 253A.

### Information and Communication Technology, Management

**Mr SHUTTLEWORTH:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts. Will the minister outline to the House what progress has been made in delivering savings in ICT expenditure?

**Ms BATES:** I thank the member for Ferny Grove for the question, particularly as he is someone who, as a business manager, was responsible for ICT for an organisation employing over 100 staff. The member for Ferny Grove knows the difference between good ICT management and appalling ICT management. The Newman government has made it a priority to commence the first ICT audit in Queensland's history. That audit will leave no stone unturned in finding where savings and efficiencies can be made.

On the other hand, Labor allowed information and communication technologies to grow in such a wild, unmanaged and inconsistent way across Queensland departments that there is no way of seeing where the technology is being used and how. This audit will not only find out where all the bodies are buried but also where savings can be achieved. On the patchy information that we have, it appears that Labor has Queensland taxpayers paying out for many outdated and duplicate systems and many more licences than we even need. We are also sure that each and every department was buying the same few products at a higher price than they would have if government-wide purchases had been made. Now, there is a novel idea!

Some of the potential savings are quite mind-blowing. Even on very early indications, there are massive savings to be made. One of the first things the audit has done is examine how much we were wasting on paying for telephone lines that are not being used. We can only guess how much has been wasted on things like that for decades under a Labor government. Can the House imagine where the Queensland government and the ICT industry would be now if all of this waste and all of this inefficiency was avoided and the money instead used to create new and innovative ways for delivering the core businesses of government?

Let us talk about some of the debacles that we know about. This is a favourite topic of mine. We have the Queensland Health payroll system. That has to top the list. That still cannot pay our nurses. Quickly following is IDES, which was a ripper. It is costing the price of a small car for every email address—over \$22,000 for an email. What about the Agresso financial package? Those opposite hardly covered themselves in glory on that, either. And what about the ripper of all of them: Treasury's T24 core banking system? That was \$15 million of taxpayers' money down the drain.

Those opposite should hang their heads in shame and apologise for the legacy of waste and mismanagement that the Newman government has to clean up. I am a nurse and I have a diagnosis for those opposite: chronic ineptitude with severe complications caused by a lack of management ability.

*(Time expired)*

### **Grantham, Community Recovery Referral and Information Centre**

**Mrs MILLER:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. I refer to reports that Grantham residents are seeking to have their local council keep the town's community recovery and information centre open beyond its scheduled closing date of Friday, 29 June. I ask: what steps has the minister taken to assess the need to retain this centre and its services beyond that date?

**Ms DAVIS:** I thank the honourable member for her question. To date, I have not been approached by representatives of that area to discuss the long-term viability of their community centre. I am happy to have a discussion with them. I am afraid I cannot make any promises in this House. The people of that community have faced so many challenges since the horrific floods, and I would be so very happy to speak to them to see what we can do to assist them into the future if they require it. I am very happy to work with the local members—the member for Lockyer and perhaps the member for Beaudesert—to discuss those issues with them.

### **Community Legal Centres**

**Ms MADDERN:** My question without notice is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. What part do community legal centres play in assisting citizens get access to the Queensland justice system? What actions have been taken by this government to ensure that such centres continue to play their role in this important process?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I thank the member for Maryborough for her question. I also thank the member for Maryborough for her fierce advocacy in her local area for these types of services and to make sure they continue not only in Maryborough but also in her neighbouring electorate of Hervey Bay and, of course, right across the state.

Unlike the Labor Party, the Liberal National Party believes in community legal centres and will put its money where its mouth is and support these groups. Recently, I was pleased to give up my daily run to participate in the QPILCH Walk for Justice.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take that interjection from the Treasurer. The sacrifices we make for justice! I did give up my daily exercise routine to participate in the QPILCH Walk for Justice, which, of course, is an important initiative that I have participated in for a few years now. Some 600 members of the legal community, the Chief Justice and I participated in the Walk for Justice to raise vital money to ensure that community legal centres continue to operate across Queensland.

During the last state election campaign—in fact, prior to the last state election campaign—the LNP made a significant announcement regarding the Women's Legal Service, based at Annerley. We announced \$750,000 over three years for that legal centre to continue its vital work. Do members recall what the then minister for women, Ms Karen Struthers, said about the LNP's commitment to women? She said that that commitment was measly money and hush money. That is shameful.

During the election campaign we heard the tirade from those opposite, particularly five of those opposite, and now the other two in the House, attacking the now member for Cairns quite ruthlessly. At the same time the LNP was showing its commitment to women and those suffering from domestic violence. We were pleased to announce \$750,000 for the women's legal centre. The challenge for the Labor Party is for the five members opposite who were part of that campaign of ruthless attack on members of the LNP—and I challenge the member for South Brisbane, the new member, because I think this would be of particular interest to her: will she support the \$750,000 that the Labor Party did not commit to and did not copy that was part of our election commitment? Will she convince her five colleagues to support the initiative, to support the Women's Legal Service and community legal centres right across Queensland? I fear not, because she is the ultimate Labor machine.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Minister, I would ask you to refer to members by their appropriate title rather than 'she'.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The member for South Brisbane is the ultimate Labor Party machine and she should get the others to support it.

*(Time expired)*

### Schools, Year 7

**Mr KATTER:** My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the government terminate the ALP's plan to move year 7 into high school which will result in the closure of regional schools, the overcrowding of high schools, an increase in costs to families with children at boarding schools, the loss of teachers' jobs and which is set to cost Queenslanders more than \$800 million?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I can say, quite succinctly, no, we will not be stopping Flying Start which will put year 7 into high school in 2015 because it is an important program that is well underway. I think this question from the honourable member reflects the sorts of techniques that we saw from his party, and that we continue to see from his party, that seek to take on populist views that they get from people in pubs at night and around dinner parties and barbecues. It is like the old One Nation dinner party. We are not going to have that sort of reflex response to people who say, 'I don't like the sound of this', because I know that year 7 going into high school is something that will bring us into line with many other jurisdictions. In fact, after 2015 there possibly will only be, I am advised, South Australia that will not be putting year 7 into high school. Combined with the extra year we have already had with prep it will mean better outcomes for our children. It will mean a better future for our children, a better Queensland and it will mean that we have a society and an economy that is improving and constantly heading in better directions.

I ask the honourable member who has asked his first question in this place to reconsider the techniques and the styles that he has obviously learnt from his father, a former member of this place, who brought in acts such as the Mineral Resources Act that he now has completely different views on because of populism and his short-termism. It is inappropriate and reflects poorly on him and his father. I believe that, for all that it cost the opposition more seats in this House, he should not assume the techniques of his father; he should make his own way and ask questions that reflect better on him and his approach to the House.

### Racing Industry

**Mr KRAUSE:** My question without notice is to the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. Will the minister please update the House on the government's plan to rejuvenate racing in Queensland? How have the failings of the previous Labor government made these actions necessary?

**Mr DICKSON:** I thank the member for Beaudesert for the question. I know he has a great interest in racing in this state because he keeps lobbying me. We have 30,000 people involved in racing in Queensland. They derive a livelihood, they feed their families, because of that industry. We have to make sure that it continues to be very successful in this state. We are going to rejuvenate racing. That is what the LNP went to the election with. We made commitments. We are going to give the racing industry a say on how the industry is run. We are going to establish three control boards so that people involved in thoroughbreds, harness racing and greyhounds have the opportunity to talk and be listened to. Under the Labor government this did not happen.

We will establish an overarching, all-codes racing industry board. It will feed back directly to the government and it will also be listened to. We will create an integrity function and that will come back under the control of the government, unlike the Labor government. We will abolish the demands for equity when investment is made in racetracks in this state. What we will do is provide \$4 million to country racing over the next four years and that will give \$50,000 to 20 different races. We will give \$5 million over two years to the QTIS program which will deliver better prize money. If anybody knows anything about racing in Queensland, that needs to happen sooner rather than later.

All the Labor government did was outsource the responsibilities of the racing industry in this state. There was a junta created for Labor mates and it was run like a branch of the AWU. I think what people in this House need to know is that under the Labor government employment contracts were altered so that \$1.7 million could be paid out to Racing Queensland executives upon their resignation directly after the election. The Labor minister is sitting across the hall. I wish you had done something better before this.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Minister, I will ask you to refer your answer through the chair, not use the word 'you'.

**Mr DICKSON:** Through the chair, the ex-minister for racing let the people of Queensland down as far as racing was concerned. That is a sad indictment upon the Labor government. The damage that has been done to the racing industry is almost irretrievable, but we are going to fix those problems. Queensland is a few furlongs behind the rest of the states but I can tell members that by the end of this term we will finish a furlong in front.

### Seniors, Concessions

**Ms TRAD:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. How much of the department's budget is currently allocated to providing concessions to seniors and will these concessions be quarantined from the cutbacks that will inevitably arise from the Costello Commission of Audit?

**Ms DAVIS:** I thank the honourable member for her question and I refer her to the budget papers where all that information will be for her.

**Ms Trad:** You should know the answer.

**Ms DAVIS:** Your budget. You wrote the current budget. Look at the budget papers.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** I would ask the minister to resume her seat. I warn members on my left and on my right. I call the minister.

**Ms DAVIS:** It has been interesting over this week to hear the questions asked by those opposite about numbers. I think that there are two numbers that they have not been asking about and they are 2.8 and 85—that is, \$2.8 billion deficit and \$85 billion debt. They are the figures that the people of Queensland are interested in. They are the figures that the Newman government is having to deal with. We are making the tough decisions to get Queensland back on track. That is what we are going to do. We will be doing what Queenslanders have asked us to do.

**Ms TRAD:** I rise to a point of order. I ask you to rule on relevance. This is not relevant to the question.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Member for South Brisbane, I do not want a debate around a point of order. I would like to hear the minister's response. There is still time on the clock. I hear the minister giving a broad response to the question and I am sure that in the fullness of the time she is allocated she will answer the question and I ask the minister to do so.

**Ms DAVIS:** I feel that I have answered the question.

### Social Housing

**Mr SHORTEN:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Will the minister please advise the House of the current state of public housing in Queensland? What deficiencies and unmet need has the minister identified in the provision of public housing to those Queenslanders seeking accommodation and languishing on the very long waiting list?

**Dr FLEGG:** I thank the member for Algester for the question. The people of Algester have endorsed resoundingly someone who will really represent that area. I can understand why the member is asking the question in relation to waiting times around public housing because that is a very important issue for many people in his area.

In the current year, for the housing portfolio that we have inherited from those opposite, we will have an underlying deficit, after collecting rent and paying maintenance administration costs, of \$44.7 million.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Dr FLEGG:** I am sorry to tell the Treasurer that it gets worse. Based on last year's Labor Party budget, the projections for the housing department are that by 2015-16 the housing portfolio of the state government of Queensland will have an underlying deficit of \$140 million, unless we take urgent corrective action. Until recently, that portfolio of property operated at a profit and that profit funded the building of new properties. Currently, we do not have a cent inherited from the previous government to build a new government funded property. To steal a word from the Treasurer, this is unsustainable. It is not exaggerating to describe it as a crisis of funding in public housing.

However, we will not give up. We will do something about it for the 31,000 families waiting for public housing. There are 12,675 single people living in properties with two or more bedrooms and many single people are living in houses with four or five bedrooms. That is around 25,000 unused bedrooms in public houses in Queensland, in a setting where 31,000 families are waiting for a public housing property, of which 10,000 are technically homeless. This is a compassionate government, but a compassionate government will run housing efficiently so that we are able to house people who are in desperate need. I am in the process of writing to people who live in underutilised properties. We will work with those people. We have done an audit of vacant land to see where we can form partnerships to build more appropriate stock to ensure that we house as many of those people as possible.

*(Time expired)*



### Nambour, Rail Transport

**Mr WELLINGTON:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. With respect to the delays in the completion of the duplication of the railway line from Nambour to Brisbane, will the minister support calls to bring forward the completion of this important transport link and, if so, discuss the project with the federal transport minister at the next ministerial conference?

**Mr EMERSON:** I thank the honourable member for the question. This project has a long history. Let us not forget what Labor promised ahead of the 2009 election. Before the 2009 election it promised that this work would be done, that the money was in the bank and that it would complete the project. However, 26 days after the 2009 election, what happened? The honourable member sitting behind me was elected to the seat of Glass House and Labor scrapped the project. They said, 'There's no money, despite our election promises of 2009.' We know about all the other election promises they scrapped. Was there a mention about asset sales? No! There was nothing on asset sales.

What did the member for Nicklin do? Let us not forget who put Labor into power in 1998. It was the member for Nicklin. In 2009 they promised him, 'We'll deliver', but what did they do? Twenty-six days after the election, they scrapped the project. The reality is that there is no money from Labor for that project. All that was delivered by the former transport minister, who is now the Leader of the Opposition, was a 140-page document that she called Connecting SEQ 2031, but everyone else called 'Conning SEQ 2031'. Do members know what the biggest con was? Passed her glossy photo at the front of the brochure, at about page 130, on the top left-hand side, is a little paragraph that says, 'We don't commit to any of the projects in here'. On the next page it says that the cost of all the projects she outlined was \$227 billion, which she did not have and did not commit to.

We will work to put the appropriate infrastructure in place when we can afford it. The reality is that from Labor we have inherited \$85 billion of debt, a \$2.8 billion deficit and a \$100 million a week interest bill on that debt. Can the member for Nicklin, the man who put Labor into power in 1998, imagine what his community could do with an extra \$100 million? That money is going to pay off Labor's debt.

### Cairns, Community Safety

**Mr KING:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Police and Community Safety. I thank the minister for his recent visit to my electorate of Cairns to investigate firsthand community concerns relating to a number of assaults in the CBD and various other crimes. Could the minister please inform the House of any government strategies to tackle those issues?

**Mr DEMPSEY:** It is great to have a question from the member for Cairns, the first conservative member for Cairns in Queensland's history. In the first days and weeks of this government he has done more for that electorate than previous members did in 100 years. The Cairns community is facing a number of issues. In stark contrast to the three previous members, we now have the members for Cairns, Barron River and Cook—the three young guns of the Far North—serving their communities. They are listening to the people and they are taking action.

I spent 2½ days in Cairns and every minute was spent with those members, interacting with the community and listening to their concerns. I brought those concerns back to Brisbane and have spoken to my Police Commissioner, the Attorney-General and other government departments to make sure that we have a plan to deal with those concerns and that action is taken. The Police Commissioner certainly knows that we need extra police in Cairns. I thank Premier Newman and the LNP for their commitment of 1,100 new police officers over the next four years and for bringing 200 additional police officers back to operational duties. I assure the people of Cairns that they will get their fair share of those officers.

Particularly in the past 10 years problems have developed with itinerancy and drunken violence on the streets because the Labor government did not supply the proper resources to isolated and Indigenous communities in Far North Queensland. They let the people down, particularly the Indigenous communities of Far North Queensland, by not giving them services in the first place. We have seen an escalation in youth crime, particularly among youths aged 10 to 19 years. There has been an increase in serious assaults. However, I must commend the officers of Far North Queensland for their hard work and their diligence, because they also have the highest clear-up rate within the state.

This government will get on with helping the people of Far North Queensland to ensure that they have safe and secure communities, particularly in the CBD. We need to look at the economic benefits of the CBD in this region, especially in relation to tourism. People must feel comfortable when visiting Cairns so that they can enjoy their time there. I have visited Cairns with my family and I can assure the House that the people of Cairns are very inviting. This government is committed to getting tough on crime and to providing the resources and the legislative support needed to get on with the job.

*(Time expired)*

### Charters Towers, Neighbourhood Centre

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. In my electorate a wonderful community service organisation is the Charters Towers Neighbourhood Centre. Two shadow ministers visited it before the election and they were impressed with the service. The centre provides a diverse range of services to the community, including disability, family and mental health support, and has 14 different programs that work very closely together. One of those programs is the Healthy Lifestyle Program, funded through Queensland Health.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Member for Dalrymple, please shorten your question. There is a limit with regard to preambles. Please put your question.

**Mr KNUTH:** Yes, Madam Speaker. Currently, the centre is without a service agreement beyond 30 June 2012, even though they were advised by the department that funding will be extended until June 2013. Will the minister advise of the intentions to continue funding the program beyond June 2012 and when a service agreement will be forthcoming to the Charters Towers Neighbourhood Centre?

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** I thank the honourable member for his question. As the honourable member would be very aware, the Newman LNP government is currently looking at all of the grants for all of the organisations across Queensland. Certainly my department provides millions of dollars in grants to organisations across Queensland—from Mater Health Services through to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, through to CareFlight helicopters and CareFlight medical services, through to Drug Arm and a range of services which are provided by various organisations across Queensland. Some of those are strictly in the area of advocacy. Others provide more front-line services which are really making a difference in the lives of people.

What I have clearly indicated within my department is that I want to go through and look at all of the grants to make sure we are getting value for money and we are getting service outcomes which make a real health difference in the community. We have seen with the Labor Party that that has not always been the case. But I can indicate to the honourable member that organisations which are providing services beyond just advocacy—if they are providing health services within the community or providing services which actually augment those delivered by the government—will be under no threat whatsoever.

What we saw from Labor in office over the last decade or so was an absolutely lackadaisical, laissez faire approach to just doling out money, as the honourable minister for disabilities said earlier today. Basically, if you called up it was given to you. As everyone has seen from me in the last week or so, if we are not convinced that we are getting value for money from organisations then those organisations are not going to be funded. A classic example of that is the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities, which has been funded by the Queensland government to the tune of more than \$2 million a year to provide support in the area of HIV-AIDS awareness and prevention, and it has been failing against its key benchmarks.

Indeed, before the last election that organisation put to the then Labor Treasurer a dossier of demand—a 21-page dossier of demand—and not once in 21 pages did it even mention HIV-AIDS. That gives a clear indication of the approach that I am taking. If an organisation is clearly delivering services in the community which are delivering better health outcomes then, yes, it will be funded. If it is not then it will not be.

*(Time expired)*

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! The time for questions has elapsed. I call the Clerk.

## PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND MISCONDUCT COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note

**The CLERK:** General business, notices of motion: House to take note of committee reports—that the House takes note of report No. 86 of the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee tabled on 10 May 2012—in accordance with sessional order 2(1).

**Madam SPEAKER:** Will the Clerk read the order of the day.

**The CLERK:** Government business, order of the day No. 1: Governor's opening speech, address-in-reply, resumption of debate.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** There was no voice.

**Dr DOUGLAS:** Madam Speaker—

**Madam SPEAKER:** For the instruction of the House—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** I will not take my advice in regard to standing orders from the floor. For the instruction of the House, members are to jump and call, and I did not hear a member call.

**Dr DOUGLAS:** Madam Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I actually did not hear you. I apologise. I was intending to speak on the matter.


**Mr WELLINGTON:** Madam Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I do not intend to challenge your ruling, but when I inquired about this earlier the understanding was that time would be allocated for the debate. I assumed that you would have been informed of that.

**Mr STEVENS:** Madam Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, resume your seat. Member for Gaven, could you inform the House and me: did you jump and did you call?

**Dr DOUGLAS:** Madam Speaker, I did stand and I was waiting for your recognition of me standing. I did stand, yes.

**Madam SPEAKER:** I will put this again and I will instruct the House in regard to the provisions. I expect members not only to jump but also to call, but I will put this provision in regard to the debate of committee reports. I call the member for Gaven.

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—LNP) (11.05 am): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Thank you for allowing the recommendations of the PCMC to be discussed.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Member for Gaven, are you moving a motion? You actually have to move a motion.

**Dr DOUGLAS:** I move—

That the House take note of report No. 86 of the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee tabled on 10 May 2012.

I had the great privilege to serve as the chair of the PCMC in the 53rd Parliament as the first opposition nominee. This came about as a result of the review of the committees by a bipartisan group of senior parliamentarians—the Committee System Review Committee, the CSRC. Two of its members were here earlier—the Deputy Premier, the member for Callide; and the Minister for Health, the member for Southern Downs.

Whilst this may have seemed like a minor change, the message has been one of not just believing in impartiality but also reinforcing perceptions about that. In line with this recommendation of the three-yearly review of the CMC by the PCMC, they are consistent with this aspirational goal set by the CSRC that the CM Act be amended to provide that the chair of the PCMC be a member nominated by the Leader of the Opposition. Specifically, recommendation 34 of this review addresses the objective set by the parliament and merely recommends the parliament legislate that which has been set by convention. It is one of many recommendations and it is our sincere hope that debate on one recommendation does not lead to a situation where all of the other very important recommendations are overlooked and, by default, ignored.

Many former parliamentarians, current members and a large percentage of the public want to see a functioning CMC and, by inference, a modern PCMC focused on accountability of the process. Many expressed common complaints, ranging from a lack of timeliness in resolving complaints to serious concerns about process issues within the CMC itself. I would like to reassure members that these issues have been significantly addressed. The results are clearly evident.

The filling of all positions was a point that we needed to complete with an appropriately skilled set of staff, with a new chair appointed—that was Mr Ross Martin—and to replace all part-time commissioners whose time had ended with suitably skilled people. We did so also to make sure that the major positions within the CMC had been filled. Critically, we appointed Mr Paul Favell as the part-time Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Commissioner. We had had acting commissioners until that time.

Having a full complement of staff at all times has been included amongst the previous three-yearly reviews as something to be desired. I would like to thank all those, including the former Attorney-General, who assisted us to make sure this occurred. I would like to highlight that the first three recommendations of this review specifically address how the PCMC believes we can prevent some of the problems that have arisen in relation to staffing issues. The committee strongly endorsed the view that there should remain a twilight clause in employee contracts so as to ensure renewal and growth through the infusion of new ideas that staff bring.


After a very successful three-year cycle, especially 2011-12, the CMC is delivering on what the state needs in the areas of major crime and misconduct. There has been some discussion about whether we need to go backwards and return to the older CJC and the QCC—that is, the Queensland

Crime Commission. After extensive review of all available information and on the basis of detailed submissions, it was concluded that the current structure we have enhances the capacities of both the QPS and the CMC itself.

Additionally, there is reduced bureaucratic overhead and significant synergies gained from the intelligence gained very professionally via the misconduct component of the commission. Therefore, recommendation 4 reinforces the view that nothing would be gained by splitting the organisation in the future.

I might highlight that the Queensland CMC is now seen as best practice Australia-wide and is the preferred model. The vast bulk of recommendations 5 to 33 specifically address all the issues confronting the CMC in the ordinary conduct of activities. They should be adopted in full to allow the CMC to perform its job more effectively, in a timely way and in a non-contentious manner.

Recommendations 9 and 13 particularly provide the suggested detail on how the CMC might consider a better way of seeking resolution of complaints made. The PCMC has made careful recommendations in many areas ranging from paedophiles through to Indigenous affairs and the major arguments of interactions between the agencies. They are all to be endorsed. The PCMC has a critical function in monitoring and ensuring public confidence in the CMC. It does so at all times in a secure, detailed and impartial manner. This is quite an achievement with the government of the day having a numerical advantage of one in a seven-member committee. Effectively all decisions are unanimous and exclude areas of dissent. I endorse the recommendations and I ask the parliament to support them.

 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (11.10 am): I endorse the comments of the chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee in relation to the report recently tabled. I urge all members who may not have had a chance to read this document to please contact the Table Office or contact the committee to collect a copy, because there are 38 very significant recommendations contained in this report. We just heard about some of those, and I endorse the previous speaker's comments in relation to recommendation 4, which states—

The Committee recommends that the CMC retains its current structure and considers that there is no benefit gained in separating its crime area and misconduct areas into separate organisations.

I know that the government has been elected on a mandate of cutting red tape and of ensuring that front-line services will be protected. I would urge the government and all members to take on board recommendation 7, which states—

The Committee recommends that as a priority the Government allocate greater resources to the Crime and Misconduct Commission's proceeds of crime function in order to assist the CMC in retaining existing staff and attracting new staff while also meeting the demand for new civil confiscation actions.


We all know how difficult it is to retain good staff. They are headhunted by other state agencies, be it private enterprise or government. If you have good staff, I believe you have to look after them and I believe you have to compete with the marketplace and pay what is required.

A lot of people think that the Crime and Misconduct Commission is about simply supervising and looking into issues of the integrity of the Public Service and politicians, but the most important role of the Crime and Misconduct Commission, in my view, is combating and reducing the incidence of major crime in Queensland, working in partnership with other law enforcement agencies. If we are fair dinkum about looking after front-line services and combating major crime, we should endorse the recommendations that are contained in the report, in particular recommendation 7.

I know that the member for Buderim is a former Maroochy shire councillor. I am also a former Maroochy shire councillor, and I can vividly recall the challenges we had in retaining good staff in our town planning department, because the argument always was, 'We cannot compete with the prices private enterprise will pay them.' I bring that argument again here today. We have to be prepared to commit, if we want the best brains in our law enforcement agency and the best brains in the Crime and Misconduct Commission to do the role that we want them to do. If we do not want to properly resource the Crime and Misconduct Commission so they can do what the legislation wants them to do, then I would urge the government to reconsider its agenda about funding real programs to deal with major crime.

I have been a member of the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Commission and I was very fortunate to be nominated by the opposition to continue in that role, and I thank them for nominating me. I am committed to doing whatever I can to address the scourge of organised crime, but the CMC needs resources from the government so it can employ properly qualified and talented people to do the work that previous governments have asked them to do.

I look forward to listening to the Premier in due course when he considers these significant recommendations. I echo the comments of the member for Gaven. This is a unanimous view of a bipartisan committee. There are no dissenting reports. I urge members to read the report and consider it.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (11.14 am): I would like to echo the words of the member for Nicklin in relation to this report. I was appointed deputy chair of this committee following the election, and I believe I am still the only member of this parliament who has served as an officer of the CMC, then known as the Criminal Justice Commission. This report is very important because it is a three-yearly review of the Crime and Misconduct Commission. As the member for Nicklin and the chair have said, it is also an important report because we go into quite a lot of detail as to how the CMC has been functioning and make recommendations in relation to that.

I would like to pick out a couple of recommendations. The first one is recommendation 4, which states—

The Committee recommends that the CMC retains its current structure and considers that there is no benefit gained in separating its crime area and misconduct areas into separate organisations.

The committee considered this in some detail, and we of course agree with that. Recommendation 5 states—

The Committee recommends that the government consider the allocation of additional resources to the CMC's forensic computing unit in order to better support investigations of paedophilia and child exploitation material.

I would take the view, which every member of this House would have to agree with, that no-one in their right mind could ever support paedophilia and the caper that paedophiles get up to in relation to computers. It is just outrageous. As the member for Nicklin said in relation to recommendation 7, that there should be greater resources in the CMC's proceeds-of-crime function, we of course support that because it is very important that it can retain its existing staff and attract new staff. We need to have existing staff remain—their roles need to be valued within the CMC, as I am sure they are—but attracting new staff is also very important.

Recommendation 14 states—

The Committee recommends that the Department of Premier and Cabinet, as the lead public sector agency in Queensland, take an active role in ensuring all public sector agencies

(a) have adequate resourcing to deal with and prevent misconduct within their agency ...


This is a very important recommendation because, as we can see, this Newman government is off with the fairies. It is sacking people left, right and centre in the Queensland public sector. In fact, I have heard that approximately 40,000 public servants, whether they be temporary or contractors—it does not matter what you call them—are to go. I place it on record today that I will be watching those opposite like a hawk in relation to whether or not they slash and burn in any areas related to integrity or preventing official misconduct, because those officers should be quarantined in any public sector agency. I think it is very important for all officers involved in preventing official misconduct. I would like an answer at some point in this House that those positions in every public sector are quarantined because we will never accept going back to the Sir Joh days.

I also want to talk in brief about recommendation 34, which recommends that the chair be nominated by the Leader of the Opposition. I want to place on record the excellent job that the member for Gaven has done as an opposition appointment to the chair of the PCMC. I think the people of Queensland have a right to know how the Independent member for Gladstone came to be the chair. So I ask these questions. Where did it come from? Who rang Liz Cunningham? What deal was done, considering that she votes with you lot over 70 per cent of the time? How did she get to know that she was—

**Mr STEVENS:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Speaker. The member clearly knows how the chair of that committee is chosen. It is in the act and she is ignoring that and misleading the House.

**Madam SPEAKER:** The Leader of the House will resume his seat. That is not a point of order.


**Mrs MILLER:** Thank you for your protection, Madam Speaker. May I say that it is convention now that the opposition has the position of chair of the PCMC. I think our nominee should have been accepted by this parliament.

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (11.20 am): I rise to speak to the report that has been tabled, the *Three yearly review of the Crime and Misconduct Commission*. I have been on the PCMC previously—not during this last term of government but for two terms prior to that—and I know that a lot of work goes into the three-yearly review to ensure that a proper oversight of the three years of activity is presented and that genuine, positive and productive recommendations are made to enhance the role of the CMC, in particular, and the PCMC's oversight of it. The three-yearly review is important because it gives the PCMC—the oversight committee of the CMC and the committee with relevant, up-to-date and timely knowledge—the opportunity to comment and make recommendations in relation to the operations and the shortcomings, if there are any, of the CMC.

I am disappointed in the member for Bundamba's attack just now. I can tell her that I received a phone call from the Premier. No deal was done. I do not do deals, and I would have thought she knew that. No deal was done. I accepted the position that was offered on the basis that it was an opportunity to serve this parliament and serve the people of Queensland.

The opposition has talked about convention. The 'convention' has been one occasion and, as the Deputy Premier said, it was by agreement between the opposition and the government. I have no argument with the recommendations in this committee report. I do, however, object to being dragged into some political dispute between the opposition and the government over who does what to whom. It is my intention to review these recommendations, and it will be the Attorney-General and the Premier who give the government's response to those recommendations.

I say on the record here that I hope the incoming PCMC can work together impartially and objectively and with the best interests of the people of Queensland at heart. We will do as much as we can to give a proper oversight of the CMC, which indeed exercises significant power in this state of Queensland. I thank the Premier for that opportunity.


 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (11.22 am): It disappoints me to have to rise to speak to the matter raised here in the parliament by the member for Gaven. The words that were spoken by the member for Bundamba clearly contained an imputation on the member for Gladstone and implied that the member for Gladstone is not a fit and proper person to chair that committee. Quite clearly, that is not the case. I cannot think of a more appropriate Independent member. She is a person of long standing and a person who has delivered impartiality to this House. All of those sorts of qualities quite clearly make her probably the most qualified member in this House to lead the PCMC in an independent manner.

The imputation by the member for Bundamba was that some dirty deal was done. This in itself is a vile reflection and seems to be the new tactic that the member for Bundamba and the new order of the seven members of the opposition are trying to adopt. They are getting down as low as they can to make themselves relevant and of importance, but it is not appropriate for this House to deal with these imputations.

Quite clearly, if the member for Bundamba had read the act she would know that it says that the Leader of the Opposition makes three nominations and the Manager of Government Business declares who will be the chair of that committee. It is there in black and white. Any imputation by the member that anything other than that was done is unfair. The government selected four members for that committee—three of whom were from the government ranks and the other being the Independent member for Gladstone—and the government thought the Independent member for Gladstone was the most qualified member in this parliament to chair that committee in an independent manner.

We all understand the importance of the PCMC. We all understand its neutrality in dealing with matters and the confidentiality that has to go with it. Quite clearly, we support that as a government. From our perspective, there has never been any intention to wander away from the clear and independent process. We have followed the act. The Leader of the Opposition provided her three members, as the act says, and the Manager of Government Business chose a chair of that committee who will appropriately deal with those PCMC matters as they arise in the tenure of this House. Until this period of government and this House ceases to exist and the new PCMC is formed, this current PCMC will provide positive, independent and appropriate consideration of matters that are referred to it. For the member for Bundamba to in any way suggest that the chair of the PCMC will not view matters in an independent manner—including if Labor members, for instance, appeared before the PCMC on different matters over the next three years—is a total abomination. That does not reflect the fair and appropriate manner which the member for Gladstone has demonstrated in this House.

I think it is time for the members opposite to get out of the gutter. They had a little run of that at the election and the people of Queensland did not think it was so good. In fact, their thoughts are reflected in the seven measly Labor Party members who are now left in this House. I certainly support the motion moved by the member for Gaven to adopt this report, and I would like the opposition members on the other side of the House to lift their standard of debate.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.27 am): As members know, the PCMC is required to conduct its review of the CMC, which it has done, and we now have that report tabled by the chair at the time, Dr Alex Douglas, the member for Gaven. The review commenced in May 2011, with the call for submissions and then public hearings took place. For the time of the review and the report, the PCMC was comprised of the former members of that committee. The report examined such items as the chairmanship of the CMC, the functions of the CMC, the misconduct function, the investigative powers and hearings, witness protection functions, the role in public interest disclosures—that is, whistleblowers—and of course the oversight of the CMC. The report made 38 recommendations, including legislative amendments to the CMA, changes to the operations and procedures of the CMC, directions to successive PCMCs about the matters which will be closely

monitored and requests for the CMC to be resourced adequately to carry out certain of its functions. The Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 provides that the government is to provide a response to that report within three months—that is, by 10 August. If this cannot be achieved, then an interim report is to be tabled within six months, which is obviously by 9 November.

Given the extensive nature of the report and the 38 recommendations, I as Attorney-General am currently in the process of reviewing the recommendations made by the committee. My department has also sent the report to other departments because we have to seek guidance and advice from other departmental officers in other ministerial offices. Therefore, I am not in a position at the outset to give an indication of what the government's intention will be on that report. Suffice it to say, I will address two matters. The first is the chairman of the PCMC, the case for which was adequately made by the Manager of Government Business, the member for Mermaid Beach.

The imputation that the member for Bundamba made today follows the imputation she made in this House last night against the member for Logan and the candidate who ran against her. I raise this point because it just shows the gutter that the Labor Party in Queensland continues to be in.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from the member for South Brisbane, because of course during the last state election campaign the member for South Brisbane was in fact the assistant secretary or deputy secretary of the Queensland Labor Party. The member for South Brisbane was the one directly behind those ads we saw on TV attacking Campbell Newman and his family. It was shameful, and Queenslanders said it was shameful. And then the Labor Party had the hide to put her up for preselection for such worthy representation when Queensland overwhelmingly rejected the Labor Party campaign because Queenslanders believe in fairness! What was portrayed in the election campaign was certainly not fair.

**Mr PITT:** I rise to a point of order. I rise to seek a ruling on relevance under standing order 118. I do not think this is actually the tone of the debate for the adoption of this report.

**Madam SPEAKER:** I will ask the minister to address the motion before the House.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. That was the lily pad to the point I am about to jump on to, and the point I am jumping on to of course is to support the Independent member for Gladstone as chair of the PCMC. She will do a fantastic job in that role. In fact, the report also makes recommendations in relation to election activities, and this is why I was making the point. During the campaign the former member for Mount Coot-tha, Andrew Fraser, continually referred matters to the CMC. The Labor Party has used the CMC as a political football for far too long. During the election campaign three matters were referred to the CMC and the CMC had to come back and say on all matters that no investigation was required into the Premier—no matters.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! There are too many interjections in the chamber. I call the minister.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I can understand the interjections being made, because the member for Bundamba was a member of the former government and participated in that negative, vile campaign against the Premier and his family. Queenslanders never want to see that again in this state. That is why I have said that we will review the CMC's operations in terms of how politicians on all sides can use the CMC, but in this case the Labor Party used the CMC for its own political trickery and of course there was no case to answer. The former Premier said, 'I've got no evidence but the CMC should investigate it.' It is shameful that the Labor Party used the CMC in that process.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 30 May (see p. 338).

 **Mrs MENKENS** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.33 am): It is again a great honour to be able to present an address-in-reply to the Governor Her Excellency Penelope Wensley's address to the parliament. At this point I want to acknowledge the work that Her Excellency the Governor does. My electorate of Burdekin has been privileged to have had her visit the area many times. During this past term she has made four visits that I am aware of—to the magnificent wetland area of Cromarty and the Wongaloo Conservation Park, which is under the stewardship of the former member for Burdekin, Mr Mark Stoneman. I am aware of the encouragement and support that the Governor has given to Mark in his quest to further develop the Wongaloo Conservation Park, which is one of the best-kept secrets of Queensland—as yet, the best undeveloped conservation park in North Queensland.

Her Excellency also acknowledged the Engineering Heritage National Landmark award from Engineers Australia when she unveiled the engineering heritage national landmark marker and replica interpretive panel which commemorate the engineering feats evident in the construction of the mighty Burdekin Bridge, built over 50 years ago. She spoke at the annual conference of Landcare held in Ayr when the then Mayor of Burdekin, Lyn McLaughlin, and I were privileged to be able to spend the day with Mr McCosker and the Governor and show them much of Ayr. In December last year she again came to Home Hill to help the town celebrate its centenary—the centenary of when the first cane ballots were held in 1911. The Governor's dignity, compassion and friendliness are well known, and I have certainly been able to see that firsthand in the Burdekin. She brings great joy to all of the people that she meets and shows such avid interest in what they do.

This is an historic parliament as this is the first LNP government for Queensland—a can-do government that is committed to delivering to Queenslanders, to rebuild this magnificent state and to provide a totally honest and accountable government. I offer my personal congratulations and thanks to the Premier, Campbell Newman, and the leadership team—Deputy Premier, the Hon. Jeff Seeney, and the Treasurer, the Hon. Tim Nicholls. We have emerged from one of the nastiest election campaigns that Queensland has ever seen, but what this election showed was that Queensland people are totally sick of spin and have seen through the veneer to the substance that is the Labor Party of Queensland. The personal attacks on the Newman family were totally reprehensible and I commend the fortitude—the fortitude and the strength of character—that the whole family showed, and, as we have seen, the people of Queensland shared that view. I commend the Premier, the Hon. Campbell Newman, and the leadership team for their unerring commitment to the people of Queensland—a commitment to turn the state's economy around and to renew confidence in the business community.

It is a very proud time to be an LNP government in Queensland. I have been honoured and privileged to be elected for a fourth term to represent the electorate of Burdekin. May I sincerely congratulate the new LNP members, who I know are going to be proud representatives for their constituencies. Queensland looks forward to a new, confident future. I pass on my sincere congratulations to the new Speaker, Fiona Simpson—the first female Speaker of the Queensland parliament. It is excellent to see the LNP leading the way yet again. To this extent, I must thank the constituents of the Burdekin electorate, who have given me their support for eight years—and that support I do not take lightly.

It is an honour, a privilege and a responsibility to be able to represent the great North Queensland people of the Burdekin electorate. I am a proud and an unashamed parochial North Queensland and my commitment to the electorate is that I will continue to fight for North Queensland and the regions of Queensland. North Queensland has been ignored for years under Labor and I welcome the Premier's commitment to deliver for North Queensland and the regions. It is so good to have seven new members elected in North Queensland—three in Cairns, three in Townsville and of course my neighbour Jason Costigan, the new member for Whitsunday. I really must congratulate the Hon. David Crisafulli for having been appointed as Minister for Local Government and the Hon. Andrew Cripps as Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. North Queensland is well represented.

The Burdekin was traditionally a conservative seat, but changing demographics and electoral boundaries have changed that structure. Following the retirement of former National Party member for Burdekin Mark Stoneman, the seat of Burdekin fell to One Nation and then to Labor. In 2004 we were able to regain that seat. I sincerely thank and acknowledge the magnificent LNP support team who have been behind us all the way. Our support team in Bowen has been led by Bob Harris and Greg Smith, two very loyal footsloggers who were with us the whole way.

The Home Hill branch has been led by David Macdonald and he has a wonderful team of committed members, many of whom are really long-serving members. They hold memberships of well over 30 or 40 years. I love them all. The members of the Burdekin branch, which is chaired by Neville Dickinson, meet very regularly. They meet under the great hospitality of Senator Ian Macdonald and his wonderful wife, Lesley. I believe it is their hospitality that is the reason this branch is so successful and the reason it meets so regularly. Let us face it: Macca always puts on a good party.

The township of Clare in my electorate is a very loyal area. It has lots of great members and good people. Just a couple of those are the Hall family and the Tudehope family, who are always there and who are always supportive of the community. Giru is another small community and it is a wonderfully supportive area. I sincerely thank Gary Stockham and the Lyons family in particular for their support. The Friday night goose club at the Giru International Hotel is a night not to be missed. Ennio Gazzola will ensure that anyone attending is not left out. Small towns and communities make up the very tapestry of rural Queensland and there are always wonderful community people behind the scenes who make those towns into communities. In Giru, I certainly salute Betty Corradi.

A third of the Burdekin electorate is situated in the Townsville City Council area. It encompasses the southern suburbs of Townsville. Of course, I tell everybody that the southern end is by far the best part of Townsville. I must put on record my sincere thanks to Don and Elizabeth Hick, Sandra Richards,



Melinda Holborn and the many other members of the Mount Stuart and Ross River branches who have worked so hard. Their hard work has really paid off, because we see three great new members representing Townsville. Townsville is now all in the blue.

The week of the election was one of the wettest for 2012. Roads everywhere were cut off and certainly many people who applied for postal votes were unable to make them. In that election the postal votes of people in Home Hill were to arrive in Ayr, which is only 12 kilometres away. Those postal votes did not get there, because that mail goes to Townsville and then comes back to Ayr. But the Bruce Highway was closed totally and absolutely no mail went through the Bruce Highway between Monday and Friday. I know that was very disappointing, because it is everybody's democratic right to vote. But again, the Bruce Highway was cut in areas where that could have been avoided. They were not major flood-prone areas. It was not a particularly large flood. That is very disappointing. I certainly look forward to the success of the LNP push towards looking at the Bruce Highway and being able to improve it from a flood perspective.

I cannot talk about election assistance during that very wet week without mentioning Jim Hillier, who lives on the other side of the Bowen River, which was flooded. He flew by helicopter across the flooded Bowen River to assist Carol Wyper, Margaret Philp and Yvonne Cox in Collinsville. I have no doubt that their presence there certainly had quite a lot to do with the increase in the LNP vote and the collapse of the Labor vote in Collinsville.

However, the real strength of the campaign team throughout the last three years—and the last six years, actually—has been my campaign manager, Jim Gist. Jim has given up hours of his time. Jewel is his understanding wife. She puts up with us all, to the extent that she is now even a secretary as well. I thank Jim and Jewel for all their support, for their friendship and for their assistance. We could not have done this without them. I know that Jim had some wonderful discussions with head office throughout this time. I certainly know that all of us in my area respect his professional approach.

Particular thanks must also go to my very good friend Jan Callow, who has moved into the campaign office during every election campaign and has taken over very professionally all of the office work. She is a very busy person and she gives up her whole time to sort out postal votes and all of the applications and so forth that come through during this very busy time. I wish I could name all the members who have assisted so loyally for so many years. They are the strength of the LNP and I truly value their friendship.

I also wish to pay special tribute to my staff—the Burdekin electorate office staff. Julie Lawrie has been with me since the beginning, and her professional attitude and her ability have set a tone and standard for the office. I thank Jeanette Garvey and Corrina McLean so much for their loyalty, professionalism and hard work. The success of any local member is due to their staff and the success and professionalism of their office. Certainly, we are very fortunate in the Burdekin.

My rock and my real strength is my wonderful husband, Ray, whom I have been married to for over 40 years.

**Mr Rickuss:** Hear, hear!

**Mrs MENKENS:** I thank the member for Lockyer. We are a farming and grazing family. Ray married a dutiful wife who gave up teaching to stay home and cook cakes and biscuits.

**A government member:** Where is she?

**Mrs MENKENS:** Where has she gone? She cooked cakes and biscuits for smokos and lunches for all the farmers. She was also doing a bit of work down at the paddock.

**Mr Langbroek:** On 7 February 2004 it all came to an end.

**Mrs MENKENS:** It did come to an end. It came to an end a little earlier than that. Over the years things change. Now, Ray very good-naturedly accepts being invited to functions as 'partner'. That is a very big change to undergo for a traditional husband of our era. It is a huge change of focus and it is a huge change of expectations. Bless you, Ray. We are both very fortunate and I love you dearly. Our real joy is our family. We have a daughter, two great sons and two wonderful daughters-in-law, and over the last two years we have welcomed three beautiful grandchildren and hopefully will welcome another one before Christmas. So this last term—this last three years—has seen some wonderful things happening in my family. Let us face it: families are the centre of all of our communities. It is families that are so relevant and so important right across the work we do and it is part of the focus of government, particularly the LNP government. It is very important to focus on families.


I am very happy to claim that the Burdekin electorate is the most vibrant and the most diverse electorate in the whole of Queensland, even though many of my colleagues, of course, are justly proud of their own electorates. They may disagree with me, but the Burdekin electorate is really a very special part of Queensland. The people of the Burdekin electorate are wonderful, the industry is vibrant and the economic potential of the area is huge. The Burdekin electorate is the home of Abbot Point, where so much is about to happen. Abbot Point is a coal terminal—a coal-exporting port—and it is poised to expand with the opening of the Galilee Basin. The Deputy Premier has announced that there will be an

expansion at Abbot Point, which will multiply the coal exports from that port four times. That is going to be absolutely huge for the district and huge for the town of Bowen. Of course, that expansion brings with it a lot of changes to the local community, but the community of Bowen is geared up. The people there know that there are going to be changes. They are geared up for what this expansion will do for the community. With this expansion there will be so much economic potential, so many jobs that will be brought into the district, and we are looking forward to the challenge.

I certainly commend the LNP government, which has committed to deliver. They are not just empty promises: the LNP is committed to deliver to Abbot Point and to the economic future of North Queensland. This will benefit not just Bowen or the Burdekin electorate; this will flow right across North Queensland and, of course, through the Galilee Basin and small communities such as Alpha which will grow and benefit as a result.

**Mr Rickuss:** Are you going to look after my two big farmers, too?

**Mrs MENKENS:** I am going to look after all the Lockyer big farmers and, of course, the member for Lockyer as well. It is a privilege to be able to serve the community of Burdekin. Having been there for eight years, I really do welcome this next term of three years to be with my friends, constituents and colleagues in the Burdekin electorate.

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (11.50 am): I would like to respectfully acknowledge the traditional custodians of this beautiful land and pay tribute to their elders both past and present who have nurtured this land for thousands of years. They now share their stories and traditions with us. I would also like to congratulate Madam Speaker on her elevation to the important role of Speaker of this House. I believe she will fulfil this role in a fair and fearless way. It is, as many have noted, the first time in the history of the parliament of Queensland that a woman has been elected to this position. Sadly, with the loss of the electorate of Bulimba—with the count finally favouring the LNP—this House now has just 17 women representing the 89 seats in this state, a fall from 33 in the previous parliament, 26 of whom represented the Australian Labor Party. Why should this be significant? While men are perfectly capable of performing all of the requirements of a member of this place, women bring their own perspective. In a country where we talk about equity and equality this should be reflected in the place where legislation is enacted affecting the whole of our communities.

At a time when a government is slashing jobs, some of which will be in single-income households, we need the plight of vulnerable families and vulnerable women to be represented. I hope there will be a concerted effort for relocation and/or retraining to recognise the importance of employment to all of those affected. Voices within cabinet were obviously silent when a decision was made to cease funding to Sisters Inside for their work with Aboriginal and Islander women imprisoned in Townsville. There is ample evidence of positive outcomes and financial benefit to turning lives around to enable women who may not have had an opportunity in education and training to be set on a path that will secure them a future far removed from their former life. I am aware that there is no money tree nor bottomless pit in government, so the decisions are ones of priority. I strongly believe in a safety net for those who require help, but I also believe one of the most important roles we can play is to keep improving our education and training programs and inspiring our young people and others to reach and strive for higher goals. I will address this issue further on in my speech.

There have been many accolades for our previous Speaker, the Hon. John Mickel, who has been acknowledged by all who served in this place during his time as one of the finest. He brought to this House a style of his own, always even-handed and wise in his counsel, allowing robust debate but always in control. However, for me it was always the personal interest he took in young people, such as our student leaders when they visited this place, or the multicultural community, the multifaith services he held or the children's choirs who sang carols at Christmas time. John never forgot the needs of his community and will always be remembered as a true people person, warm and friendly, committed to high family values, a champion for education and opportunities for all, and for his wise advice to members such as myself when we needed to find a way through a difficult issue. He is a sad loss to this place.

I wish to now turn to issues within my community of Woodridge, a place that I love, where the colourful mosaic of people from many different lands immediately captures your attention. Here you will find former refugees from African nations, Asia and the Middle East, including many war-torn countries from where some have embarked on dangerous journeys to flee the fighting and unrest to find a place where they can live in peace. We are a migrant nation with a sad history, much of which is even now being revealed for the first time. Our knowledge of Australian history has suffered from being ignored, sanitised or, worse still, misrepresented. Whether a person is part of our ancient original inhabitants or part of the many waves of migration to this country, we want to see a society where respect is given to all, where we are each one prepared to listen and hear another story leading to greater understanding and where we give opportunity for education, employment, services and support where hopefully each one can find a place of meaning and acceptance by those around them.

As I represent an area which has long had a high level of unemployment, I have witnessed over many years the pride, self-esteem and change in life direction brought about by financial independence for those who have undergone many of our training and skilling programs resulting in jobs, be they highly skilled requiring ongoing study right through to manual labour or in our government departments, our service industry or in myriad other jobs. I want to commend many of our organisations that work tirelessly to reclaim young lives, train workers needing to reskill, assist mums, carers, people with disabilities and long-term unemployed into jobs. Others work with our former refugees to assist them through such issues as learning English, financial management, obtaining a driver's licence or undergoing training that will lead to meaningful employment.

There are many partners involved in these diverse aspects of ensuring our community members have the opportunity to fully engage in daily life, be it in paid employment or volunteering, and I would be remiss not to mention many other of our government departments, both federal and state, whose workers play such an important role in ensuring communities such as Woodridge offer residents opportunities for advancement, such as Immigration, Police, Communities, Education, Training and Employment, and Economic Development to name but a few.

The non-government sector has an equally important role and I pay tribute to organisations such as Boystown, the YMCA Flexi School, Kingston College Continuing Education Centre, Career Keys, Max Employment, ACCES Services, ADRA, Sarina Russo, Sally's Place, NOVA Employment, Youth & Family Services, Red Cross, Mission Australia and our Metropolitan South Institute of TAFE. Now as I listen to news of our impending labour shortages and then hear of workers being brought into the country on special visas I want to remind our federal government of the many potential workers who may not at this moment have the required skills but would willingly be trained to fill some of these positions, not to mention those who will be needed to backfill the jobs left vacant by the rush of workers to the mining fields.

The huge gaping hole in our education and training programs is seen in our New Zealand community members who have now made Australia home, those who have come since February 2001 and find themselves locked out of so much, such as HECS-HELP for university. It is a huge disappointment to a student and their family to work hard at high school, and gain entrance to university only to be told they have to pay upfront fees and that no HECS-HELP is available under the trans-Tasman agreement nor are Centrelink payments possible for unemployment, disability, rental subsidy, carer payments and nor is there access to public housing. So we find in my community, and those similar, overcrowding in houses because of job losses, young people taking on jobs way below their capacity and, for those who have left home and are unemployed, no income whatsoever. Thus we find a youth service on the Gold Coast handing out tents and food and some of these young people living rough or couch surfing and, even worse, entering a life of crime.

Yes, we now see some of our former refugees in higher education and entering our professional ranks, but sadly few are from our Pacific Islands and they are the largest ethnic community group in Logan. Thanks to the leadership of Dr Judith Kearney at the Logan campus of the Griffith University, Glenda Stanley, Va'a Alofipo and the many members of our churches and organisations such as the Voice of Samoan People, along with many other strategic partners such as our school principals, progress is being made on a number of fronts. When we see a whole section of our community settled in Australia, working and paying their taxes, making a huge contribution to community life, their youngsters taking on leadership roles in our schools and adding a great vibrancy and colour to every aspect of life, how can we, in all conscience, lock them out of full participation and, indeed, access to citizenship of our country? I believe this to be unconscionable and wrong and I will continue to advocate strongly on behalf of this very disadvantaged community. Their plight in Australia should attract the urgent attention of both state and federal governments, including the New Zealand government.

The most fertile ground in any electorate is in our schools, where we see youngsters being nurtured and inspired to reach high and lofty goals. Being part of the national partnership scheme with additional funds and resources from the federal government, along with the new facilities built during the economic downturn, we have witnessed, and continue to do so, great increases in results in all facets of learning. The principals, teachers and other staff have risen to the challenge and, when viewed as distance travelled, I believe that the revolution in education is well and truly evident in all schools in the Woodridge electorate. Crestmead, Kingston and Woodridge North primaries now have C&K kindies onsite, built by our state government. Those programs will result in higher standards of learning, laying a strong foundation when the young ones enter prep.

For many in the community, volunteering in Logan City is almost akin to living and breathing. It is a community of great heart and magnificent services. Our business community and in particular our chamber of commerce are great community partners. Time does not permit me to mention all I would wish to. You will find volunteers wherever you go: in our Meals on Wheels; our hospital; SES; PCYC; sporting clubs; churches; musical, arts and theatre groups; garden and seniors clubs; service organisations such as Lions and Rotary, Soroptimist International and Zonta; P&Cs; Neighbourhood Watch groups; Volunteers in Policing; and so many more such as our Mission Possible group, which

sews for our hospital; aged-care facilities; Camp Quality; and Child Safety. In recent years, our students have adopted volunteering in many ways such as fundraising activities, visiting aged-care facilities and the like. In fact, volunteering underpins so many of the functions in our community. Today, I wish to pay tribute to each one who gives unstintingly of their time to help others.

Perhaps one of the more public demonstrations of love and care within a community, which ultimately led to a huge volunteer effort, was in the aftermath of the tragic fire in Slacks Creek when 11 precious lives were taken. The shared grief within our community was poured out in many ways and is still the memory that invokes tearful recollections for many. Both our Samoan and Tongan communities were cloaked in grief and our entire community was profoundly affected. Our police, fire, emergency services officers, SES officers, Salvation Army officers, church leaders, Logan Funerals and many others were magnificent in the sensitive way they supported and assisted this community. Both Logan City Council and the previous state government were heavily involved, both financially and through offering support. We walked their journey every step of the way and, finally, it led to the rebuilding of that home involving many partners. I pay tribute to my former colleague Evan Moorhead, who played a major role in that effort, as did Dave Hanna and many volunteers from the BLF, Hutchinson Builders, Mirvac and many other contractors and community partners. That home will always remain as a sentinel of the care of a community for their own. It has been constructed with much symbolism, such as the 11 pillars in the front fence, the flowering shrubs that were carefully selected and every aspect that went into its construction. To Tau, Treicee, Ierimiah and Misi: we can never understand the depths of your pain and grief, but your story will forever be woven into the history of our city and remain in the hearts of many.

To continue the theme of volunteering, during election campaigns many join together in a cause they strongly believe in. While we always have a veritable army of volunteers, for this election we had people volunteering who had never before taken part in a campaign. While we have seen a devastating result for our party, change was forecast for several years before and many had lost faith in our government, which had failed to listen and give heed to the issues that were troubling to our electors. In Australia, few governments are given a mandate beyond three or four terms and it is now up to those of us who remain in this place and out in the wider community to rebuild and rejuvenate. The long history and traditions, the sense of social justice for all, the concept of fairness and equality, of standing shoulder to shoulder with workers as over the years our unions have fought and won so many of the conditions that all workers enjoy today—those are the reasons for the existence of the Australian Labor Party. There is a sense that we may see some of those hard-won conditions eroded away and on this side of the House, although small in number, we will be ever vigilant.


There are many whom I would like to thank for their support and sacrifice of time and effort. Families bear a huge burden when a member enters political life and that has been an experience particularly for my husband, Lee. He keeps our home going while I am absent and sacrifices so much personally. There are many sacrifices of our own personal time and the inevitable absences when we simply cannot join in family events. In this House we all understand that and attempt in some way to balance our personal and working life, but at times it is very difficult.

There are many people who during the recent campaign sacrificed much of their own personal time. Now I would like to pay tribute to just some of them. First are my electorate staff, Sandy Boyd and Chris Harkins, both of whom carry a huge load serving the electorate. Sandy has been with me since 2001. She keeps me on track and has a wonderful network of partners to call on to solve issues. Chris comes with a great wealth of experience, both in the housing and social welfare sectors, and her ability to case-manage and solve personal issues is greatly appreciated. Michael Eborn has taken a major role in every state and federal election since the early 1970s. Once again he was there with me, organising booth rosters and ensuring that all was in readiness for election day.

Thank you to Sandy and Hank, Lonnie and many from my Samoan community who assisted with our signs and the army of workers who manned booths and assisted in many other ways. My thanks go to Richard Justice, Elizabeth Copson, Paul Wincen, Mick and Caitlin Noble, Leif Bremmerman, Jim Sykes, Julie Holden, Kerri Alexander, Teresa Lane and others from Craig Emerson's office, Joy Wright or 'Tilly', John and Judy Wilson, Louis Noronha, Barry Ramsay, Ron Robison, Gordon Coulson, Robyn Caffery, Josephine Aufai, Ivan Bicanic, Sandy Willett, Hank Lewis, Daphne Godden, Daniel Zingifuaboro, Auntie Betty McGrady, Neville Scholes, Luca and Elizabeth Camay, Geoff Greenfield, Hazel Hubbard, Craig O'Leary, Don Frew, Geoff and Catherine McGregor, the Maori Warriors, Juan Santa Cruz, John Ruthenberg, Jeremie Heri, Gota-A-Bahanibanje and many others.

While we retained the seat of Woodridge, as a party we are bruised but not without heart. Many now want to help us rebuild, some who have been Labor voters and now wish to be more involved. While seven members may be not much more than a handful, we come to this place each sitting week with great heart and a firm resolve that we will be the solid base upon which this party will once again rise to be the upholder of our strong Labor values. Thank you to those who have stood by us. We will need all of your support and help in the years ahead.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! Before we continue, there is too much noise and chatter in the House. I just ask all members that, if you need to speak, that is fine but please keep it quiet. The second thing is that there is too much unnecessary moving about in the chamber. It would certainly help the House if you restrict your movements around the chamber to a minimum. Just out of courtesy to those making their speeches, if you would not walk between the Speaker and the member giving their speech, that would help as well. Before calling the member for Brisbane Central, I remind the House that it is the member's inaugural speech and as such the member shall be heard in silence. I call the member for Brisbane Central.

 **Mr CAVALLUCCI** (Brisbane Central—LNP) (12.10 pm): I rise here today to speak for the first time in this House. I do so proudly and with the greatest honour present my address-in-reply to Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland's speech at the opening of the 54th Parliament. I pledge my loyalty to this parliament and to the electors of Brisbane Central.

I would firstly like to pass on my sincerest congratulations to the member for Maroochydore on becoming the first female Speaker in Queensland. I would like to make particular mention of thanks to Madam Speaker for the many occasions during my campaign when I required the voice of wisdom, knowledge and fair judgement—attributes no doubt which will be administered to this House from the highest and most respected of roles which she now occupies.

Mr Deputy Speaker, today I stand before you as the proud middle son of Italian migrants. Our family story is not unlike most immigrant stories following the Second World War. Our family is the cornerstone of all our strength, our successes and our values. Why is it that strength and family are all too common qualities when we refer to Italian immigrant families? I believe it is because our bonds with this country initially were forged through struggle and hardship. Our families fled to a place which seemed to provide equality of opportunity and where you could be rewarded by the efforts of your labours.

Both of my grandfathers came to this country alone and by sea, armed with nothing more than optimism and an unstoppable work ethic. Their means may have been meagre but their dreams were not. They worked as labourers on projects like the Roma Street tunnel and, like most immigrants of the time, when the work concluded they followed the work to the cane fields of North Queensland, where still even today the results of immigrant labour is legendary. They were foreign men and women in a foreign land trying to speak a foreign language, and it would be two years before they sent for the rest of the family to join them, eventually settling in boarding houses in Bowen Hills and then homes in New Farm.

It was this work ethic, the value inherent in the principle of individual responsibility and the belief in the concept of reward for effort that allowed them to seize their second chance at life. That struggle and hardship that I referred to earlier ultimately went on to define the success of many immigrant families who settled here and that now leaves my 88-year-old grandfather with a genuine feeling of gratitude to this country he now calls home.

It was these very beliefs instilled in me that ultimately led me to the Liberal Party many years ago. I was always a believer in small governments which provide efficient services that ensure equality of opportunity, not equality of outcome, whilst providing a safety net to those who lack the capacity to take care of themselves. I do not believe, like those who sit opposite do, that human nature is some form of social construct that an all-knowing government is required to reshape with the ideal of achieving earthly perfection.

With my proud multicultural heritage, it makes me even prouder to be afforded the honour and the privilege of the role of Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I am absolutely passionate about celebrating the diversity which exists both in the electorate of Brisbane Central and across Queensland. There is so much to be gained through cultural understanding, tolerance and acceptance of those who differ from ourselves, and it can be achieved through actions as simple as the recognition of the positive impact one's cultural and economic contribution have made to the fabric of Queensland's society.

Brisbane Central is a spectacular place to live, to work and to raise a family. It is spectacular because of its diversity. Woven into the fabric of Brisbane Central are a string of unique characters that make their way around the unique places which traverse the electorate. The Fortitude Valley heart has spent the last 20 years searching for its own renaissance, from what was sometimes a dark and gloomy place into a glowing entertainment and shopping precinct second to none. The only thing missing was the inertia supplied by the political will of its local representatives to unite the stakeholders. I am pleased that this is now occurring. Any efforts to improve the Valley's broader commercial appeal in order to help solve its social outcomes must ensure that in every way we retain the character and the charm which makes the Valley a crucible of artistic expression.

In discussions at a recent Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting that included venue owners, support services and music lovers, more than anything else, the stakeholders recognised, as did I, their good fortune in being involved in what was described as the most energetic and pulsating entertainment

precinct in the nation. The levels of fun, entertainment and night-life that are being delivered are extraordinary, and we recognise the challenges but we must work together on the areas which need addressing.

When you look at a map, directly to the right of Brisbane Central you have the electorate of Clayfield and to the left you have Ashgrove. I could not think of a better place to be—located between the Treasurer and the Premier. Whilst I do not see any metaphors there, I do see opportunity for the people of Brisbane Central.

Brisbane Central has the CBD at its heart, the centre of trade and commerce for all of Queensland. A significant number of small to medium businesses populate the city fringe through the Valley, Newstead, Spring Hill and Bowen Hills. Without question, these businesses are suffering and were simply not protected from the stranglehold of regulation and taxation imposed on business by the previous Labor government. The LNP government makes its pledge to you that once again your entrepreneurial spirit will flourish as this government will get off your back.

We have Chinatown and its mall, the Queen Street Mall, the Valley Mall, the James Street precinct, the spectacular New Farm Park and the Powerhouse, Newstead Riverpark, the Kelvin Grove Urban Village and the iconic RNA showgrounds and home to the Ekka. We have two Queensland University of Technology campuses; the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and the Royal Children's Hospital; the botanical gardens; and the 46 hectares of parklands from Downey Park to Spencer Park, which is one of the most utilised sporting grounds in Brisbane. There is even an 18-hole golf course at Victoria Park in Herston. Finally, there is this House, where the Premier, Campbell Newman, will restore good governance to this state once again.

We have amazing community groups, working with a common purpose and common effort so that we can all share the benefits of this community together. We have the National Association of Immigrant Families, Casa Italia, the New Farm neighbourhood community centre, Rotary clubs, outreach and drop-in centres for homeless like the 139 Club and Footprints, and many more.

My affection and bond with the electorate is immeasurably strong. So much so—and to the horror I am sure of some of my regional parliamentary colleagues—I have never resided more than 2½ kilometres from the Brisbane CBD. I have, by and large, lived my entire life in Wilston. My mother still lives there in the family home that her and dad bought in 1969 when they were married. My grandfather, who I spoke of earlier, still lives beside her. My older brother, Paul, and his family live a few metres away from me. In the four or five years that I happened to venture out of Wilston, I lived in one of the most stunning and historic parts of the electorate and which is even closer to the city, and that is Teneriffe. Each July over 30,000 people join to celebrate Teneriffe's history, cultural diversity and beauty at the Teneriffe Festival.

As a youngster, like many locals, I was taught to swim at the Spring Hill Baths, which have stood since 1886 and which adjoin the Brisbane Central electorate office on Boundary Street. Both of my grandmothers worked in the Villa Maria Convent in Spring Hill and for many years assisted elderly nuns while working in other nursing homes in New Farm.

Our family business has always operated from Windsor, where I have worked for the last 15 years, and it recently celebrated its 30-year milestone. I went to primary school at St Patrick's College in Fortitude Valley. I went to junior and high schools at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace in Spring Hill. This amazing school, now 136 years old, had one of the most profound influences on my life, as it has on just about all the young men who have passed through its gates, which is why I enrolled my son in the school when he was just one week old, where he will join his cousins as third-generation Terracians.

Terrace has a proud tradition of service to others—initiatives such as Eddie's Van play a critical role in the electorate, providing food and support for the marginalised and to those who are sleeping rough. Manned by Terrace students, old boys and volunteers, it helps students understand the mechanics behind personal poverty and the development of empathy for those less fortunate than themselves. Brother Damien Price deserves particular mention as being one of the most inspirational characters one could ever hope to meet. The outcomes delivered to the poor and those on downside of advantage through his involvement with the Edmund Rice Foundation is nothing short of remarkable.

Post high school I did manage to venture out of the electorate as I undertook studies at the University of Queensland in St Lucia. However, this was offset by the student jobs I took which included years as a barman at Dooley's Irish Pub in the Valley and in the stands of Ballymore during rugby season.

I am compelled to speak about and recognise those individuals who sacrificed so much in order to provide me with every opportunity to be in this House today. Very early in the campaign we made the decision to knock on the door of every home in the electorate, a task which I completed 1½ times during the campaign. I did so in order to engage directly with the constituents about the issues which mattered to them and to deliver the LNP's positive plans for change in Queensland. I walked every street in

Brisbane Central many times over, and what I found were parts of the inner city of Brisbane that had suffered the indignity of inaction and in some parts slow decay—the clear markings of a government that had stopped listening to its people.

As a consequence of their passion for change being equal to mine, most of the people I am about to mention made that walk with me. First and foremost, my heartfelt thanks must be conveyed to my amazing wife, Carlyn, who joins me from the gallery today. It has been 10 years since we met and our love for each other has never been stronger. Our commitment to raising our two young children and sharing parenting's many trials and joys has never been clearer. In my absences during the campaign, you have been the most amazing mother and wife, and I am grateful that we have undertaken this journey together. I am also acutely aware of the fact, as it was reported to me on many occasions, that whilst out on the campaign trail with me you were far more of a drawcard than I was. In what can only be described as the second historic feat of the last election, despite the commitment and time dedicated during the campaign we received the news barely a week prior to polling day that we were expecting our third and very much final child. I have since been informed that election babies are a rare occurrence indeed.

To my immediate family, my mother, Maria, and my brother Paul, who joins me from the gallery today, and my young brother, David, on what was an immeasurable sacrifice you have all had to endure over the last few years through my absences at work and other family commitments, I offer my sincerest of thanks. Disappointingly, my mother could not be here today as she is in Toronto where she is enjoying the recent arrival of her fifth grandchild and the first for my younger brother, David. His temporary relocation to Toronto, where he is learning a pioneering procedure in his liver transplant surgical specialisation, I think was specifically timed in order to avoid the campaign. However, congratulations on the birth of your son and come home soon.

This is the first time ever that the community covered by the state seat of Brisbane Central has chosen to be represented by conservatives at all three levels of government. The same team of people who set out only a few years ago worked on all three of these campaigns to deliver this change and only recently was this dream realised with the successes achieved at the recent Brisbane City Council elections. I thank the federal member for Brisbane, Teresa Gambaro, for her support and give my heartfelt congratulations to Vicki Howard, the councillor for the Central Ward, for her success. She joins us from the gallery today.

For the last four years the three of us worked tirelessly as a united team. On a daily basis we worked together for the issues that mattered most to those we now all represent. Obviously I am overjoyed to be a part of this new and energetic LNP state government, but when I consider the possibilities which lay ahead for the people of Brisbane Central, now that such a cohesive team represents their interests across all levels of representation, I am truly excited for what outcomes might be achieved.

To Queensland's Senator, the Hon. Brett Mason, who on countless occasions over the last four years gave of his time, guidance and friendship to help me chart a course to this House today, thank you. To Tony Gleeson, the man who after my preselection in November 2010 was out on the side of the road with me, a place to which he remained as the sun was setting the night before the election in March 2012 and every week in between—for that commitment to me, to the party, and to the Mount Coot-tha and Ashgrove campaigns, I offer my heartfelt gratitude.

To Mitch Redford and James McGrath, for the friendships formed and for the fun times during what should have been otherwise stressful ones, I offer my sincerest of thanks. To the rest of the team—Darren Black, Liam Moorehead, Brad Carswell, Robert Lambeth, Adam Stocker, Robert Collins, Jordie, Luke Barnes, Ben Riley, John, Nathan, Alessia, Kate, Emily, Tom, Patty and Raj—there are too many to mention—thank you. Finally, to my colleague and dear friend the member for Mount Coot-tha, as always, thank you for being part of the journey.


People tend to refer to effective leaders as born leaders. I believe leaders are not born. I believe that great leaders never intend to be. They are made in the moment by the choices they make and defined by the reasons they make them. The member for Ashgrove's leadership qualities stem from the fact that his desire to strive, his desire to fulfil his vision for Queensland comes from his passion to deliver better outcomes for all. You can tell the true quality of the leader he is by the standards he sets for himself and his team—an ordinary man with extraordinary determination. I thank him for his leadership during the campaign and, in particular, during the times when those who sit opposite in the most disgraceful of fashions chose to attack the integrity of his family for personal gain.

I have one last person to mention and I have purposely left this till last and that is to recognise my late father, Joe Cavallucci. Growing up we were given as much responsibility as we could handle. My father understood the delicate balance of guidance versus independence. As an adult he gave me the perspective that success in life requires initiative, individual responsibility, winners and losers, and demanding standards.

Joining the family business seemed like a very natural process and I, like my older brother Paul, was drawn by the character that my father was. He was an energy—a force. He simply made dreams come true. He was one of those characters of the electorate I mentioned earlier. He kept us grounded in our daily lives, leaving our motivations for success firmly bound by the desire not to outdo others but the desire to outdo ourselves. He used to say, ‘Whatever you chose to do in life, be the best at it and be happy.’ It was this loss which made me reflect on my life, and I have come to the conclusion that I had only partially understood the lessons he had taught me. Dad, for so long I was either chasing your shadows or standing on your shoulders. However, today I now understand what you meant.

In closing, to the residents of Brisbane Central, I am very much aware of the privilege that has been afforded to me as your elected representative. I also acknowledge the trust which many of you have placed in me as you may have voted for the LNP for the first time. What I pledge to you is that I will always give my best with the values and the drive I bring with me. I will focus always on representing the whole community and I will make the effort to listen and to seek the truth. I will not stop in my cause to ensure that the Queensland parliament never stops hearing about the concerns of the people of Brisbane Central. As part of this amazing LNP team, which almost fills this House, we have already commenced on the path that will once again deliver for the people of Brisbane Central and we will get this state back on track.

*An incident having occurred in the public gallery—*

 **Hon. GW ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier) (12.29 pm): I am not sure whether that clapping from the public gallery is for me or for the member for Brisbane Central. I expect it is for the member for Brisbane Central.

**Mr Langbroek:** We have heard you before.

**Mr ELMES:** Maybe I should sit down now. Mr Deputy Speaker, could I first of all ask you to convey to Madam Speaker my congratulations to her on her attaining her high office. I was also very pleased to see that the Premier came into the chamber just before I started my speech. I think the debt that all of us in the LNP owe Campbell Newman and his wife, Lisa, can never, ever be repaid by any of us. I would like to state, as I have done in the past, my undying love for Her Majesty the Queen in this her diamond jubilee year. It is a great thing that she has been with us these last 60 years.

When I came into this place as the elected representative of Noosa in 2006, I came with mixed feelings. On one hand was the immense pride of being elected to parliament for the first time. The first experience of everything is unique and it holds a special place in our memories and in shaping who we are. There was also the humility coming from that election as an MP, and of course there was that awe of responsibility causing cold sweats in my palms that more than half of the electors of Noosa—some 56 per cent—had chosen a boy from Everton Park who calls Noosa home as the one to speak on their behalf, to represent their hopes and dreams for themselves and their children in this place, to sift their wants from their needs and to deliver, and, above all, to fight tooth and nail to always keep Noosa as ‘Noosa’.

Re-election in 2009 was bitter sweet. Despite increasing my personal approval, we as the alternative government did not achieve our goal. So rising to speak today as a member of the Newman LNP government is very special indeed. As well as being a member of a government holding the trust of the Queensland community with 77 of the 89 seats in the 54th Parliament, I have been further entrusted by the Premier with the ministry that manages the government’s responsibilities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and I am the Minister Assisting the Premier. I cherish the trust and I cherish his faith. His trust is echoed by my cabinet and parliamentary colleagues for we are collectively responsible to the electorate and we will be judged collectively on what we do as a team. I especially cherish the faith and trust of the 77 per cent of electors of Noosa who have sent me here once more.

The period of aspiration to govern is over. The period for the inspiration of government is realised. The period of perspiration as the responsible government is just beginning. Responsible we will be in both senses of the word—we will be a responsible government and we will act as a responsible government. As a minister, I will be dealing with another tier of elected government—local Indigenous councils—as part of my responsibilities with the Minister for Local Government, who was in the chamber a second ago. I have met many of the mayors, councillors and CEOs already and I have a very, very high regard for them personally.

Above all things, the Liberal National Party is a party which stands for the individual. As I have said before in this place, the LNP is a party which encourages aspiration by the individual, provides for the equality of opportunity, facilitates the way forward by which the individual may achieve and by which the individual may succeed to the advantage of us all, and provides a hand-up delivering independence rather than a handout which ensures dependency.



There is much to do in Queensland, and there is much to do in Queensland for our Indigenous communities. My first experience as a minister was only a few weeks ago on a visit to Cairns where I met Indigenous mayors and attended the funeral of the mayor of Aurukun. Last week I had the privilege of again going to the Far North to Coen to witness the handover by the Premier of traditional lands to traditional people. I followed this up with another two days of meetings with leaders of Indigenous community organisations.

I want to reinforce that this is a government which stands for the rights of our Indigenous communities, especially their land rights. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be in no doubt that the Newman government is committed in partnership to their future. We support native title, but the present native title arrangements to me are un-Australian. The present native title arrangements mitigate against the aspirations of Indigenous Australians to own their own land, to own their own home and to have a job in meaningful employment by which to provide with pride for their own family and their community.

The present native title arrangements hold land in community trusts too often, with little practical advantage for the Indigenous community. Native title was a great step forward for Indigenous Australians, but the time since the Mabo decision has shown us some of the practical flaws. We need this native title concept to advance, to become contemporary, so as to meet the emerging needs of Indigenous Australians now in 2012 and in the years ahead and for the generations to come. We see Indigenous Australians integrated into mainstream Australian society if that is their choice. We cannot in all consciousness support the ongoing maintenance of Aboriginal societies as a curiosity of ancient times, as a relic of the past, as a political trophy to be retained in abject neglect while state and federal governments underdeliver. We want to see Indigenous people use their land in such a way as to develop economically and sustainably and beyond traditional uses only. I have reflected on these matters previously in the House.

If as a minister I can make a positive long-term improvement to the life of just one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander family, I will be pleased. If I can do the same for many families in many communities, I will be happy and that is my goal. In this regard, I am especially mindful of our intention which was so well expressed by the Premier, when he recently said—

The vision is that one day an Aboriginal man or woman living in Cape York will be able to come home to a house that they own, after a day at work on a croc farm, a prawn farm, the tropical fruit plantation or the mine, having earned real dollars instead of being on welfare, come home and enjoy a glass of beer or wine in their home. That's the vision and anyone who believes that's inappropriate well I think frankly they are being unfair and they don't want to give Aboriginal people a real future on the Cape.

I do not think that is a bad vision.

I am also mindful that the dialogue about my responsibilities is not dominated by a one-dimensional focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs while neglecting those for multicultural affairs. I am looking forward to the release next month of the information collected and reported from the 2011 national census and I will be interested to see the changes on which we will base future policies. In 2006 there were 3,904,508 people in Queensland on census night. By country of birth, there were almost as many New Zealanders as English, almost as many Germans and South Africans as Scots, surprisingly twice as many Dutch as Irish, as many Sri Lankans as Welsh and almost 55,000 people from Asian nations. Of the 18 languages identified as a language other than English spoken at home, 10 were Asian languages as well as Torres Strait Creole.


I will be interested to see the changes in our migration patterns since 2006. I look forward to the challenges that will be thrown up by this and how mindful we must be to become more culturally aware and welcoming—as are those who have taken the major step of leaving their country of birth to forge a new life in a country that for a significant number of them will be very, very different in almost every way from what they have been socialised in and grown up in.

My address would be incomplete if I did not pay tribute to those who have helped return me to this place. My re-election was helped by the team which has been with me, in many cases, from the beginning: Matt Collins; Nick Dondas; Barry Elms; Colleen Woods; Gus Hatter; Peg Burgin; Kenelm Creighton; Tony Tobin; Tony Fowler; Bruce and Glenise Clelland; David Peel; Earle Bailey, a former member of this House; David Atkinson; Chris Nolan; Sam Scanlon; and Richard Pearson. They all hold a special place in my heart, as do their wives and partners who support them so well on my behalf. They sacrifice their precious time with their loved ones for me.

There are many others in a team of 130 volunteers like Leanne Walsh, who manned polling booths on election day, and others who are ably led by a strong team of booth captains like Neil Carrington and those who letterboxed widely like Sally McKay and the Pages, also handing out flyers at the markets and other public events. Then there are those like Tony Moran who just go wherever and do whatever they are asked. They are the salt of my earth. Then there are my electorate staff who have become my friends, Lyn Parker and Barb Hannon, who are my sounding boards and who amplify the belief which my electors have in me. Special mention goes to Sam Scanlon, who was at my side almost every minute of the campaign. Sam, you are a giant among men. Last but no means least, I thank my

wonderful children, Teigan and Kristin, and the beautiful person who stands shoulder to shoulder with me in everything I do, my greatest supporter and the one who keeps me grounded, my darling wife, Lesleigh. To all of those people individually and collectively, thank you. To the electors of Noosa, once again, thank you, too.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! Before calling the member for Sandgate, I remind the House that it is the member's maiden speech and as such the member shall be heard in silence. I call the member for Sandgate.

 **Ms MILLARD** (Sandgate—LNP) (12.41 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, honourable members and guests, on this proud, humbling and exciting occasion, I pledge allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II and her representative in Australia, Her Excellency the Governor-General. I also acknowledge the traditional landowners of the electorate I now represent, the Turrbal people. I want to begin my speech by paying tribute to an esteemed past resident of our electorate of Sandgate, Dr John Bradfield, who is known throughout the country for his vision, his drive, his ambitious goals and, most importantly, his achievements. Although few ever reach the heights of his accomplishments, I feel a sense of connection as both he and I share a common bond of, firstly, being residents of Sandgate and, secondly, having similar working connections, being the manufacturing sector. An engineer of distinction, his plans and dreams were not mere wishes but were accomplished. Some of those accomplishments were Brisbane's Story Bridge, Sydney's Harbour Bridge, numerous rail networks and dams, to name a few. So today, nearly 145 years after his birth at Sandgate, I dedicate myself to the people of the Sandgate electorate, whom I now proudly represent.

I am also mindful today of Mrs Irene Longman, Queensland's first female parliamentarian, who entered this chamber 83 years ago. When we think of political pioneers, it is near impossible sometimes to fully capture the challenges that they faced. In light of some of the challenges Mrs Longman faced in this very building, her achievements were extraordinary—the establishment of baby clinics and the appointment of the first Queensland female police officer. She was also responsible for changing the venue of the Children's Court and was particularly interested in the welfare of the mentally handicapped. She was also heavily involved in the establishment of opportunity classes for these citizens—a political priority that is still relevant 80 years later and for which I shall continue to lobby and advocate. With all of this achieved and more, Mrs Longman would take her meals on the veranda at Parliament House because she was never allowed in the parliamentary dining room and there were never any female toilets in the building throughout her parliamentary term. How far we have come and how thankful I am for this brave woman. It is indeed humbling to think of what our predecessors overcame, and I am thankful for the efforts of Dr John Bradfield and Mrs Irene Longman and the many others who paved the way and made it possible for a first-generation Australian woman to stand here before you today.

I succeeded Ms Vicki Darling, who represented the electorate of Sandgate for six years, and I want to record my appreciation on behalf of the constituents to not only Ms Darling but also all of my predecessors who have represented the Sandgate electorate. While some of us may differ on our political values and ideals, on behalf of the electorate I thank them for their service.

I thank my parents, Brian and Jose, who in the late 1960s set out from the other side of the world to make a new home here in Queensland. They had a vision for a new life and they took action. Initially living in a council house, they have seen their decision bear fruit in so many ways over the years and it is not one that they have regretted. As the first of my family born in Australia, it is a point of extraordinary pride that it has been possible for a member of our family to go from council house to Parliament House in one generation.

To my sisters, Susan, Jill and Anita, I offer my deepest thanks. To Susan, who passed away a few years ago: I am sorry you are not here. To Jill and Anita: I am so thankful you are my sisters and I love you deeply. To the rest of my family: you may not fully understand why I am doing this, but I can assure you that it is to make the lives of all Queenslanders better and I thank you for your continued support and even your curiosity. Our family motto has been for me a very much lived experience—'Keep tryst and trust'. I think that sits comfortably alongside our state's motto—'Audax at fidelis', bold but faithful. May I record that one of the more traditional meanings of 'tryst' is being faithful in keeping an appointment—something I am very aware of in my new role, especially when the bells are rung!

In the late 1970s our family began our new life in a little country town called Texas on the Queensland border. That beginning in the country has ensured that I have always had a deep affinity for those who continue to keep our regional and rural communities strong and vibrant. Queensland's character is, I think, formed in no small measure by the fact that most of our population do not live in the capital city. There is a little bit of country Queensland in every electorate, and there certainly is in Sandgate, be it through me or the many others who now call Sandgate and the surrounds home. That little country primary school I attended had as its motto 'acta non verba'—actions, not words. These were powerful words to instil in a child and I am ever grateful they were. It is an attitude that has been deeply engrained into me and I intend to act for my constituents, my state and my country. It is also an extraordinary thought for me that my little school's motto resonates so strongly with this can-do government that I am so proud to be a member of.

I also want to note my sincerest thankyou to the party's administration and leadership—Mr Bruce McIver, Mr Michael O'Dwyer, Mr James McGrath, Mr Barry O'Sullivan, Mr Gary Spence and so many others who have given us wholehearted enthusiastic support in Sandgate. I also want to take this moment to record that I will never forget the opportunity you have given me and, as I stated when my preselection was finalised, I cannot guarantee you an outcome but I will never let you down.

Thanks to Queensland's new Treasurer, the Hon. Tim Nicholls. Despite his many commitments, he always had time for our SEC and always found time in his busy schedule to simply phone me occasionally to see how I was. As a gesture of support this has been much appreciated, even though he probably thought I was running uphill backwards in what was considered to be a very safe, 52-year Labor seat.

To Dr Mark Robinson and Andrew Powell: I thank you for visiting during the campaign to show your support for our waterways so that our community and those who visit can continue to swim, fish and boat with the knowledge that this government is committed to environmental responsibility and clean, healthy waterways. To Senator Sue Boyce, the Hon. Vince Lester, Bill O'Chee, the Hon. Tracy Davis, the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek, Ray Stevens and many others who now sit on the government benches, I also extend my warmest thanks for taking the time to keep in touch with me during the campaign to offer your support, your encouragement and your mentorship.

I thank the Premier for demonstrating his commitment to the Sandgate electorate with his presence in the electorate and for making one of his first election promises to make our lives easier and, most importantly, safer by promising the Telegraph Road rail overpass. Almost last but by no means least, I thank those at the Sandgate SEC, especially those who for years and decades have dedicated a portion of their lives to make our electorate a coalition and/or conservative seat. My deepest thanks to you all for your support, enthusiasm, dedication and friendship. I would love to mention people specifically but there are so many and I am so afraid that I may offend if I forget a name, but you know who you are and I thank you.

Now on to my campaign team. First among equals in the team is Mrs Irene Lewis. Words can never describe our pairing, but our bond will be sealed forever. To Chris Mangan, Kerry Tupper, John Stopford, Merrilyn Delporte, Sonya Gallery, Barry Keam, John Lennon, Darryl McNamara, Adriana Tulloh, Ray Tulloh, Nathaniel Tunney, Jade Harley-Riddell and Mark Yore: you really are the dream team and, with plenty of hard work and long hours, it really did happen—just like magic. It has been a privilege to work with everyone I have mentioned and those from my SEC, past and present, and the volunteers who offered support when we needed it most. Eighteen months ago, standing here seemed a remote dream, but with their drive and determination we acted and achieved and today is their celebration.

As I reflect on today, I realise that I have always had a deep desire to serve, to make a difference and to defend those who cannot defend themselves. The resolve to serve was instilled in me at a young age, which was probably due to the fact that I came from a long line of service men and women. When I was younger, I wanted to join the police force and I also wanted to join the Army Reserve, but owing to what was then considered not passing minimum requirements, both applications were over before they barely began. So, overcoming a natural shyness, I was determined that it was this place that could enable me to serve my community, to make a difference and to defend those who need defending.

The electorate that I represent is—as are all 89 electorates—special. As it is blessed with the wonderful Bramble Bay, it has been a haven and a destination for people of all walks and times of their lives. For me, Sandgate is home. It does not matter where I travel to in the world or around Australia, I always love coming home to my house and to the wide, open and beautiful spaces that the shore front of Sandgate, Shorncliffe and Brighton provides. With regard to how other people feel about living in the Sandgate electorate, we know that around 40 per cent of the people in the electorate were living somewhere else five years ago. We also know that over half of the population has not moved in the last five years. People arrive at Deagon, Shorncliffe, Bracken Ridge, Fitzgibbon, Bald Hills, Brighton, Taigum and Sandgate and they tend to stay.

The electorate comprises many young families and many senior citizens. It has many sporting clubs and also many vibrant community and not-for-profit groups, many of which are filled with volunteers who are so vital in making these organisations successful. The electorate mostly has residences, but it also has some light industry and, in parts, some successful and some struggling businesses. It has people from all work sectors—professional, trade, and others—and plenty of operators of small, medium and large businesses, who do not necessarily have their businesses in the electorate but who choose to live there. The electorate has great schools, churches and fantastic festivals, the two largest being the Bluewater Festival, best known as the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race, and also the Einbunpin Festival, which celebrates our heritage, lagoons, wetlands, artists and the region as a whole.

We yield a community of passion and drive and people are rightly proud of where they call home. We also have our place in the history books, most recently being during World War II when the suburb of Brighton played an important role in hosting the RAAF air training school. The electorate has a mix of

industry ranging from our brilliant prawn trawler operators to the Deagon thoroughbred training track, an automotive sector and a recent flurry of water sports operators to name a few. The electorate is also blessed to be protected by a dedicated team of front-line emergency services, being police, fire, ambulance and marine rescue.

Earlier this year, I committed to a number of specific goals and I can confirm my pledge again to deliver: the Telegraph Road rail overpass, the improvement of Cabbage Tree Creek's water quality, additional public transport options and the continued health and vibrancy of the local racing industry. There are many in the Sandgate electorate who need our support in defending their rights, freedoms and dignity. We have a large proportion of retirement and aged-care facilities. We have homeless people and we have those who are marginalised. We also have many people who are afflicted with disabilities. I pledge my support and energy to these very special members and facilities in our community.

This leads me to another group that is so often forgotten or undervalued. They provide such wonderful love and joy in our lives. They are our animals. I thank my dogs—my two most loyal supporters, Bunji and Pepper—for their energy and for the joy they brought to so many during the campaign out on the campaign trail. We should never forget the beneficial impact that our animals have on us. Small measures such as companion animals for the frail, the elderly or the handicapped can have a large beneficial impact on their quality of life. This effect is real and it is powerful and I hope that we can provide greater access to those in the electorate most in need.

On a professional level, there comes a time in an individual's life when one needs to make a stand. In a broader sense, I was driven to make my stand by a deep desire to support my industry, the metals and manufacturing sector. In my roles in the industry over the past two decades I have sadly witnessed the steady decline of manufacturing in this state. Some businesses have managed to find niches that give them a competitive advantage. But many have lost out in the reshaping of the Australian economy and our industrial landscape. The shrinking of the manufacturing industry has had a flow-on effect on not only associated or supporting industries but also the wider community. That is why the loss of manufacturing is always a big deal. It is seen as vitally important by communities as it employs thousands and it gives others a sense of purpose and prosperity. I am not so naive as to think there is a magic cure, but I am committed to working with industry to reverse decline where it is happening and to support growth where that is happening.

I have worked on many projects with many companies, large and small, and all around the state, including power stations, rail—be it wagon or passenger—hospitals, abattoirs, the agricultural sector, marine, sugar mills, the transport industry, bridges, commercial and sheet metal fit-out companies, mines, boilermakers, food processing companies, water treatment plants, and the list goes on. With all of these industry sectors, the mining industry and more, how did we go bust in a boom? But more importantly, how did the previous government allow it to happen? Until you have walked the walk and talked the talk and seen the strain and the tears on the faces of thousands of people, do not ever give me some weak, half-empty excuse—as it is the government's responsibility to ensure that people, employment and industry are protected to the best they can be. I find it most ironic that the previous government, which was so famous for choking business and industry in an overabundance of red tape and regulation, could not even apply the simplest of practices and procedures to itself to save our state from going broke and into billions of dollars worth of debt.

For the moment I have put away my steel-capped boots and my high-vis shirt and have replaced them with what is deemed to be a more appropriate wardrobe for parliament. But I look forward to the day when I can get back into my old work attire of safety gear and start rebuilding Queensland—starting, hopefully, in my own electorate with the building of the Telegraph Road rail overpass.

The LNP promotes many ideals upon which my own beliefs and foundations are built. As I look around this 54th Parliament I see the LNP as the working person's party, as we are filled with such a broad range of skills and occupations. Our diversity well represents so many sectors that will rebuild this state on so many levels, which encompasses our four pillars: resources, agriculture, tourism and construction. As part of those four pillars I am committed to increasing the level of our skill base and the availability of trades and apprenticeships. Our future is our youth and the manufacturing sector is a great way to develop our youth and to give them a reason for wanting to make Queensland and Australia the greatest place of opportunity in the world. This in turn makes us accountable to support small and medium-sized businesses and as a government we should always provide the encouragement and support networks to those who want to take those brave steps of venturing into the world of their own business and private enterprise. I will strive to make a measurable, beneficial difference to the manufacturing industry, which for so long has been kind to me, along with those who work within it, many of whom I have great admiration for as they often face diverse challenges simply to keep their businesses and staff in employment.

In drawing to a conclusion, I need to offer some special thanks. To my friends, especially those who I have known for more than half my life—Robyn, Rachel, Alison, Christine, Carla, Mel, Louise, Dan, Larissa—without their friendship life just would not be as fun. To those who ignited a political spark in me during my early 20s, Graeme and Yvonne Chapman, who have not only been successful business

owners with their family's steel fabrication business and teaching me much about that world but also Yvonne was Queensland's first female cabinet minister and also served as mayoress of what was then Pine Rivers shire for some 14 years. Mr Fraser Stephens—later to become the chief of staff for Senator Trood—was many years before that also one of my customers from the manufacturing sector. I offer Graeme, Yvonne and Fraser my deepest thanks for their encouragement and for their enlightening political commentary over the years. To quote from the movie *The Iron Lady*, 'If you want to change it, then lead it', and, although some may refer to me as an iron lady owing to my background in the metals manufacturing sector, I feel as though this quote represents my heartfelt thanks to those in the Sandgate electorate who voted for me and who put their faith in the LNP to lead this Queensland government.

I have always believed in being positive, having fun, working hard and staying true to oneself. These are my four pillars that I will represent the people of the Sandgate electorate with and I promise with every bone in my body that I will become the best representative that I can be. Perhaps there is no better guiding light for my time here than my high school motto, 'Esse Quam Videri'—to be, rather than to seem to be.

In conclusion, I acknowledge all my fellow LNP colleagues and the extraordinary discipline, focus and determination that they and their families displayed during the campaign. May we always remain accountable for our actions, never take our positions or electorates for granted, and may we always represent our constituents with the highest of integrity and without political prejudice. I would like to congratulate Madam Speaker on her new historic role and may God bless this 54th Parliament of Queensland as we, the LNP Newman government, strive to get Queensland back on track.


**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

Debate, on motion of Mr Stevens, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS


### Australian Defence Force, Prime Minister's Visit

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government) (2.30 pm): I rise to talk about something near and dear to the heart of my electorate, and that is that we are a proud garrison city. Today I would like to highlight the member for Townsville who served his nation for three decades. It was a great honour for us to have the Prime Minister attend our city to farewell 350 service men and women to Afghanistan quite recently. She was unable to attend the welcome home parade later on in that afternoon for over 1,000 troops because she had to fly out to attend the NATO summit in Chicago. But her plane broke down—not unlike her leadership actually—and she was stuck at the airport. She subsequently told the residents of my city, including those service men and women, that she simply could not make it back to Strand Park for that farewell.

Today I can reveal that the plane did not depart the airport until after 2.30 pm. The welcome home parade commenced at 1 pm and was concluded over an hour before the plane departed. Can I remind members of this House just how important that moment was for my city. Can I remind members of the House that to go from the airport to Strand Park is a journey of 5.5 kilometres and would take approximately 10 minutes. What I am saying today is that what was displayed there was not just a lack of respect; it was again poor judgement from the Prime Minister. It is something we are seeing more and more of from this Prime Minister. Normally the poor judgement just relates to failed policies and backing people who may not otherwise deserve that support, but in this case it was a slap in the face for the men and women of the Australian Defence Force.

I conclude by saying once again that my city is a proud garrison city. My city is a place where we value the input of those men and women to our lifestyle and when we as North Queenslanders say we will remember them we actually mean it.

### Willows Primary School; Thuringowa State High School

 **Mr COX** (Thuringowa—LNP) (2.33 pm): I would like to take this opportunity to make special mention of two wonderful state schools in my electorate of Thuringowa: Willows Primary School and Thuringowa State High School. Last week I was fortunate enough to spend a whole day between the two schools when I took part in the Principal for a Day program as part of Education Week. Firstly, I must say that State Education Week is a wonderful initiative that provides an opportunity to recognise and showcase the great work of both teachers and students in our state schools.


I first reported for duty as principal for a day at Willows Primary School where I met with the principal Dr Graham Foster. There I had the opportunity to visit the grade 6 classes to discuss the role of state government. The students have been undertaking a subject on government this semester. It was

basically a question and answer situation where I was asked questions like, 'Why are you doing it?', 'How much do you get paid?' and 'Do you have to be smart?' I spent the other half of the day at Thuringowa State High School. It is a young school which opened in 1987 with students in years 8, 9 and 11. In the short history of the school it has developed a fine tradition for academic excellence, sporting and cultural achievement and a vibrant community spirit. It is noted for its small size of about 550 students. One of their great prides is their theatre restaurant which I am looking forward to attending. It also has a very successful vocational education program. I met the principal Grant Dale on my visit to Thuringowa High. He is doing a fantastic job, along with his excellent staff and teachers.

I was also met by guides, two 10-year-old students, Caitlyn Kerwin and Anastasia Morrison, who are part of the Green Heart program. It is a student-driven environmental action partnership. The students who take part are known as eco warriors. They give a lot of their spare time to ensure the sustainability of the environment and they do this through projects like community engagement and education, wetland restoration at Loam Island, plant nursery, bush tucker garden and recycling programs. They were recently rewarded for their hard work and dedication, taking out the regional showcase award for excellence in industry or community partnerships.

I was also met by the school captains to discuss a range of topics about the school curriculum and programs and discuss what options they have to them after they leave school. It is here that I talked about the government's focus on putting education, training and employment under the one portfolio. I thoroughly enjoyed my time and role as principal for a day at Willows Primary and Thuringowa High and I urge any MP who did not take part in this initiative this year to sign up for it next year.

### Member for Bundamba

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.36 pm): I rise to say a few words on the terrible attack that occurred in this chamber last night. The member for Bundamba seems to have forgotten that the election is over. The election is actually over and the member for Bundamba had a swing of 22 per cent away from her. She lost 5,000 votes. I looked up the ECQ results. In 2009 the member received 15,400 votes. How many votes did she get in 2012? 10,900! That is 5,000 votes gone—disappeared. This is why we heard this vitriol. She attacked the member for Logan who has not even given his maiden speech yet. The vitriol coming from that side of the chamber is terrible.


The member for Woodridge gave her address-in-reply and forgot about the punters. She is blaming the voters of Queensland for not voting back Labor members. Very few Labor women were voted back in. It is not the fault of the punters of Queensland. They did not leave Labor; Labor left them. That is what actually happened. Labor left the punters of Queensland perched out on a rock with this enormous debt. The member for Bundamba feels ashamed that the punters of Bundamba, Ipswich and Ipswich West are not voting—

**Mrs MILLER:** I rise to a point of order. I find the words of the member for Lockyer offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr RICKUSS:** I withdraw anything I have said that is offensive. The member for Bundamba feels embarrassed that Ipswich has left them. There is no Labor member for Ipswich. There is an LNP member for Ipswich and I am sure he will do a great job. The member for Ipswich West is an LNP member who will do a great job. He will work hard. He understands the roots of the community. The member for Bundamba is on a skinny margin now. Watch out Bundamba, we're coming to get you!

It was a disgraceful attack on people last night. It was an address-in-reply where she should have been looking after her community, highlighting the terrible things that were left undone after the floods or how the council let her down. She was just playing petty party politics. The voters of Ipswich and Bundamba left! Where did they go? How could they do that to them? Look at the paltry numbers that are over there because of it. They are a disgrace and they are still a disgrace. They just have not got it.

### Health Quality and Complaints Commission

 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (2.39 pm): Recently I have been approached by a number of people who believe that the current state and federal authorities that are required by law to regulate doctors are failing. In particular, I refer to the Queensland Health Quality and Complaints Commission, the Queensland Medical Board and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. I understand that over recent years all or a number of those authorities have had significant material provided to them about the matters I am referring to. On advice from the people I have met with, there appears to have been no effective progress in those investigations.

One case that I am familiar with has been with the Health Quality and Complaints Commission for almost 2½ years. The commission has not finalised its investigations and the Queensland Coroner is not able to proceed with an inquest into the circumstances surrounding the death. The family has no idea when the investigations will be completed and the Coroner can start the inquest. The complainants have asked that I speak about these matters in parliament in an attempt to highlight their real anger and


sheer frustration with the appropriate authorities' efforts in investigating these serious matters. It is hoped that retired judge of the Queensland Court of Appeal Justice Richard Chesterman, who has been engaged by the Crime and Misconduct Commission, will be involved in assessing these allegations of medical misconduct and make recommendations to the minister.

The information I have received is confidential. The witnesses do not want their names published, yet they are very happy for me to provide their particulars, statements and supporting documents to the Crime and Misconduct Commission and for Justice Chesterman to assess and, hopefully, make recommendations. Yesterday, I met with the chairman of the Crime and Misconduct Commission and some of his senior staff. I handed over various statements and supporting documents that relate to the actions of seven doctors and four hospitals, two private and two public. The matters involve allegations of the inappropriate prescribing of dexamphetamine, a controlled drug; the illegal administration in a hospital of unlabelled drugs; Medicare fraud; medical incompetence; unsafe practice; patient neglect; dishonesty; doctors practising whilst impaired; sexual misconduct; unapproved research being conducted; bullying and harassment of whistleblowing staff; corruption; and concealment by a hospital's management.

I have also spoken with the health minister about these matters. I support his view that we should await advice from the Crime and Misconduct Commission and Justice Chesterman on the outcome of their assessment of the matters. I realise that some people want me to identify the complainants, the doctors and the hospitals. I will not be doing that as the people are adamant that they do not want to be part of a media circus. I have confidence that the people at the Crime and Misconduct Commission whom I met yesterday will contact the complainants, assess the matters and make the appropriate recommendations. I am aware of the possible flow-on effects of this speech and I do not take lightly the opportunity to speak about this matter.

*(Time expired)*

### **Pine Rivers Festival; Dayboro Day Festival**

 **Mr HOLSWICH** (Pine Rivers—LNP) (2.42 pm): The Pine Rivers electorate is well and truly on the map in terms of its ability to host top-class entertainment, tourism and recreational events. Last weekend the Pine Rivers electorate hosted four significant events, three of which were part of the annual Pine Rivers Festival. Last Saturday, the versatile Pine Rivers Park hosted the annual Rodz Rock 'n' Roll Festival, a celebration of hot rods, classic cars and great rock-and-roll music. This year, that growing event attracted around 7,000 attendees.

Amongst other things, the festival is a great opportunity for local community groups to raise valuable funds. It was great to see the Pine Rivers Lions Club, Albany Creek Rotary and Pine Rivers Daybreak Rotary, amongst others, on duty serving their community. Later that night, the Eatons Hill Hotel and Function Centre continued to build on its reputation as one of Brisbane's premier live music destinations when it hosted an exclusive performance from pop superstar Prince for around 800 fans. This live music venue in my electorate is proving itself to be an asset to the Pine Rivers region and South-East Queensland.


Sunday morning saw the running of the inaugural Pine Rivers Charity Fun Run—377 participants took part and raised around \$8,500 for various charitable causes. Congratulations to the Bray Park PCYC, Pine Rivers Daybreak Rotary and Moreton Bay Regional Council for their organisation of this event.

Finally, Sunday marked the 21st year of the Dayboro Day Festival. Over 15,000 people flocked to the beautiful township of Dayboro for the stalls, entertainment, antique fair, grand street parade, waterless raft race and the all-important pineapple pie eating contest. The annual Dayboro Community Awards were presented. Congratulations go to resident of the year Diane Bell; young achiever Harry Thomson; and business recognition award winners the Old Mill Veterinary Surgery. Funds from the Dayboro Day Festival are donated to local causes, and this year \$10,000 was donated to Dayboro State School and \$2,000 to Dayboro Community Kindy.

Special recognition must go to the organisers of this day. Thank you to Tom Williams from Dayboro Shed Antiques for his organisation of the Antique and Collectable Fair and to the committee of the Dayboro District Progress Association, led by Mark and Maria Hansen and Lexie Bell, for their work in making Dayboro Day a success.

All of those events show two things. The first is the amazing sense of community in Pine Rivers. Those events displayed our community spirit at its absolute best. Second, the events show the ability of the Pine Rivers region to host top-class, professional events. In our region we have infrastructure, expertise and experience for such events that is equal to any that you would find throughout the state. Pine Rivers is continuing to build its reputation as a leader in tourism and recreational events.

### Home Hill, Centenary Celebrations

 **Mrs MENKENS** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.45 pm): Centenary celebrations are being held within the Burdekin electorate to mark Home Hill's 100 years of settlement. In June 1770, Captain James Cook discovered and named Cape Upstart off the coastline of Home Hill. However, it was not until 1839 that Captain Wickham, with a party of men, rowed about 16 kilometres up the Burdekin River and observed the vast plains destined to become the prime sugarcane fields of Home Hill.

When Queensland became a separate state on 6 June 1859, land was being surveyed and opened up to grazing. In the early 1860s, the Inkerman Downs cattle station was settled. When the Queensland government saw the potential for the sugar industry in the area, the Closer Settlement Act 1906 paved the way for smaller blocks, with the arrangement to open up that land to sugar growing, all dependent on the promise of Pioneer Sugar Mill's John Drysdale to build a new mill on the Burdekin River's southern bank. In December 1911, the first ballot draw of down-river blocks took place at the Ayr Courthouse. Another ballot took place for up-river blocks in June 1912.


The original Inkerman Downs cattle station was converted to sugar cane in 1911 and it was a time of rapid growth for the town of Home Hill, especially after the establishment of the Inkerman Sugar Mill in 1914 when workers and sugarcane farmers were attracted to the area. The sale of blocks for business and housing in the township of Home Hill commenced in 1913, with the Crown Hotel, which is still there, Gunter's store and Mrs MacGregor's lolly shop among the first buildings erected.

The Home Hill centenary celebrations were launched in Home Hill's main street in May last year, with the town's annual harvest festival and mardi gras in November also taking on a centenary theme. Local author and historian Laura Scott's book *John Drysdale's Dream: Home Hill the First Fifty Years* was launched and the town's centenary committee has worked tirelessly on a number of centenary milestones. A centenary gala celebration dinner, attended by Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland, was held on 10 December 2011, marking the 100th anniversary of the first ballots for the sale of land in the Home Hill district.

A family fun day was also held, with Pioneer Avenue plaque dedications to the district's pioneering families: the Delaney, Ferguson, Ford, Linton, Menkens, Mann, Wallace, Swindley, Wall, Little, Mihailides, Oats, Warren, Marriott, Ross, Marshall, Stockdale and Young families. In the coming weeks, celebrations will continue to mark Home Hill's important 100-year milestones with the Up-River Land Ballot Centenary Celebrations to take place at Osborne State School on Sunday, 24 June.

It is a proud and monumental time for the town of Home Hill, which has evolved from uncleared virgin bushland on the southern side of the Burdekin River, with no permanent surface water supply, no mill to crush any cane that was grown, no railway line continuing on from Bowen and, of course, the ever-unpredictable Burdekin River separating Home Hill from its neighbouring Burdekin town of Ayr. Happy 100th birthday to Home Hill.

### Cleveland Electorate, Education

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (2.48 pm): Education is going ahead in Cleveland under the Newman government. The Newman government has wasted no time in delivering education benefits to Cleveland students and families. The recent start of construction of year 7 classrooms at Cleveland District State High School, approval of new chaplains for Bay View and Dunwich state schools, and an emerging plan for junior high school students from North Stradbroke Island show that the new LNP government is getting on with the job in Cleveland.

The families of the Cleveland electorate highly value the schools in the region and the education these schools provide. Our principals, teachers, staff and chappies are highly regarded and respected in the community. From day one of being returned as the member for Cleveland and as part of the new LNP government, I have started work again to improve the quality of education delivered to all of our students in state, Catholic and independent schools.

I am happy to report progress already at Cleveland District State High School. Building is underway on the new year 7 classrooms that will be required during 2013-14 when year 7 migrates to the high school. I visited the school recently and, together with Principal Paul Bancroft, turned the first sod for the construction.


It was also great to hear the news that Bay View State School at Thornlands and Dunwich State School on North Stradbroke Island had received funding to employ new chaplains. Both schools are well-deserved recipients of new funding to employ new chappies to provide crucial assistance to students and their families, working with teachers and staff. The chaplaincy program has been a resounding success in Cleveland schools and continues to enjoy huge community support.



Another positive development is with respect to the provision of secondary education to junior high school students from North Stradbroke Island. I am pleased to report that there has been healthy early discussions by a strategic partners' round table. A draft proposal recommends the following: the Dunwich secondary campus remains an EQ asset; the NSI community has conveyed overwhelming support for the transitioning of the years 8, 9 and 10 secondary program from Dunwich to Cleveland District State High School; transitioning is envisaged to begin in semester 2, 2012; transition resource arrangements are to be refined in 2012-13; and the principal of Cleveland District State High School will be involved in looking at re-inventing the use of the facility currently at the Dunwich secondary campus. The issue of a transport subsidy would be then pursued through the department's School Transport Unit. I will soon be writing to Straddie residents to get their views on these matters.

The recent celebration of state Education Week was a significant thing in Cleveland. I participated in a national book reading morning at Cleveland State School. I enjoyed working with Principal Judy Dale to read to the children. It was a fun time role-playing the part of a grumpy bear, wearing a bear hat and timing my bear growls in the story. It was suggested that the growling could be good practice for my new role as Deputy Speaker in the parliament.

### Queensland Health, Payroll System

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.51 pm): Once again this morning we saw the Minister for Health wasting time and effort on playing politics instead of fixing the Queensland Health payroll. Today we saw a recycling of arguments about access to cabinet documents of the previous government. We saw the minister recycle claims that these past cabinet papers are the magic key that will somehow solve the payroll problem. They are not, and the minister knows it.

The minister now attempts to put a further spin on that story by claiming that legal advice given to the former government is vital to rectifying the problem. It is not, and the minister knows that too. Yet in the same way as some other LNP ministers, the Minister for Health shows he is more interested in gloating than governing. He and other ministers are focused on the past, not the future. The Minister for Health knows what is in the legal advice he seeks. He said this morning that the advice to which he seeks access shows it was not an option for the previous government to sue the payroll technology provider.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Cunningham): Order! The Leader of the Opposition is not taking interjections. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I point out to the minister that, according to the *Cabinet Handbook*—and I table the *Cabinet Handbook*—he can already access certain opinions 'which are essentially legal rather than political documents'.

*Tabled paper:* Governing Queensland: The Queensland Cabinet Handbook [206].

Perhaps he should ask his colleague the Minister for Information Technology for the advice he seeks. I understand that her department has inherited the documentation the health minister seeks. However, if that avenue is not open to the minister, in the public interest I am prepared in this instance—and this instance only—to forward a copy of the legal advice in question to the Crown Solicitor. I will do so for the sole purpose of the Crown Solicitor providing any other advice to the government on this matter.

Mr Springborg should then have no excuse for his failure to give his own employees top priority. The truth is that the Minister for Health has always had every piece of information he needs to address the payroll issue. There are multiple published reports by independent consultants. He has access to any relevant officers in his department and other departments and agencies. He has the very same director-general as the last health minister. The question is: does he want to solve the problem? Or does he give higher priority to re-prosecuting arguments that actually do nothing to assist the people—

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Madam Deputy Speaker, can you stop the clock?

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Stop the clock.

**Mr Bleijie:** Table the legal advice.

**Ms Miller:** Oh, shut your mouth.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Excuse me, that is unparliamentary. Withdraw it please.

**Ms Miller:** I withdraw.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Just listen to what I am saying. Madam Deputy Speaker—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is paused.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Or does he give higher priority to re-prosecuting arguments that actually do nothing to assist the people employed in his own department?

Mr Springborg's politicking on this issue needs to end. I call on him to stop pursuing purely political attacks and inflicting more trauma on any Queensland Health workers still affected. They are the ones he should be concerned about. You have the avenue. There is the Queensland *Cabinet Handbook*. Follow it.

*(Time expired)*

### Hendra Virus

**Mr YOUNG** (Keppel—LNP) (2.55 pm): As we know, historically flying foxes were a nuisance to the fruit-growing industry. However, the whole dynamic changed in 1994 when horse trainer Vic Rail was infected with the Hendra virus and tragically passed away. Fourteen of the 20 horses at the complex died. HeV—Hendra virus as we know it—has a low infectivity rate but a high mortality rate. In 1996 flying foxes were identified as the natural host. All four species in Australia have been found to carry the virus.

In all cases to date the infection has been transmitted to humans from bats via an intermediate equine host—that is, horses. Laboratory studies have shown that horses may excrete the virus for a period of 72 hours without showing any clinical signs. To date, seven people have been infected with Hendra virus, HeV, causing encephalitis. Tragically four of these people have died.

In 2009 at an outbreak at Cawarral, located between Rockhampton and Yeppoon, Rockhampton vet Alister Rogers, who treated the horses, died after he contracted the disease. Biosecurity Queensland identified the strain of the virus responsible for the death of the Rockhampton vet from a colony of bats located in Yeppoon. Further investigations found flying foxes also transmit lyssavirus, the brother to rabies. The treatment for lyssavirus is the same as that of rabies and since 1996 has claimed two lives.

As I speak now, we have two Hendra outbreaks in Queensland—one in my home seat of Keppel. Last year, 2011, was a major year for the detection of spillovers of HeV, Hendra virus, into horses, with 18 events notified. Australia is experiencing an unprecedented spike in the number of Hendra virus cases which seems to grow each year. CSIRO maintains a significant program of research on bat-borne viruses including Hendra virus research, with 25 scientists working in this critical area. The policy of flying fox management has recently been changed. The Newman government will consistently look at the problem with flying foxes as we monitor the serious disease of Hendra.

### Emerald, Roads

**Mr JOHNSON** (Gregory—LNP) (2.58 pm): I have made representation recently to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads in relation to the ludicrous traffic light situation on the Capricorn Highway adjacent to the Caltex truck stop and the new Central Highlands Marketplace on the eastern side of Emerald. This is a new development, whereas the truck stop has been there for a number of years now and has been a very successful business. The modifications to the intersection are still not going to rectify the situation. Wide loads will still not be able to go in and out of the truck stop and therefore the truck stop will get no business from the pilots accompanying them either.


It is very difficult for truck drivers to turn in, and it takes them too long to get in and out, so time wise they will continue not to stop. The whole intersection has not been thought through. The traffic lights in general are a complete and utter disaster, synchronised or not. Two sets of traffic lights so close together is ludicrous, and if a road train is stopped the time it takes to get through means that it is the only vehicle that gets through. Put a train into the mix—because it is right beside the railway—and you have a traffic jam of monumental proportions.

Exiting the truck stop is now very difficult. There is a stop sign in the truck stop that is designed so that if trucks are turning into the truck stop they will not sideswipe a vehicle. I call on the department to immediately investigate and redesign the traffic lights at this facility. Unfortunately now because of the traffic on Codenwarra Road you have to pull forward past this stop sign to be able to exit onto the road as it is too busy. This of course creates a problem.

Traffic coming from Springsure turning left into town has to give way to traffic on the right coming from the Rockhampton side. If the lights are against you there and you have a train against you, you could be there for half an hour. Once the Taroborah mine west of Emerald is developed, Emerald will be in total choke-down all the time. The commerce traffic that goes in and out of the Central Highlands Marketplace and the heavy transport that goes in and out of that truck stop will continue to increase.

Again I call on the department of transport to do something about this issue. I know that the minister is aware of it. I hope we can see something fast-tracked in the interests of the commerce traffic that goes in and out of there and also in the interests of the safety of motorists. This is a very dangerous intersection. I am terrified that mothers with their children who go there after school to do shopping or whatever will be mixing with heavy transport—in some cases type 1 road trains, B-doubles and other heavy configurations.

### Social Housing, Tenants

 **Mr HATHAWAY** (Townsville—LNP) (3.01 pm): I rise today to speak to an issue which I know is of high concern for many of my constituents in Townsville but which I cannot help feeling is far broader in reach than just my electorate, and that is one of tenant responsibility within public housing. This matter is a burning issue in a number of suburbs in Townsville and within those suburbs appears to be concentrated to a few streets or premises. This leads me to the conclusion that the majority of these issues arises from a very small minority of public housing tenants.

At the outset, I should point out that I have had numerous constituents raise this issue with me. These are people from all walks of life—owner-occupiers, private housing tenants, Indigenous and non-Indigenous persons and police. However, the vast majority of complainants are themselves tenants of public housing. The House will recall that I spoke of the importance for the government to govern with compassion and a fair go for all. I raise this in the House today because I see that we have a responsibility to act to protect those who cannot protect themselves. This is neither a NIMBY issue nor one of race nor a socioeconomic circumstance. I have been made aware of cases of disturbance of the peace, community violence, domestic abuse, frequent and repetitive alcohol and drug abuse and, in the extreme, physical and sexual abuse, child and senior abuse, and even cases of commercial drug labs.


In all these cases, I commend the actions and efforts of the local Queensland police and ambulance who, more often than not, are the first responders to many of these situations. I am aware that they do their best to maintain the peace and to isolate or apprehend the problem makers. However, their ability to respond over the years has been limited due to the frequency of events, a paucity of resources and, more frustratingly, the apparent impunity with which these people continue their antisocial and anticommunity behaviour without the risk or even threat of consequence.

Until such time as society has the ability to inculcate or impose a sense of individual responsibility and community behaviour norms, I fear this issue will continue to fester. I realise there are many reasons behind this behaviour of a small number of individuals—individuals who behave selfishly, thinking they can do what they want regardless of the impact on others in the community.

As I said earlier, many people impacted by this are themselves in need of a hand from the community and government simply to be housed and to survive. It is these people we seek to protect. I welcome the recent announcements by the Minister for Housing and Public Works in trying to address the many legacy issues left to us by decades of Labor governments such as the mismatch of tenants to the capacity of the house or unit, the changeover or replacement of old and neglected stock to reduce maintenance costs, and to provide more and more appropriate housing structures to better meet the specific needs of the tenants. The review of tenure of housing and density within locations and streets will also go a long way to address this issue. I encourage the minister and his department to keep working to these goals.

*(Time expired)*

### Rockhampton Base Hospital, Helicopter Landing Pad

 **Mr BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.04 pm): In advance of the recent election campaign, I advocated strongly in support of the construction of a new emergency helicopter landing and reception area into Rockhampton Base Hospital. I also used this issue as a catalyst to incorporate the possibility of solving the unacceptable parking dilemmas that are ever present and impacting on patients and staff alike. There is nobody of any political colour in Central Queensland who contests the basic facts of this matter.


The previous helicopter landing area was never particularly capable and was certainly unable to cope with larger aircraft. This area is no longer available to rotary aircraft. The situation today is that patients are landed at the Rockhampton airport, cross-loaded to a ground ambulance and delivered to an emergency department at Rockhampton hospital. Even in the best of circumstances this transfer must add 10 minutes or more to the time of delivering a patient to the emergency department. This situation remains, and sooner or later someone will lose their life unnecessarily. It is an uncontested fact that severe trauma patients have a rapidly diminishing prognosis if they do not reach emergency surgery or emergency departments within 60 minutes or so. The data validating this window was comprehensively proven during recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In April I was pleased to note the member for Mirani stated in the Rockhampton press that he had vowed to lobby for a helicopter landing pad at Rockhampton hospital. He went on to describe that it was vital for emergency choppers to carry patients in need to immediate life-saving treatment to be able to land in the hospital complex. We agree on something certainly. The member for Mirani did not miss the opportunity to give the previous Labor government a spray and I accept that is part of the game. He went on to say that the health minister had been told that finding money to build this helipad was an urgent priority.

I am not familiar with the way in which the government operates internally. However, it would be fairly embarrassing for the member for Mirani if this project were not given support in the next budget. I can only assume that this project will be funded in the September budget and congratulate the member for Mirani and the health minister in advance on that announcement.

I conclude by saying that this investment is just as important to other members in this House, including the member for Gladstone, as it is for me. I will conclude with the member for Mirani's own words when he said, 'It's not far, but it takes vital minutes to unload a patient into a vehicle. A modern hospital must have a landing pad. A helipad had to be funded at some time and I will continue to make it clear that it should be sooner rather than later,' and he is exactly right.

### Discovery Coast, Flooding

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (3.07 pm): I rise to highlight the issues of the communities of Agnes Water and the Town of 1770 which continue to suffer massive economic hardship when on a regular basis roads including Fingerboard Road are flooded every year. Agnes Water and the Town of 1770 business association Discovery Coast Tourism and Commerce, the DCTC, has completed a comprehensive survey of local businesses to quantify the loss of revenue.

Katherine Mergard and the committee are becoming increasingly concerned about the ongoing ramifications that the Discovery Coast community endures every time Fingerboard Road is closed due to flooding. The committee has raised these issues with all levels of government and with me many times, and I am happy to represent this great community in this place. The survey data provided on the basis of a conservative estimate was \$1.7 million per annum in direct economic loss to the Agnes Water and Town of 1770 communities. When this figure is added to the Gladstone Regional Council's estimate of its average annual cost of \$700,000 to repair the local flood damaged roads, it brings the total cost to \$2.4 million—thus an estimated loss of \$26 million is generated over 10 years on present values. Moreover, this calculation does not include factors such as the inability of children to access schools, the cost of medical emergencies, losses incurred by stranded tourists and the consequent damage of Agnes Water's and the Town of 1770's tourism brand.


I quote Katherine Mergard from Discovery Coast Tourism and Commerce. She said—

The numbers are not pretty, but at least we know the extent to which Agnes Water and Seventeen Seventy is suffering due to the flooding ... Now hopefully governments will act sooner rather than later.

The estimated cost of \$10 million to \$12 million to floodproof Fingerboard Road—and therefore provide all-weather access to the area—demonstrates that the benefit gained by undertaking the capital works is substantially greater than the cost of not floodproofing Fingerboard Road. This equation becomes even more pronounced when you consider that Agnes Water and the Town of 1770 is almost totally dependent on tourism and now also provides a range of accommodation options for people working in Gladstone. As we all know, there are issues surrounding accommodation in Gladstone so it is extremely important that the workers are at least able to participate in the activities of employment in this important sector.

I raise these issues on behalf of the DCTC and the community of Agnes Water and the Town of 1770 to highlight the real need and the need to commit the necessary funding to upgrade Fingerboard Road and floodproof Agnes Water and the Town of 1770.

### Tallebudgera Recreation Centre

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.10 pm): As I flagged in my maiden speech, there are quite a few underutilised resources in my electorate. I rise to speak about one of those today—the Tallebudgera Recreation Centre incorporating the Tallebudgera Leisure Centre. In 2004 the previous government spent \$18 million to refurbish this facility. Unfortunately, that is about the last thing that government did with that facility. As usual, the previous Labor government spent a lot of money building a fantastic facility and then left it there to rot. The centre has been tied up in government red tape and restricted by budget processes and a severe lack of flexibility. Does that sound familiar?


The Tallebudgera Recreation Centre is in a geographically prime location, with access to patrolled beaches, public transport, major infrastructure—such as airports, highways and shopping precincts—residential, commercial and holiday accommodation as well as primary schools and secondary schools. There seems to be vast amounts of unutilised floor, office and green space within its secure boundary. The region surrounding the Tallebudgera Recreation Centre has a high degree of pedestrian and

vehicle traffic, but the centre does not seem to be promoted in any fashion whatsoever, and it could be a tourist attraction. The hours of operation are very problematic and the pricing model that is used for its facilities is cumbersome to say the least. There does not appear to be any green or energy efficient assets. There is another surprise.

The facilities are of a very high standard and the multipurpose indoor courts are in great condition. The gym has quality equipment. The swimming pool is 25 metres long and it has disabled access. Rope courses and fields are in good order and are well maintained. The facility has boardrooms and conference rooms that are in great condition and they could be utilised a lot more. It has very good audiovisual facilities but they do not appear to be used at all. Marketing does not appear to happen. What a surprise. Lighting in the main indoor 300-seat stadium is of poor quality.

There are a lot of things that we could be doing with this facility. We could be running a community garden. We could be running community health and wellbeing programs, and I know there are people in the area who would like to be doing that with this facility. We could be running health programs. We could be holding AGMs, board meetings or community meetings there. We could have visits from elite sporting teams. I have reviewed their business plan and I must say that it is a very ordinary document. It talks a lot and it takes you nowhere—a bit like the previous Labor government. It is losing \$800,000 a year with no plan for the future.

### Leeding, Mr D; Irwin, Mr B; Healthy Lifestyles Expo


 **Mr SHUTTLEWORTH** (Ferry Grove—LNP) (3.13 pm): I rise in the House today and pay tribute to the family of Senior Constable Damian Leeding. Tragically, he is one among many other police officers who have selflessly dedicated their life to the protection of others and ultimately paid a price far too great. I would like also to make special mention of Constable Brett Irwin from the Ferry Grove station who, in the line of duty, also lost his life, on Thursday, 19 July 2007.

I would like to bring the House's attention to the upcoming Upper Kedron Brook Valley and the Hills District Healthy Lifestyles Expo which coincides with Men's Health Week. This event will take place in the Hills District PCYC from 10 am on Saturday, 16 June. The event will have local businesses exhibiting their wares, health screenings, nutritional and physical activities and of course a few giveaways. I wish to raise the awareness of this event not just to men but to all residents. As the secretariat of Healthy Cities said in a recent email—

Health promotion goes beyond healthy lifestyles, to wellbeing and the Ottawa Charter defines healthy lifestyles as the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve their health. To reach a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing, an individual or group must be able to identify, and to realise aspirations, to satisfy needs and to change or cope with the environment.

This expo event is sponsored by the Swap It, Don't Stop It campaign, Transition the Grove, the Hills District PCYC, Metro North Brisbane Medicare Local and the community health promotional team of Queensland Health. I thank them for their support. The underlying theme of the event is to provide individuals with a level of self-empowerment, knowledge and the capacity to manage in a more holistic sense their own health outcomes. The expo will consist of a wide and diverse collection of local businesses representing a range of allied health professionals, natural remedy alternatives, local sporting organisations, an acupuncturist, melanoma scanning, gymnasiums and other local organisations. The aim of the day is to ensure that those who visit the expo will leave with a greater knowledge about what they might do to improve their holistic health and wellbeing, what they need to assist them in the pursuit of better and sustainable health and, most importantly, where they might go locally to source these needs. I encourage as many people within the Hills district and surrounds to attend the expo because it has the early hallmarks of being a great success.

### Grantham Recovery and Information Centre; Kidney Health Week

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.16 pm): Before I talk about Kidney Health Week, I want to advise the member for Lockyer that, firstly, I understand the matters I raised in this chamber last night are under investigation and, secondly, it is not my job to do his job as well. This morning in this parliament I held up this paper which says: 'Flood victims angry at aid centre closure', and I asked the minister a question about the Grantham aid centre being closed. The minister confirmed that the member for Lockyer had not done his job. She confirmed that she did not know anything about this and that no-one had raised it with her. So I just want to give this advice to the member for Lockyer: get on and do your own job, my friend. It is disgraceful that I am in here as the state member for Bundamba and he cannot even look after his own people and the flood victims of Grantham. It was confirmed in here by the Minister for Communities that she did not know anything about it.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs MILLER:** Let us get on to some really good positive things. Kidney Health Week is going to occur between 27 May and 2 June. Around two million Australians have early kidney damage but do not know it yet. In Kidney Health Week, Kidney Health Australia organises events and activities to raise awareness of the risk factors for kidney disease.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Cunningham): Order! I would like to hear what the member for Bundamba has to say eventually.


**Mrs MILLER:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for your protection once again from these bullyboys over there in the government.

The major event being organised this year is Red Undies Week. Red Undies Week is designed to be playful and a little bit cheeky, but its main purpose is to give some decent exposure to chronic kidney disease—a disease which has flown under the radar for too long. Test kits are being sold for \$2 so you can test whether you are at risk of kidney disease and then wear the tattoo found in the box to show your support for the campaign. One in nine Australians over the age of 25 years have at least one clinical sign of chronic kidney disease, and one in three have at least one risk factor for developing the disease. The best way of detecting chronic kidney disease early and improving long-term outcomes is by knowing the risk factors for chronic kidney disease. Everyone should go to their GP for a kidney health check-up.

People have an increased risk of chronic kidney disease if they are aged 60 years or over, are diabetic, have a family history of kidney disease, have established heart problems, have high blood pressure, are obese or a smoker or of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin. The symptoms can include high blood pressure and changes in the amount and number of times urine is passed, particularly at night. There will be a service of remembrance and thanksgiving. It will be held on Sunday, 10 June at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre.

*(Time expired)*

### **Everton Electorate, Principal for a Day**


 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (3.19 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House some of the wonderful work that is occurring in the schools of my electorate of Everton. I had the great pleasure recently to be principal for a day at Everton Park State School. I thank the principal, Mr Brad Clark, for the invitation and congratulate him on creating a school community that the district can be proud of. It was a great experience to sit in the classes of preppies, who at the beginning of their school careers enthusiastically shared the new words that they had learnt. What a joy it was to hand out achievement awards to these delightful children. The day finished with a gruelling interview by two student reporters who definitely have a career ahead of them in the media if they so desire. The teachers, staff and parents of Everton Park State School are typical of the 15 school communities in the Everton electorate. They are hard working and dedicated to providing the most effective education possible for our children.

A little way down the road is Everton Park State High School, and I was delighted a week or so ago to open the WhichWay touch football competition which the school was hosting. The main focus of the carnival was to promote an antismoking and antidrug message to the Indigenous youth whilst nurturing positive links between police and the young Indigenous community. The two state high schools of my electorate, Everton Park State High School and Albany Creek State High School, were enthusiastic participants in the carnival. With nearly 54 per cent of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over the age of 14 being regular smokers—that is, twice the national average—WhichWay aims to promote healthy lifestyle choices through sport and education.

Sport is a great leveller and has given many young people an opportunity in life that they might not normally have had, especially those with an Indigenous background. The number of Indigenous players in the current Queensland State of Origin side is testimony to this fact, and don't we all look forward to another Origin series victory, which is inevitable, in the next few weeks! Not only did I open the carnival with Deputy Police Commissioner Ian Stewart; I also donned the boots and refereed the opening game. One game is all I can handle nowadays! I also made sure the schools in my electorate were not involved. I do not want to risk upsetting any of my local constituents. Congratulations to Sue Wallace, the principal of Everton Park State High School, for hosting such an important event.

At the other end of my electorate is one of our Catholic schools, All Saints Parish Primary School. I want to put in a plug for its Albany Fair, which will be staged this Sunday. This fair is renowned throughout the district as one of our premiere community events. There will be 25 stalls manned by around 500 volunteers. There will be all of the usual fun associated with fairs as well as skydivers. This fair is a classic example of schools being more than educational facilities; they also act as social hubs for the community at large.

### **Kallangur Electorate, Principal for a Day**

 **Mr RUTHENBERG** (Kallangur—LNP) (3.22 pm): I call on the federal government to fund the National Disability Insurance Scheme. On Monday, 21 May as part of Education Week I was pleased to visit the Pine Rivers Special School and act as principal for the day. What a fantastic experience this was. This school deals with some incredibly difficult situations, and does it with grace. The principal is

Mr Neil Larter. What a job he does. Holy smokes! He is fantastic. I was introduced to many of the staff, the teachers, the administration people and the speech and physical therapists. What an example of sacrifice! How fantastic they are at their work. The kids are great. There is a whole new language and it is not Auslan, and those teachers know how to interpret what it is those kids are looking for and want. I was impressed with Neil and his staff and the job they do. While I was there I was able to assist Mr Larter in presenting the school's leaders with their leader badges. Some of their parents and senior students had gathered in the school's new hall, and the ceremony touched me real deep. It is fantastic to be able to be there and be with those kids and those teachers. What a great community. I commend members to get involved somehow and volunteer in these types of groups. I was asked some questions by some of the students, and their aspirations are no different to yours and mine and our children.


On Friday, 25 May I also participated in visiting Dakabin State School—another great school with a fantastic tradition in our area. It has its own special-needs unit and 14 per cent of its student population is within that unit. I again commend the efforts of the teachers and staff in this regard. They are truly earnestly doing a fantastic job to help those kids do the best they possibly can. I have mentioned those children in order to commend them to you, because the principal at that school is doing a fantastic job. I also want to mention the chappy at that school, Beck Holloway—their much loved chappy. While I was there I was able to flip some pancakes and visit her part of the school where she provides a great area of support and a place where the kids can go to talk with their chappy, and they love their chappy! What a fantastic program that is and I commend it to the House. I lift up again the work of the people who support those who need our help the most.

### National Volunteer Week

 **Mrs RICE** (Mount Coot-tha—LNP) (3.25 pm): I rise to acknowledge that National Volunteer Week—the largest celebration of volunteers and volunteerism in Australia—was held earlier this month. In recognition of National Volunteer Week, I want to acknowledge and thank all volunteers who give their time to work to create a strong and supportive society. The theme of this year's National Volunteer Week was 'Everyone counts' and I am delighted to represent an electorate where community organisations are in abundance, where neighbours are friends, children walk to school in the walking school bus and where clubs and committees meet diligently. Having said that, it is certainly the case that everyone counts. None of these organisations or activities could take place or operate without volunteers. Every volunteer makes a valuable contribution to our broader community, including the tireless volunteers who work in the kitchen or deliver Meals on Wheels, our local Rotary and Lions organisations, chambers of commerce and sporting clubs. In fact, I participated in the Brisbane Basketball Inc. junior representative awards luncheon just last Sunday and it was important to acknowledge the work of the volunteer team managers, coaches and referees supporting the participation of our children in representative sport.

It is also at this time of year that the Mount Coot-tha electorate really comes to life, with fetes and fairs being held to celebrate our schools and kindergartens almost every weekend. These annual events take months of planning, inevitably by a dedicated committee and loyal, energetic and community minded volunteers—parents who are keen to support and create brighter opportunities for our children. I particularly acknowledge the volunteers who have created wonderful events for the Bardon Community Kindy, St Ignatius's Opera Under the Stars, the recent Bardon State School Mayfair and the soon to be held fairs for Red Hill and Rosalie kindies. I have the honour of supporting each of these events and I know the children and the broader community really do appreciate the dedication and support provided by parents and local business. Finally, I place on the record my thanks and the thanks of my community for the efforts of the many volunteers who more generally make up the parents and citizens and parents and friends associations across the electorate of Mount Coot-tha. These are dedicated volunteers who have a strong passion for education and their school community, and their efforts are appreciated.

### Rockhampton Base Hospital, Helicopter Landing Pad; Mirani Electorate, CFMEU

 **Mr MALONE** (Mirani—LNP) (3.28 pm): Firstly, I congratulate the member for Rockhampton for reading into the public record my great press release that I put out a little while ago in Rockhampton highlighting the great need for a helicopter pad in the hospital area so that people from regional Queensland can be transferred to the hospital in quick time. Even though the project was designated in the Rockhampton rebuild of the hospital, unfortunately the previous member for Rockhampton did not secure the funds for that to go ahead. Perhaps if the former government had not wasted \$400 million on a payroll scheme, maybe we now would be building a helicopter pad at the Rockhampton Base Hospital. So thanks again for that bit of publicity. That is great.


Last night I spoke about the CFMEU's commitment to the electorate of Mirani, with a rough calculation of between \$700,000 to \$750,000 being spent in the last two election campaigns in trying to move me out of the seat of Mirani. When I raised the issue that the CFMEU had also contributed \$1.2 million to that great left-wing organisation GetUp, which sponsored the UNESCO crew to come to Queensland to look at closing down the coalmines, that hit a bit of a raw nerve. Twice during the

campaign I was served with letters from lawyers representing the CFMEU to desist from continuing to raise that issue or they would take me to court. But I could alleviate that by writing a public apology by using the words that they would supply to me or alternatively—or as well—contributing a significant amount of money to a private charity in my electorate. I chose to do neither and instead again put out press releases highlighting the issue. It is important to understand that hardworking members belonging to the CFMEU do not contribute their funds to close down coalmines or, indeed, to gain a seat in this parliament. I think the HSU debacle is just part of an ongoing issue that I am sure touches many other union organisations across Queensland.

The electorate of Mirani is fortunate to be a very prosperous electorate. Unfortunately, as I did not mention last night, the electorate has a housing crisis. We have homeless people living in the area of Mirani and Mackay and, for that matter, in Rockhampton as well. Rents are through the roof and young couples and families are finding it very difficult to find accommodation in this area. It is a real challenge that confronts all of us, particularly those members who represent mining electorates.

(Time expired)

### **Stolen Generations Education**

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (3.31 pm): The history of our early white settlement in Australia and the treatment of our Indigenous inhabitants, who peacefully cared for this land over many thousands of years, has been sanitised, ignored, misrepresented and hidden for decades. As a young girl I lived in a totally white community, knowing little of the plight of the Aboriginal community, except for several depictions in textbooks, usually of a number of young men dancing around a fire and perhaps an elder sitting cross-legged on the ground.

However, over the years it has been my absolute privilege to listen to their dreaming and yarning, to laugh over some of their exploits and cry with them as they relate the stories of children being ripped from their mother's arms, constituting what we know now as the stolen generation. Many in my community have either been part of that generation or are the children of stolen generation parents. It is amazing to think that we had Aboriginal men fighting overseas in world wars who, on their return, saw white Australians gifted land but there was no recognition for them. It was as if they had never served—and, of course, they were not citizens in their own country until the referendum of 1967, which granted them citizenship and thus the right to vote.


The history of Aboriginal people in Queensland is shameful. On Friday evening last week, I joined many from the Aboriginal corporation Link-Up Queensland at the Murri School at Acacia Ridge. The occasion was the launch of a book written and compiled by Associate Professor Norman Sheehan of Swinburne University of Technology in conjunction with Link-Up Queensland titled *Stolen Generations Education*. With contributions from many and a foreword by Sam Watson, chairman of Link-Up Queensland, this book will inform and horrify many but, importantly, the information will enhance our understanding of history. They were tragic times. It is a privilege to be able to call many Aboriginal and Islander people friends and to see their students in our schools engaged in learning and looking forward to bright futures.

However, there is still much to do right throughout our country, be it in remote communities or throughout our urban areas such as Woodridge and Inala. We all wish to see their disadvantage overcome. 'Closing the Gap' needs to be far more than a slogan. Health and education, skills and employment are urgently needed. If I may quote from the book in closing—

Healing is not a cure for disease, healing is a pathway and a journey that leads to a full and complete life for whole communities.

We need to listen and support, not to impose our own ideologies, for their elders often have wisdom far beyond our own. I commend this wonderful scholarly volume to my colleagues in this place and I recommend its wonderful reading.

### **Cane Festival Parade**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.34 pm): Beenleigh celebrated the 49th year of the Cane Festival Parade last weekend. There were nine entrants. We now call those entrants ambassadors and I am proud of these young people and their sponsors. I would like to name them in the *Hansard*: Mikaela Falcone, whose sponsor was Mitre 10 Beenleigh; Sharni Willmann, whose sponsor was Canegrowers Association; Lyndon Captain, whose sponsor is Making A Difference, or MAD, as it was formerly known. Mothers Against Drugs was another organisation that used to use the MAD acronym. The other entrants were Emily Ponton, whose joint sponsors were Village Cafe—the Beenleigh Historical Association—and Rocky Point Cane; Kayla Eley, whose sponsor was Raine and Horne, Beenleigh; Jason Howitt, whose sponsor was the Beenleigh Bowls Club; Tess Haseler, whose sponsor was the Beenleigh Sports Club; Melina Evans, whose sponsor was the Beenleigh PCYC; and Lauren Paterson, whose sponsor was Jets Fitness at Mount Warren Park.




In addition to those young people, we also had a float parade, with more than 70 floats. I would like to read into the record the winners of the various categories. The winner of the general category—and also the best overall—was the Willmann family. The winner in the best decorative category was Aussie Pet Groomers. There were some quite interesting looking pets, I have to say. One of the dogs looked like a lion. So that was quite interesting. The winner of the best school category was Woongoolba State School—go Woongoolba! It is in my electorate. The winner for the best community or club category was the Beenleigh Scouts and the winner of the best multicultural category was Falun Dafa. Its parade went on and on and on. There were so many people in it.

The pedestrian parade was won by the 11th Army Cadets at Logan. In fact, the 11th Army Cadets was a cadet unit that my son Jason was attached to. In fact, he won the annual award. I do not think it is called the best and fairest award, but it is similar to that.

All participating schools were above expectations, which is interesting to note. The judges also made special recognition of Eagleby Dance Centre, Music for Youth, Beenleigh Senior Citizens, RJ & DJ Skopp and the Beenleigh Sports Club.

It is so obvious that the southern part of Logan City and the northern part of the Gold Coast based around Beenleigh is a true community—with all of those different people and different organisations combining their efforts to make this celebration. The celebrations conclude this coming Saturday night at a crowning ceremony and dinner and I look forward to attending that with my wife.

### Toowoomba North Electorate, Schools

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.37 pm): I place a great importance on education and my electorate is well known for the high quality of its schools. I believe everyone has a right to access high-quality education and the electorate of Toowoomba North has schools from the state, Catholic and the independent sector. I look forward to working with them all and their parent support groups to achieve the very best results for the young people of the Toowoomba North electorate.


I welcome the statement by the honourable Minister for Education on Tuesday in this parliament and the renewed commitment to build the Highfields State School. Highfields is a thriving community that is growing at a fast rate and it is only fitting that the state government builds this much needed school by 2015. I look forward to working closely with the minister and the member for Nanango in ensuring that this project is delivered on time.

There are many initiatives that the government can implement to provide a better education system—and we will. However, it is not the government that has all the answers. For example, take my recent visit as 'principal for a day' to the Newtown State School for Education Week. I thank the principal, Mr Kidd, for his invitation. I was delighted to see firsthand the great positive initiatives that the school is taking. Newtown State School has a reward based Gotcha program that encourages students to display good behaviour. The reward for good behaviour is given out each week. On the particular day that I visited the school the Soroptimist International community group had donated library bags for the students.

We should not forget the integral part that the government plays in providing the best in-class education system for Queensland. I am pleased that the Toowoomba North State School in my electorate will be one of the many schools across the state benefiting from the government's \$54 million program for a full-time prep teacher aide. I thank the minister for giving it to Toowoomba North State School. This policy is an important one that sees the commitment made by the LNP to restore front-line services to the people of Queensland being delivered where it is needed most: to our very young.

I look forward to continuing to serve the people of my electorate, whether it be by continuing as their advocate for much needed infrastructure and services in the education sector or visiting the schools to see firsthand the great work that the teachers and staff are doing for the children.

### Short-Term Holiday Letting


 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.40 pm): I rise today to again bring to the attention of the House the ongoing issue of short-term holiday letting in residential areas—or, in other words, the party houses—disturbing our usually peaceful and quiet communities. This is happening from Mermaid Beach, Burleigh and Currumbin right up the South-East Queensland coast to Noosa and beyond. The only difference from the times I have previously raised it is that today is my opportunity to address this issue from the government benches. I raised this matter with the Bligh government and it refused to do anything. It refused point blank to right a wrong in our Queensland communities. This out-of-control behaviour by people who hire these residential properties for short-stay holidays is not what we want in local communities. These unruly groups are the bane in the life of the neighbours who have to endure this unseemly behaviour day in and day out, week in and week out.

I met yesterday with the honourable Minister for Local Government, the member for Mundingburra, and the Assistant Minister for Planning Reform. I congratulate them on their determination to legislate a solution for this unacceptable behaviour in our communities. The Premier has, in his own words, pledged: 'We will give them'—local governments—'the tools to do the job.' He has stated that local governments 'are in charge of town planning here in Queensland but they need the backup of the state government to deal with the loophole issue to actually protect residents.' He further stated, 'We will give them the authority and ability to look after people across the suburbs of the cities and towns in Queensland.'

I have sustained the attack in my neck of the woods by highlighting the issue in the media and I instigated a task force to look into the issue of short-term holiday letting in residential areas which includes local and state representatives. The task force agreed that legislative changes were needed to regulate this new so-called party house industry. The councillors of the council at the time could not see the necessity to eradicate this unacceptable social behaviour. I hope the newly elected Gold Coast city councillors will see how important this issue is and act accordingly when this legislation empowering them to act is finally legislated through this House.

My office has been contacted on many occasions and this abhorrent activity is increasing in these difficult economic times. This problem needs to be sorted out and I know that other members of the House in seaside electorates would agree with me and would be happy to support any regulation or legislative changes that the honourable Minister for Local Government introduces to help fix this problem once and for all. I assure all sufferers of party house mayhem that I will not stop in my efforts to rescue them from this intolerable suffering until party houses have been eradicated in our city once and for all. Quite clearly the issue has created communities that are in fear of going to sleep at night, with drunken boozy behaviour becoming the norm with groups of people constantly moving in and out of this type of holiday letting in residential communities.

### **Hendra Virus; Beaudesert Hospital**


 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (3.43 pm): I rise to make a statement concerning the most recent incidence of Hendra virus in Queensland. This is of enormous concern to people in my electorate of Beaudesert. While there are many residents in my electorate who own horses and ride them for work and play—I can imagine nothing more serene than trotting through the countryside south of Beaudesert in the border ranges on a clear autumn day—there is also a very important equine and thoroughbred industry in this region. Horses are the tools of the trade, so to speak, of the cattlemen and women who have large properties in my electorate. I have previously spoken in this place about the importance of the government and Racing Queensland moving swiftly to resolve infrastructure issues at the Beaudesert racecourse. It would be remiss of me if I did not raise in this House and with the minister the importance of getting on with the job of researching the Hendra virus with a view to eliminating it by finding a cure for this virus and, in the meantime, taking all steps to prevent further transmission to horses and people.

I welcome the Premier's reiteration in this House yesterday of the LNP's election commitment to fund the supply of personal protection equipment kits to the tune of \$1 million to ensure that vets working with horses where Hendra virus is suspected are able to protect themselves from infection. I urge the government, in particular the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, to continue its support for the prevention of the Hendra virus and the work of the CSIRO in researching a vaccine.

In the Beaudesert electorate memories are fresh of the deaths of several horses in 2011 as a result of the virus, and also a dog called Dusty at Mount Alford. Thankfully no people contracted the virus last year. We in this place must ensure we are taking all the steps we can to prevent deaths, of horses or humans, from Hendra virus. Yet again the LNP is having to undertake remedial work to address issues that should have been dealt with by the Labor Party in government. Labor was asleep at the wheel in relation to Hendra virus throughout its long, dark 14 years in power. It was only in an election year that Labor actually did something to provide the community with any support in this battle. The people of Beaudesert deserve better than this lazy, neglectful approach of Labor. While I am the member for Beaudesert I will ensure that the government takes solid steps to ensure Hendra virus can be contained and, with further research and development, eliminated.

I would just like to add that the staff of the Beaudesert Hospital and the community in Beaudesert despair at the way Labor ripped away services in its time in power. Just a fraction of the \$400 million wasted on the payroll scandal would have gone a long way to restoring or keeping services at the Beaudesert Hospital. I call on the Leader of the Opposition to do the honourable thing and release the legal advice sought by the Minister for Health. If it can save some more money at this stage of the game and actually restore services to the Beaudesert Hospital and other hospitals like it across Queensland, she should release the legal advice requested.


### Civil Partnerships

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (3.46 pm): Last November thousands of Queenslanders rallied outside this House to call for equality and urged members of parliament to support the Civil Partnerships Bill 2011. Last night, just six months on from that momentous occasion, thousands gathered again in the same spot but this time to protect their rights that were so hard fought for and won. Last night they rallied against the small-minded and mean plan announced by the Premier to review and possibly repeal civil unions in Queensland. It beggars belief that in the 21st century in a First World economy that the LNP, a political party that prides itself on elevating the freedoms of the individual, should be now contemplating restricting those freedoms and extinguishing rights.

Last night they also came out in their thousands to express their support for the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities, or QAHC, which has been summarily defunded without consultation or notice. QAHC has done an outstanding job bringing the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender and intersex community together to educate against HIV infection. That was obvious last night. The fact that the health minister stands in this House and claims that at best QAHC is a failure or at worst at fault for the increase in HIV infections in Queensland shows a complete lack of understanding of epidemiology. There are many factors that have contributed to the increase in HIV infection rates in Queensland and there are a number of organisations responsible for education and prevention, not just QAHC, and the minister well knows this. The Minister for Health's decision is wrong and his assertions are dangerous. The funding cut to QAHC is a political and ideological decision by the Minister for Health pure and simple. By the minister's rationale, domestic violence services should be defunded because domestic violence rates have increased; police services should be cut because crime is on the increase; disability services should be scrapped because more Queenslanders are being diagnosed with a disability every single day. Where does this stop? Or is it just the queer community that is to be targeted and marginalised?

I know that many people come to this place with a strong sense of faith motivated by purpose. However, our responsibility in this place is to represent all of our constituents and defend all their human rights, not just some. Make no mistake: the Queensland Labor Party will stand up for civil unions. We will stand up for equality on every single occasion. We may not have the numbers in this House, but we certainly have the courage of our convictions to stand up for what is right, to stand up for what is decent, unlike members opposite.

### River Heads Reserve


 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.49 pm): Hervey Bay is recognised as one of the fastest growing areas within Queensland, which is also reflected in the enormous growth in the Booral and River Heads areas in my electorate. This increase in growth has caused a huge demand for community recreational and sporting facilities to be developed. Now, thanks to the River Heads Progress Association and their committed team, we have the River Heads Reserve. They are well underway with the plans that will fit the needs of the community. The River Heads Reserve borders the Great Sandy Straits and has great views of Fraser Island. It is about 40 hectares of land divided into recreational and conservation areas. It is a great place to exercise or to take a peaceful walk with your family.

The River Heads Progress Association is a subcommittee that has committed to a 20-year plan for the reserve, which was developed in full consultation with the community. The association undertook a survey that highlighted what the community wanted, with recreational and exercise facilities in mind. Walking tracks, children's playgrounds and barbecue areas were high on the must-have list for the reserve.

In the past eight years, some 3,000 trees have been planted in the gardens and the front entrance with its designed path has been completed. However, there is still much to be done. Recently, a cricket pitch was constructed and the association has just received a \$35,000 grant to start work on the sporting oval. The bush tucker garden was finished two weeks ago. Most importantly, the reserve will provide an area where children and families can go to exercise or have a family day in a safe environment, free from traffic. When completed, the reserve will be seen not just as a local facility; it will serve a much broader community. This project will receive notoriety throughout the Wide Bay region as a place for recreation and fitness, and as a place to enjoy the outdoors, perhaps for a barbecue or to enjoy a major sporting event. Daily physical activity is important for everyone and the plans for the reserve will encourage this.

I congratulate the River Heads Progress Association, President Billie Rushton and Neville Watson in particular, for their unfailing commitment to the project. The River Heads Reserve is a special place and they have done a great job. They have my full support. It goes to show what can be achieved when you consult and work with the community, local government and state government. It is marvellous to see the facilities that those people have provided to their community. I applaud them for all their efforts.

### Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools


 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (3.51 pm): I am delighted to congratulate the many Albert electorate schools that were regional finalists in the Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools 2012 competition. This is a truly impressive achievement and I am delighted to see such innovation in the development of educational programs. The Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools are prestigious state government awards for the development of new educational programs. The awards highlight the distinguished excellence in teaching practices and give schools the opportunity to share their innovative programs with other educators.

Education requires continual progression in practices and delivery methods. The awards recognise the programs and methods developed and implemented by educators who use their creative genius to deliver and cultivate the development of students' fine minds. The poet Mark Van Doren once said, 'The art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery.' The showcase awards are about the discovery of new approaches to learning. I support and congratulate all the staff who participated in the development of these new programs, which are making a real difference in educational outcomes for young people.

Education is about unlocking doors. I was proud to see so many schools of the Albert electorate reach the regional finals. Mount Warren Park State School created a program called 'Believing in success reading club', which has assisted students in building their reading skills and confidence. Upper Coomera State College and Coomera Springs State School created a program titled 'NAPLAN—success coaching for year 5 and 7 students', which resulted in gains of 10 per cent in literacy and three per cent in numeracy for students who participated in 2011. Lastly, Pimpama State School was a regional winner for the intervention for improvement award. This cause has significantly improved literacy and numeracy assessment results over the past 18 months.

Being a regional award finalist is a marvellous achievement and should never be taken lightly. This type of continued innovation in education is making a real difference for our students and our future leaders. The awards are an acknowledgement of the hard work that is being undertaken in our schools. I congratulate them.

### Brisbane Riverside Lions Club; Brisbane Abruzzo Association

 **Mr DILLAWAY** (Bulimba—LNP) (3.54 pm): This afternoon in the House I rise to congratulate two great community clubs, the Brisbane Riverside Lions Club and the Brisbane Abruzzo Association. Over the past several weeks I have been honoured to attend both their 33rd birthday celebrations, which is a fantastic achievement and is a true testament to the nature of the community spirit that Bulimba revels in.


As the new member for Bulimba one of my first acts was to attend the Brisbane Riverside Lions Club 33rd anniversary dinner, held on Thursday, 19 April 2012 at the Morningside AFL Club. I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet so many of the fine Lions, who give so much of their time and effort to the community. In particular, I wish to thank President Lion Mary, Secretary Lion John and incoming President Lion John for allowing me to address their members and guests at this dinner and to participate in their trivia questions. I have requested that the final results of that trivia night be withheld forevermore.

The Brisbane Riverside Lions Club's current activities in the community include support for First Sight, medical research at the PA Hospital, the Cord Blood Bank and prostate cancer research and treatment at the Mater Hospital. They also assist the disabled, including the blind and hearing impaired. I congratulate the Brisbane Riverside Lions on the amazing work that they do for our community, I look forward to working side by side with them and I wish them all the best for the next 33 years.

Last Saturday, 26 May 2012, exactly 33 years since the club was founded, I attended the Brisbane Abruzzo Association's celebratory dinner. I was joined at that event by the Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs representing the Premier, the member for Brisbane Central, the federal member for Bonner, Mr Ross Vasta, and the former member for Bulimba. The Abruzzo Club was founded by migrants of the region of the same name in Italy. The club was formed so that the members of the Italian community could meet, uphold their traditions and maybe enjoy a game or two of bocce. From humble beginnings, today the club accommodates the AC Carina Football Club, which I would like to acknowledge is where the youngest son of the member of Chatsworth currently plays soccer. Recently, the club re-opened an authentic Italian cuisine restaurant. I recommend that all members take the time to be well looked after and fed by Enzo when they next pass through the electorate of Bulimba.

Unfortunately, original member numbers are declining and the club's new committee, including President Camillo, Vice-President Mick and Secretary Domenic, have embarked on attracting younger families from a variety of backgrounds. This has been further aided with the current construction of two new futsal courts and an indoor volleyball court. I commend the club on its foresight in attracting new members. I look forward to working with the club and celebrating future anniversaries with its members.

### Prince Charles Hospital

 **Dr DAVIS** (Stafford—LNP) (3.57 pm): Much is made of issues in our healthcare system and I think it is very important to provide a perspective on the excellent work done through so many of our hospitals and other healthcare settings in this state. I take this opportunity to mention the excellent work done at the Prince Charles Hospital, which I am very proud to have in my electorate. On average, we admit about 3,500 in-patients per month, we have accumulatively about 17,500 accrued in-patient episodes per month and an amazing 40,000 non-admitted patients per month or 1,300 per day. A survey of patient satisfaction in our emergency department last year indicated that some 94 per cent were satisfied—in other words, they indicated that their health care was good, very good or excellent. That is an amazing tribute to our staff.

Of course the gap of six per cent is still of concern and it is great that the LNP has a solution—our hospital boards will provide wonderful local input into the community's needs, with the opportunity for the community to work with the local board to then work with our excellent staff and address those issues. The local boards will also provide a very valuable opportunity not only for the community but also for the staff, the staff who simply were not heard under previous arrangements. The payroll issue is just one example.

Can I say as a staff member that, even though I was responsible for a very big department at the Prince Charles Hospital with a budget in excess of \$20 million per year, I was not consulted at all as to the sort of payroll system that would work for my staff and work for the accountability that we all have, and we have seen the consequences. We talk about the financial consequences but there were also very real consequences for the staff and the payroll staff who had all the stress of actually having to deal with this issue.


So it is a very exciting time that we will now be changing the culture in our hospitals, getting even better results for patients, better results for staff and, of course, getting the very valuable input from local boards. I have to say that in a previous life I was a general manager of a hospital board elsewhere, and the hospital boards are really a very useful vehicle. I highly commend the LNP for taking this very valuable input into advancing health services in Queensland and my electorate of Stafford.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Cunningham): Order! The time for private members' statements has expired.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 379.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Cunningham): Order! Before calling the member for Nudgee, I remind honourable members that this is the member's maiden speech and should be accorded the regular courtesies. I call the member for Nudgee.

 **Mr WOODFORTH** (Nudgee—LNP) (4.01 pm): I respond to Her Excellency the Governor and I pledge my allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I congratulate Madam Speaker on her elevation to the role and that of being the first female Speaker of the House. I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which this parliament sits and that of my electorate of Nudgee.

It is with great honour and humility that I stand here in this chamber today, elected by the people of Nudgee to this the 54th Parliament of Queensland. It is a privilege to serve the Queensland community and I thank the electorate of Nudgee for this opportunity. I sincerely thank the LNP for the opportunity they have given me to be a part of this historic Newman-led government as their representative for Nudgee, and I congratulate them on their unwavering commitment to an above-the-line campaign.

I would like to congratulate my fellow first-time MP and now Premier, Campbell Newman. Premier, your exemplary leadership during the campaign that was evidenced through your commitment to ethics and morals has provided a platform of standards and expectations for us to follow. I look forward to providing this level of leadership to you, the state of Queensland and the electorate of Nudgee to which I have this privilege.

For those unfamiliar with the area, the electorate of Nudgee houses the suburbs of Nudgee, Nudgee Beach, Banyo, Virginia, Geebung, Zillmere, Boondall and parts of Wavell Heights, Nundah and Chermside. We take great pride in the quality of schools within the electorate such as Wavell State High School, Nudgee College, Earnshaw State College and many state and Catholic primary schools that grace the electorate. The people of Nudgee have embraced the expansion of the Australian Catholic University, which has grown substantially over the last 10 years and now caters for more than 4,000 students and growing.

We have numerous RSLs, sporting clubs, bowls clubs, golf clubs, community centres, senior activity centres, churches, aged-care facilities and we are home to the Toombul and Chermside shopping centres. Nudgee certainly has a lot to offer. But on top of all this, we also have the lovely

Nudgee Beach, the protected Boondall Wetlands, more than 1,000 hectares of tidal flats and mangroves, with a range of open forests, woodlands, grasslands and salt marshes, and not to forget the Nudgee waterholes and bora ring.

Historically, Nudgee has been deeply entwined with our service personnel, with many of the streets in Zillmere named after our war heroes. This includes Sergeant H Fowles, who gave what Abraham Lincoln describes as 'the last full measure of devotion' for your country. Zillmere's young men were some of the first ashore during battle. The Geebung and Kedron-Wavell RSL clubs, including the Banyo and Zillmere subbranches, are steeped in the traditions of Anzac Day. I took great pride this year in attending several services in my formal capacity as the state member.

It is not just Nudgee's military achievements that run a thread through our community. Not only is the iconic Golden Circle Cannery part of the Nudgee electorate, but its products have adorned the pantries of almost every Australian household since it began. And it has not just been Australian pantries. Queensland's gift on the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten in 1947 was 500 tins of pineapple from the Northgate cannery. I am not too sure what one does with 500 tins of pineapple!

Of course the demand for casual labour at the cannery brought a range of people into the area—students and women, and migrants—who were not a part of the traditional workforce. This continues today, with immigration adding to the richness of the area, not least through our food such as Singh's Curry House at Banyo.

Adding to the diverse nature of the electorate is the Virginia industrial area, home to literally thousands of small and medium businesses and large businesses like the Arnott's biscuit factory. In Geebung we find Gerns Continental Smallgoods, the local butcher—and we also find him in the gallery today—still family owned, established in 1895 and continuing to provide their famous Christmas hams to many businesses and families in the surrounding areas and beyond.

I believe that the history and the rich diversity embedded in the electorate of Nudgee is a direct reflection of the people within it. I am excited to be a part of this community and I am committed to representing the electorate of Nudgee, ensuring that the progress of this state reflects the needs of the community.

My campaign was long—over a year. It had its ups and downs, its highs and lows. But for every person who stopped and told me that they had voted Labor all their life but never again, it made it all worthwhile. To Labor this was a seat they could not lose, a safe seat. The seat of Nudgee had only ever been a Labor seat, and it makes me very happy to say that at this election the LNP won with a swing of over 17 per cent—a fantastic outcome but not one to be taken for granted.

There are many people who supported me throughout this campaign, but my first thanks must go to the people who encouraged me to nominate for preselection—Councillor Fiona King and Mr Mike Dowd. Without meeting both Fiona and Mike, and without the mentoring I received from them respectively, I would not be standing here today.

To my campaign team, first and foremost I would like to pay tribute to my campaign manager Rod McGarvie. Rod is an exemplary Australian who embodies the spirit of service to others. He has done this through his service in the Army and his humanitarian service as a missionary in Africa. I hope he will be able to build on his success in outpolling Wayne Swan on primaries at the last federal election to one day serve the people of Lilley in the federal parliament.

Other dedicated members of the team who I sincerely thank for providing me with support and commitment include the two Neils, Rob, Dom, Matt, Adin, Greg, Scott, Bill, Bruce, Cheryl, Cindy, Laurie, Lisa, Mark, Kevin, Stuart, Annie and a special mention to my good friend Andy, who flew up from Melbourne to be a part of the team on polling day. I apologise to anyone I may have left out. To all the booth workers, those who provided sign sites and all those who spent even just five minutes helping me, I thank you.

To my family, you supported me all the way until the polling booths closed. To dad and Judy, Jodine, Sarah, Rohan, Angela and to my two sons, Mitch and Matt, who would often get offended every time a voter refused one of my how-to-vote cards and at times would chase them down the path. They eventually learnt not to take it personally. To my mum, she is with us in body but not in mind. I know she would be proud. God bless you, mum.

Of course being a new member of parliament and even as a candidate, the electors of Nudgee want to know a bit about who you are and where you came from. My parents, Peter and Dale Woodforth, both hardworking, had four children—I am the second of the four. My dad worked for the Brisbane City Council for over 44 years and built our first home. Even today in his 70s he continues to keep his hand in building and renovating. And until the day my mother could no longer work, she never stopped, working up to three part-time jobs at a time to ensure all bills were paid and food was on the table.

My father also coached club and state softball teams for many years and, together with mum—a talented softball player herself—they formed the Panthers Softball Club back in 1958, a club that is still going strong today 54 years later.

I have fond memories of growing up in the seventies and eighties. I remember Chermide Shopping Centre when it was just the size of a postage stamp compared to the monstrosity it is today. Our parents would let us walk to school without fear. We rode our bikes—without helmets. Possibly there is a hint of what I think about helmet laws, the loss of freedom of choice and the increasing growth of legislation for legislation's sake.

Weekends and many week nights were spent at sporting fields somewhere around Brisbane playing baseball—the sport I loved and played for 25 years—and any other sport I could find when time permitted. You could say that sport was a major part of my life growing up and still to this day plays a massive part in my life. I have been a proud northsider for all of my 41 years, and my colleagues from the south side can tell you there is no greater divide in Brisbane than the Brisbane River.

For the last 14 years I have lived in the electorate of Nudgee, and the rest of my life has been spent in and around it as circumstances or Nudgee's boundaries have changed. My sporting background has taken me to almost every suburb in Brisbane, every major town in Queensland and every capital city in Australia. My business has taken me further, to many locations around the world. Despite seeing many beautiful parts of Australia and the world, I still proudly call north Brisbane my home.

Whilst sport has been a major part of my life, so, too, has health, and for the last eight years in my electorate I have owned and managed a business in health and fitness. So it would be remiss of me not to spend some time sharing my thoughts on and concerns for our health and our future. Health and fitness are very important to me, and I believe they should be important to all Queenslanders. It is estimated that 90 per cent—90 per cent—of health problems in Queensland are due to preventable chronic disease. This means that there is an opportunity for us to explore and develop programs that can educate families and young children in relation to making good choices, for ourselves and our families.

While a better lifestyle will result in a longer and healthier life for our community, the opportunity to work proactively towards reducing and hopefully preventing chronic disease in our communities also means that we as a community could potentially see a decrease in the healthcare costs currently being demanded of this system. The *Australian* of 24 February 2012 states—

Within the next 10 to 15 years it is predicted that the Australian federal and state budgets will be totally consumed by the expanding cost of healthcare.

Under this scenario, if we were simply to maintain services ... at present levels there would be no money left for roads, rail, education and many other essential services.

Over the last 25 years the Queensland population has not quite doubled, from 2.6 million to 4.5 million people. The Health budget, on the other hand, has risen dramatically, from \$1 billion to \$11 billion. I am not going to dwell on the failures of the previous government today, but I think we can all agree that the way Health has been managed over the past 20 years could not be regarded as a success.

We need to do better in administration, practice and, most importantly, preventative measures. I have already had the privilege of visiting Boondall State School and learning about the Friday Fresh Menu program they have implemented. It was interesting to hear from the deputy principal that Fridays are their best day for student behaviour. For me, that is food for thought. It is also great to see many schools actively encouraging students to participate in walk-to-school days, to not be picked up and dropped off at the gate but a few blocks away and to participate in school sports and not have an option to sit out. These are fantastic initiatives, but we need to continue to improve on and expand them. Every generation should live better than the last, but from a health perspective are we? I say not. We lose around 1,500 Australians each year on our roads. We lose 15,000 each year due to smoking and 16,000 due to obesity related diseases. I could go on about this subject that I love, but time is limited.

I mentioned earlier that I owned a business. There are a lot of business owners in my area. I see firsthand the challenges facing them each and every day. I talk to other businesses, and our stories have a certain similarity. There was a time in Australia when hard work was rewarded. There are a lot of businesses in our community that exist solely to pay their suppliers, their staff and the government. There is very little money left over to pay the owners. Sometimes there is nothing left. In an internet age, many businesses, including mine, are competing against overseas suppliers that do not have to pay GST, minimum wages, high rents, rising public liability insurance, import taxes and AQIS fees or comply with workplace health and safety laws, added labelling requirements and a host of other imposts. Yet we are told to come up with better ways. Better ways to what? Work out how not to pay tax, not to pay staff high wages, not to pay the high rents and the ever-increasing electricity costs?

There are solutions out there, and this new LNP government is setting about putting many of these in place, where possible from a state perspective. Unfortunately, federally it is not the case, and everyone is about to take a new hit that will make things worse. On 1 July the carbon tax will hit every Queensland and every Australian. I have an open mind on many issues; however, of the so-called science on climate change I am yet to be convinced. We must separate climate change from carbon tax. Even if one were to believe in climate change, how could we embrace with all our hearts the concept of climate change and reject with all our hearts the people whom this tax will cruel? How can we turn our hearts away from the workers, the families and the children who will suffer as jobs are lost? No truly compassionate Australian can do this, and nor should they.

I became involved because I was sick of the lies, the deceit, the waste. If I ran my business like the previous government ran Queensland, I would be out of business. I say to the opposition: I welcome you to parliament as part of the solution, not as part of the problem. Do not carry the baggage of the past. Instead, I urge you to be part of making Queensland and your individual electorates great again. You were elected to government, not elected to the opposition. In 1829 Henry Clay said—


Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees; and both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people.

I look forward to addressing many areas of neglect in Nudgee over the next three years. That is the problem sometimes with so-called safe seats: over time the government and opposition get complacent about the work they have to do. Nudgee is now a marginal seat, and our side of politics will start delivering for Nudgee.

There are a number of concerns that constituents in Nudgee have already raised with me, and I am committed to working in conjunction with government to meet the needs of the community. Our current objectives include delivery of the Geebung rail overpass, together with the Telegraph Road overpass for Aspley and Sandgate. These two improvements will have a dramatic effect on road traffic on the north side. A commitment to extra front-line police will deliver more officers in Zillmere, Geebung and Banyo, making Nudgee safer. We will attack the cost-of-living problems in Queensland by cutting waste. I will continue to highlight the need for increased upgrades for the federally funded Gateway Motorway at Nudgee, currently the most expensive car park in Australia. This will provide benefits not just for Nudgee and relieve the congestion this causes every day on Sandgate Road but also for my colleagues in Sandgate, Redcliffe, Aspley and seats further north. I will investigate options for a rail-crossing solution at Banyo as well as improving safety around the Banyo shops and increased bus and rail services. I will undertake consultation in relation to flashing lights at all schools, realistic school zone times and matching those times so they are relevant to each school. I will also investigate the upgrading of safety at school crossing lights such as on Newman and Handford roads.

In closing, I say this: in this chamber I will not be afraid to change my mind based on new and better information. The greater cowardice is the fear to change your own mind because of how you feel other people will see you. I am committed to leading the electorate of Nudgee through the opportunity they have afforded me, and I am excited about the positive changes we will see in our communities through the collective leadership of this LNP government. I look forward to the challenges that face me in the years ahead.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! Before I call the next speaker, I remind the House that this is the member's first speech, and I would ask that the House afford the courtesies associated with a maiden speech. I call the member for Stretton.

 **Mrs OSTAPOVITCH** (Stretton—LNP) (4.17 pm): It is indeed awesome to see the enthusiastic faces of my colleagues sitting here, in particular the candidates who ran with me in 2009. Only a few candidates ever try a second time, so we are either very determined people or a fork short of a cutlery set! But it is my absolute joy to be with my friends from neighbouring Springwood, Algester, Sunnybank, Mansfield, Waterford and Albert—colleagues who I know will take the responsibility placed upon us seriously, with a diligent and sensible attitude.

I joined the LNP when it was formed in 2008 and soon after ran for Waterford. After an unpleasant defeat, which was later proven to be the result of an overall deceitful campaign, I was so impressed with LNP leaders Lawrence Springborg, John-Paul Langbroek, Bruce McIver and Gary Spence that I decided to stay on and help the LNP cause. I found in them a great integrity and deep desire for a better Queensland—inspirational leaders that you just want to follow. Of course, there is no denying the Newman factor in my victory, but I pledge that next election I will win on my own merit because I will have done a great job for my Stretton, a community that is culturally diverse but very much Aussie and has the most wonderful, generous and friendly people you could wish for. I knocked on over 14,000 doors over 12 months and not an ill-tempered person did I ever meet. To the 2,000 households I missed: I promise you I will get to you over the next few months. I made a commitment and I plan to deliver on it.



I am also responsible to the thousands of animals and flora of Karawatha Forest, and never in my wildest dreams did I think I would be saving frogs in my first week. It sounds funny, but it was actually a very serious threat to the \$60 million council investment. I would like to thank the Karawatha Forest Protection Society for bringing it to my attention and to LinkWater for finding us a solution. If only frogs could vote.

We all know that no-one gets to this place on their own so I want to thank the people who stood alongside me. In particular, I thank my campaign managers, David Lin and Vivien Ouwerkerk. Likewise, I thank mentors like Mayor Pam Parker, Mayor Graham Quirk, Don Cameron, Senator Sue Boyce and the ever passionate Senator Barnaby Joyce. To a true lady with a big heart, Lisa Newman: you have my absolute admiration.

I thank my friend, Nina Schrunner, who was always there to encourage me, especially when the Labor candidate stooped to sending out vile letters to my large ethnic community attempting to link me to the racist philosophy of another party that I have never even belonged to. I cannot describe how offensive that letter was to me, but it backfired because my ethnic community had already come to know me and they knew that I have a genuine love and interest in all people regardless of race or religion. The Labor candidate even replaced Anna Bligh with Kevin Rudd in all of his advertising. I think he must have had too much sun and forgot who his leader was. What an insult to the intelligence of the Chinese community. Hence, I was given even more encouragement and help by the Taiwanese, Chinese, Vietnamese and Indian communities, and I am truly grateful for their friendship which just gets stronger.

Of course I must thank my husband of 36 years, Don, and my two sons, Senior Constable Kyle Ostapovitch and Dr Michael Ostapovitch. Witnessing their servitude under difficult and dangerous conditions has inspired me to want to make things better for Queenslanders. They choose to serve the community but I am sad because that servitude comes at a price. For their own mental wellbeing, they have to put aside their emotions when they don the uniform because they both see more pain, suffering, cruelty and death every day than anyone should see in a lifetime. That is particularly timely on this very day, as we all remember the life of Damian Leeding that was cut short. As the mother of a detective, it is particularly confronting. So today I want to publicly in this place commend and honour all the police officers, nurses, doctors, paramedics and social workers out there and give them my thanks—and I am sure the thanks of this new parliament—for their unselfish, daily sacrifice to protect and heal their fellow man. We should never take their service for granted.

There are a lot of things I hope to achieve during my time in parliament. I hope to make life better for people living in the electorate of Stretton. I hope to be useful to the team sitting in this chamber in the important job of getting Queensland back on track. I hope as a member of the Finance and Administration Committee that I can help make wise decisions with the taxpayers' money and pass sensible laws that make life better for Queenslanders—laws that encourage people to work and contribute to society and, most importantly, laws that discourage idleness, selfishness and crime.

I also really want to be a voice for those who are vulnerable—that is, our elderly and our children. The truth is that kids need very little to be happy. It is not things they need; it is the love of their parents. I have been to places where families live in dirt floor shacks and I have seen children leave those shacks in pristine clean and ironed school uniforms and skip down the road with big smiles on their faces.

Parents in developing countries sacrifice what little they have with the hope that an education will give their children a better life. Indeed, hope is vital to good mental health. My experience is that a frightening number of Australians have lost hope. It has always perplexed me as to why Australia has the highest rate of teen suicide per capita in the world—a disgraceful statistic. We need to be proactive in finding the root of the problem of youth suicide. Why are so many of our youth troubled? By and large, most parents love and protect their children but perhaps we indulge our children too much. Do we protect them from sadness and disappointment to the extent that they grow up not learning how to cope with these things? There is a saying that to experience the rainbow you must first embrace the rain. Do we need to allow our children to stand in the rain? They need to learn that they are strong enough to get over sad times, that it is not the end of the world when they get a pimple and, sorry to be trivial, that things always get better with time and that people need to have that hope.

I have always found it helpful to have an attitude of gratitude. Even though my father abandoned my mother and me when I was 10 and I have not heard from him since, I know that experience has made me the empathetic person I am today. To say I grew up with emotional baggage is an understatement, but by the grace of God I found a good and loyal man when I was only 19 which probably saved me from myself. I also replaced my wayward father with one who will never abandon me.

What I did determine while still young was that I would not let my past dictate my future. You cannot move forward if you are always looking back at the past. Indeed, after training as a psychiatric nurse at a large psychiatric hospital, I chose a career in sales and business where rejection is an everyday occurrence. And fancy someone with rejection issues running for parliament—twice. Talk about facing your fears.

A wise man once said that the secret of happiness is to find contentment whatever situation you are in. Be it in times of need or times of plenty, just accept it and be as happy as you can be. Indeed, I have seen this in action as I have travelled the world—people who I would call poor but are happy and content. I have seen the real poor; I have seen children living by garbage tips because that is where they find food and items to sell.

When I was a child, my friend's mother had a plaque in her kitchen that said, 'I used to complain I had no shoes until I met a man who had no feet.' It is funny the things that stick in your head throughout your life, but that little saying has always come to mind when I have allowed myself to wallow in self-pity. It is all about attitude. There is always someone worse off than you. Sometimes I find it hard to listen to an able-bodied person complaining, but I remind myself of what I learnt while I was a nurse—that everyone just wants to feel they are important enough to be listened to. I wish we could all listen to one another more because that would make a significant difference to our society.

A number of years ago I decided to take a break from my school and sports photography business to volunteer in the community. During my time as the president of a large community centre and volunteer on many associated social welfare association committees, I witnessed the best of humankind and the worst. Firstly, I witnessed the generosity of my fellow volunteers who gave so freely of their time. I encourage anyone who wants to find some purpose in their lives to contact Volunteering Queensland which offers an incredible variety of opportunities to suit all.

But I am sad to say that I saw some very sad cases of child abuse and neglect. There is an epidemic of selfishness out there. We all have bouts of selfish behaviour at times, but it is shameful when a parent continually puts their own desires above the wellbeing of their child. When a government neglects to discipline a youth who has made a bad choice, they neglect their duty to them as well as society. It is indeed cruel to set in motion a dysfunctional future for a child. The statistics are that 6,500 children appeared on 19,000 charges in 2011 and that 200 kids were responsible for one-quarter of the crimes.

Pam Dowse, Queensland's only dedicated children's magistrate, tells of offenders who are malnourished, ill clad, neglected, abused and unloved products of dysfunctional parents. She continues in the *Courier-Mail* story that they are often children crying out for rescue rather than retribution. What a disgraceful legacy the Labor government has left Queensland. For almost 22 years it has failed our children and hence failed the basic needs of our society, which has the right to expect safety in their homes and businesses. I almost fell to the floor when I heard the member in the corner here cite success in child safety as a Labor achievement. You have got to be kidding! I say spend some time in the real world!

I have seen parents send their children to school without breakfast or lunch. I have heard of teenagers who did not know how to use a knife and fork because they had only ever eaten from a takeaway wrapper. There are parents who tell their kids that they are stupid. There are parents who spend any money they get on themselves and expect their working neighbours to feed, clothe and give Christmas presents to their children. There are parents who see their children as a burden and tell them to get out of the house so they can spend time with their new boyfriend. There are parents who expect day-care centre staff to toilet train their child. Some parents even drop off their children in filthy nappies. There are parents who beat their child and parents who rape their child and there is even a mother out there who sells her child as a sex toy for the perverted.

These are hard things to hear, but they need to be said because we cannot change what we do not know of. I believe there are things we can do as a government if we approach the task from a prevention point of view. We are now raising children to become adults who will suffer from depression or a need to escape in a world of binge drinking and substance abuse, or an adult who habitually hurts others and spends their life in and out of jail. This is the result for most kids who grow up unloved or undisciplined. A month ago two teenage girls mercilessly bashed a seven-year-old girl in the toilets of a cinema while her mother was outside. Kids are taking knives to school and stabbing each other—kids, not adults! We are failing our children. When are we going to say enough is enough? The relative slap on the wrist is not working. We need to show tough love, with an emphasis on the love. It is a sad fact that we have more programs available to train our dogs than our children.

I also believe we need to take the reins back from children who are more and more realising they have power over authority. How did we get to the situation where youths are calling the shots? Right now there is a culture that encourages children to disrespect authority of parents, teachers and police. For example, a 15-year-old who had been an extremely smart student had become so addicted to computer games that he was sneaking back to his house instead of going to school. His grades were failing and so was his quality of life. His mother took his computer to a store to have all the games wiped. Her son was angry and found a sympathetic ear in a so-called school social worker, who then confronted the mother that this was an abuse of his right to have whatever he wanted on his own computer. When his mother strongly objected to that, the son was encouraged to leave his mother and told he would get money from the government so he could live independently. Fortunately the mother convinced her son to live downstairs in the granny flat to stay close to his family. However, he was still

given government assistance. He fended for himself the whole time he lived under his mother's house until he left high school. Thankfully, he pulled his socks up and was given a scholarship to UQ, but what an insane story that is—an example of waste.

Stand outside any Children's Court and watch the youths leave laughing and mocking our judicial system due to bad policy that does nothing to curb an appetite for crime and violence. Recently we have heard of youths abusing the no child left behind legislation and forcing bus drivers to take them without payment. To me it is child neglect to set children up to disregard authority and our laws. No good can come of it—not for society and not for the child. So what are we as a society going to do about it? It is a problem we all pay for, so we should all think about what we can do to help. I want to see discussion about this on the TV and radio, at P&Cs and coffee shops and over the back fence. When society bands together and says that it will no longer accept child neglect, then we have a real chance to reduce it.

Most of the time it is not about taking children away from their mother; it is about showing the mother how to be a mother, a father how to be a father. Some of them never learnt that from their mothers or fathers. Any life we save from the cycle of the abused becoming the abuser or a life of mental illness or a life of crime is worth the effort. Our children deserve it and society deserves it. The best way we can all help is to change behaviour by changing attitudes. Mentoring is the way. I know that all it takes is one significant adult in a young person's life to change it—just one person to care. I also think that governments have got to stop enabling people to self-destruct by giving them money without conditions. We all know that many handouts to families do not reach the children. It disgusts me that a parent would spend money on alcohol, cigarettes, drugs and gambling and not on feeding, clothing or educating their own child—and society, in many ways, pays for it.

Billions and billions goes towards putting bandaids on youths and adults with gaping wounds—a wound that could have been avoided if treated when it was just a sore. Imagine a Queensland where there were fewer people in jails, less crime, fewer people on welfare, fewer people with mental illness, fewer people in hospital, fewer people self-medicating on drugs and binge drinking, less cruelty, less abuse and neglect. In fact, there probably are not many areas that our taxes go to now that could not be reduced if we took more notice of how we raise our children. It is time we all talk about it instead of sweeping it under the rug because it makes us uncomfortable. Perhaps when selfish parents recognise their behaviour they will seek help to change. We know that people can change. Humans have the ability to change. We are not trees. Anyone can make the decision to say, 'Today will be a new day. Today I will change for the sake of my family and for my own sake,' and there are thousands of success stories to prove this. People just need the courage to take the first step.

So let us have the conversation and let us all figure out how we can help someone who is struggling with life, and here is an idea: what if we taught children in school about self-esteem or life and parenting skills, how to budget, anger management or—heaven forbid—some manners and moral lessons too? What is wrong with developing a conscience in a child that how you treat others matters? A teacher told me recently that there was no time to do that because the focus is on academia and that those things are meant to be taught by parents and/or churches. I agree, but that does not help the child who has a parent who does not think those things are important. It seems to me that if we can make time for sex education we can make time to teach children life skills, including how to be loving and responsible parents.

I hope that when I review my maiden speech in 10 years time I will feel proud that it was my LNP government that had the foresight to plan for the future of our children. After all, we have a leader who had the foresight to build bridges and tunnels because they are cheaper and less disruptive to motorists. I remind those without vision that 20 years ago when the Gateway Bridge was first built we heard the same complaints. Well, can anyone imagine not having that bridge today? Of course not! In fact, we even needed to duplicate it. So, Premier, I look forward to looking back when my time on earth is done and feeling proud of what we did. There is no doubt in my mind that we will do it. During my time in office I will quote my favourite saying—


I ask God to grant me the peace of mind to change the things I can

Accept the things I can't

And most importantly the wisdom to know the difference.

Thank you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! Before I call the next member I remind the House this is the member's maiden speech and I would ask that the House afford the courtesies associated with this occasion and listen in silence.

 **Mr STEWART** (Sunnybank—LNP) (4.39 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. May I first congratulate the member for Stretton on her maiden speech and begin by extending through you my personal congratulations to Madam Speaker on her election to that office. I have every confidence that she will continue to serve this parliament and the people of Queensland with the utmost dignity and integrity as she has throughout her parliamentary career. May I also extend to you my congratulations on your appointment as Deputy Speaker.

I also extend my congratulations to our Premier, the Hon. Campbell Newman. When it was confirmed that he had joined the state campaign team, I was very excited, but not primarily for the benefit that he would bring to the state campaign but for the long-term benefit of Queensland. My excitement has been vindicated by the whirlwind of change and progress since the day he was sworn in as Premier. I believe that Premier Newman will lead Queensland from the dismal state of unemployment, missed opportunity and financial insecurities to prosperity and bring back a government of which we are all proud. He will lead and inspire us to a decade that will be remembered as the golden years of Queensland—a time of economic prosperity, social cohesion and a return of fundamental values of honesty and integrity in public office.

My congratulations are also warmly extended to Premier Newman's cabinet colleagues for not only their election or re-election to their seats but also on their appointment as ministers of the Crown. In particular, I extend my personal appreciation and that of my campaign team to the Hon. Premier, the Hon. Fiona Simpson, the Hon. Tim Nicholls, the Hon. Dr Bruce Flegg, the Hon. Scott Emerson, the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek and the member for Gympie, David Gibson, for their personal assistance in visiting the electorate of Sunnybank during and before the election campaign. To all the other members of Her Majesty's government and opposition, I congratulate you on your election. I believe that we have been gifted with great responsibilities and opportunities at a critical time in the state's history. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the unsuccessful candidates for the electorate of Sunnybank for their contribution to a fair but extremely hard-fought campaign.

Our state campaign was executed with great precision and to Bruce McIver, Gary Spence, Michael O'Dwyer, James McGrath, Matt McEachan and Mitch Redford and the remaining LNP team, their efforts to ensure that we had an honest, clean and coordinated campaign with results-driven policies was critical to the success of the government in Sunnybank.

It is also appropriate at this time that I recognise the contribution of the previous member for Sunnybank, the Hon. Judy Spence. As one of Queensland's longest-serving female members of parliament, her efforts in serving the people of Sunnybank are well recognised. On a personal level, I have many recollections of her presence at annual Anzac Day ceremonies at the RSL hall at Lister Street, Sunnybank from the early 1990s until last year and on other occasions within the electorate. Her service as police minister was highly regarded by serving police and employees and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

After being in this place for just a few weeks, it was obvious that every honourable member believes that his or her electorate is the jewel in Queensland's crown. It would come as no surprise to members that such is my view of the Sunnybank electorate. Having lived and attended school in Runcorn, I have many memories of bicycle rides on gravel roads, walking to school past market gardens and horse paddocks—a much slower pace of life than is generally the case today. My schooling and upbringing in this wonderful area has profoundly contributed to my belief and values and to the characteristics and standards by which I have lived my life to the present time. This will be the basis upon which this new and exciting phase of my working career will be based.

If asked in future years, 'Who do you work for?' my answer will not be the Jimmy Durante one-liner that was often repeated on local radio stations as I travelled to school—'The same old bunch; the wife and the kids.' Rather, it will be, 'I work for the people of Sunnybank.' I am committed to working tirelessly for all of those who were privileged to have been born here and for all of those who have taken the bold step in choosing to live here. I work for those who are privileged to be employed and those who are not as fortunate. I work for those who are healthy and for those who are not and also those who suffer disabilities. I work for families and I work for the young as well as those who deserve every respect and dignity as they enjoy their years of retirement. It is my pledge today that I will do so for every elector in the years ahead who seeks assistance through my office regardless of their station in life and regardless of how they choose to vote.

To demonstrate my commitment to the electorate, I promised months before the campaign started that I would move from my home in Mount Gravatt, which was only a few kilometres from the electorate, to live in it. I did this as I intended to be a local member who works in and with the community that I will represent as a backbencher in this parliament. I wanted to hear what is of concern first and to see the reality of problems and the impact on my community. I have kept this promise and the weekend before I was sworn in in this very chamber my family moved to our new home at Eight Mile Plains just over a kilometre from where I lived for my first 18 years and just down the road from my first school and the sports fields where I played cricket, soccer, basketball and rugby. I am a man of my word. I will keep every other promise that I have made to faithfully serve as a member of parliament. Without our word and our reputation, who are we? It is shameful that this was not the standard that was adhered to and believed by our predecessors in office.

Allow me to return to the Sunnybank electorate for just a few more moments. Sunnybank is a unique electorate—a mini city within a city. Contained within its boundaries are QEII Hospital; Sunnybank Private Hospital; Archerfield Airport; a major road and rail transport hub at Acacia Ridge;

and a large industrial corridor in which many small office, commercial, retail and industrial outlets and buildings are located. There are business owners and proprietors who provide great opportunities for other small businesses and large businesses throughout Brisbane. They provide employment and common wealth to our economy. There is also a vibrant retail and restaurant sector that is a tribute to the many thousands of Queenslanders who are able to bring diversity of culture and food to the streets and suburbs. The Sunnybank electorate has a great sense of energy and vibrancy that is demonstrated each and every day. In a transport sense, Sunnybank is serviced by both the Queensland Rail network and major roads such as Logan, Beaudesert and Mains road and the South East Freeway.

But all of this is not what makes Sunnybank truly great. Sunnybank is unique, with a diverse multicultural community that is questionably larger than in any other electorate with a real sense of community. It is a place where the dignity of all people is by and large respected. All of those who live in Queensland are much better for this outstanding example of Queensland in the 21st century.

There is a fantastic community centre in Acacia Ridge led by wonderful staff who go that extra mile every day for the residents, working with other community services to ensure that the needs of others are met in the community. But they are not alone. Rotary and Lions clubs work together to serve the community. This was extremely evident during and after the floods, when the community groups and individuals worked together to help their neighbours. Some residential and industrial parts of the electorate were directly affected and many other residents were affected through their employment. This level of community support is one of the features that makes me very proud to be a Queenslanders. Another is the string of success of the State of Origin series.

There is one statistic that I must share with the honourable members today and it is one of the reasons I am so proud to be representing Sunnybank. Whilst QEII Hospital is only a relatively small hospital by Brisbane standards and has limited services, it has around 140 volunteers providing great services like patient visiting, craft, reading and, with the Red Cross, providing much needed medical equipment hire.

One of my first functions as the member for Sunnybank was to attend the service awards for the local Meals on Wheels where three members of the community had over 40 years of service and another eight members had over 30 years of service. There are many community groups in Sunnybank and there is insufficient time for me to preach their good deeds today, but rest assured that I will do so both in this place and throughout the electorate in the months and years to come. The same can be said about the vast group of sporting bodies, schools—both public and private—and the range of business, arts, religious and cultural bodies that breathe life and a sense of community throughout our suburbs.

A sound education is one of the greatest benefits provided to my generation and previous generations. It is a hallmark of civilised communities and one of the greatest legacies of a government in this state. Sunnybank has many of the best schools in the state, including the state's first and only Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander private school. Throughout the last 18 months I have attended many hundreds of events and gatherings in the electorate in many different venues. Throughout that time it was abundantly clear to me that Queensland families are doing it tough and struggling to make ends meet and that is why they have given this government an historic mandate to help them and to support them.

May I extend a sincere thank you to the voters of Sunnybank. I know that many of you voted for this side of politics for the first time and while Sunnybank received the second largest swing to the government—over 20 per cent—I realise that this tide of support will well turn against me unless I deliver what was promised and that we continue to talk, walk and act straight, precisely as we have promised. I can assure this House that I will work constantly to ensure that we keep those promises, that the voice of the people in Sunnybank is heard and also that Sunnybank gets its fair and reasonable share of resources.

There are many issues that are of concern in my electorate over and above those that have been dealt with during the election campaign. Student accommodation in suburbs close to universities is a challenge in many locations, as it is in Mount Gravatt. Additional police resources that are used to provide more rapid local responses are critical given the current climate in which the commission of criminal offences has apparently increased. Rail crossings, additional front-line nursing staff and the delivery of infrastructure with minimal disruption to business activities are further issues genuinely and properly raised with me and are ones that I shall pursue through the most appropriate channels to achieve the best outcomes.

Prior to seeking preselection for the state seat of Sunnybank I was not active in party politics. Out of a deep sense of frustration that real people were not getting fair treatment and that there was a better way of government delivering services, I put my hand up to signify that I was ready to fight on behalf of the community. From my experience in the community and having worked in both public and private sectors, my belief is that government can learn much from industry and, in return, there are aspects of government from which the private sector can learn.

Many people have contributed to my taking a seat in this 54th Parliament. I would like to particularly recognise my campaign team, local supporters and their families. My team was led by Duncan Maclaine, my campaign director, and supported by Ken Browning, Reg Marshall, Juan Alvarez, Bill and Shirley Tree, Imelda Spoljarevic, Luke Manning, Tony Meredith, Jacki Clayton, Ben Faint, Brian and Kathleen Marsden, Marie Jackson, Angela O'Neale, Loretta and Brian Stewart with additional help from Ian Ollsson, Natasha, Vivian, Sheena, Mike, Andrew, Daniel, Claire, Julia and many more. I would also like to particularly thank the recently elected Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Graham Quirk, whose initial support and advice was paramount to the good start that we had in our local campaign.

To my fellow elected representatives in both state and local government in adjacent as well as overlapping electorates, the team work that was evident in our campaign was also key to the success that we received and I thank you for your support. The support did not stop there. While we had fantastic local support, friends and family came from Beaudesert to Pine Rivers—and I must confess to the Premier that I did have some volunteers who came from Ashgrove. In fact, many of the people who offered and gave assistance had no allegiance to any particular political party and some said that they had previously done everything possible not to vote and they had lost faith in the accountability of government and in their elected representatives. This is one of the most important things that needs to be restored.

As far as in-laws go I consider myself very fortunate, not only for bringing up my wife with a strong work ethic but for their dedication and willingness to drop anything to lend a hand. To Janette and Geoff Bladin, I thank you for your much needed support. I was raised in Runcorn, not far from where both my grandparents lived, with my two older sisters, Angela and Rosie. My parents worked hard to ensure that we were all brought up with good principles, a strong work ethic and, most importantly, became a strong and united family. After all, the family is the most important thing. To Brian and Loretta Stewart, Mum and Dad, thank you for all that you have done for me and my family. You are both an inspiration to me. If it was not for your help I would not be able to serve the good people of Sunnybank.

Mr Deputy Speaker, as you and other members know, running for public office is not a decision that can be taken lightly. It is a decision that impacts on family and friends greatly. I cannot pretend that the past 17 months have been smooth sailing. During my campaign there was someone by my side every step of the way, my wife, Kareena. I owe my appointment to you, my well organised and dedicated wife. There are not many women out there who could run and organise an election campaign while juggling employment and being a fantastic mother to two young children. In fact, my youngest child was only two days old when the election was called. You are my friend and my rock. Thank you for your love and support. To my sons, Bradley and Nathan, while you are too young to understand why your father is unable to spend a lot of time with you now, please know that I do this with you in mind and that the time we spend together as a family will be all the more special.


In closing, I feel privileged to join the ranks of many experienced members and I am honoured to be able to represent Sunnybank, Queensland, and this great democracy that many take for granted. I will play my part to ensure that it is safeguarded for years to come and for future generations.

I have been guided for many years by the companionship of many Cub, Scout, Venturer and Rover leaders and have been shaped by my friendships in the scouting movement as well as my family. Many remain my closest friends to this day. I have also been guided by these words by Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting, whose vision for the future was so precisely stated many years ago—

Try and leave this world a little better than you found it and when your turn comes to die, you can die happy in feeling that at any rate you have not wasted your time but have done your best

I will do my best as I have solemnly sworn to do in the days and years ahead. Thank you.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! Before I call the member for Logan, I remind the House that this is the member's maiden speech and I would ask that members afford him the courtesies associated with this time and listen to him in silence.

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (5.00 pm): I rise to address the House today as the member for Logan and a proud Australian, grateful for the opportunities Queensland has offered my family. The fact that I can rise here as an Australian is not by sheer luck. The right for anyone to stand and have their say in this House and the right for the people's voice to be heard anywhere has been hard fought for and long guarded by so many valiant Queenslanders, in fact, by so many people from my home, Logan. I pay honour and respect to those generations, past and present, including our first people, the traditional owners of the land. In fact, I pay tribute to all those Australians who have contributed to making our great state, our wonderful nation, our home, a place of freedom and prosperity and a land of endless opportunity. The freedom we enjoy can be directly related to the bloodless development of our nation's democracy. There is an inherent stability provided in our constitutional democracy, with a parliament, executive and rule of law at its core.

Today I pay my respects to our Madam Speaker and congratulate her as our first female Speaker and for the role she will play in protecting and promoting the function of this House. I also pay my respects and affirm my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who, through 60 years of loyal service to the throne and Queensland, has demonstrated admirably the qualities of honour, courage, commitment and a positive attitude. Charles Swindoll, a Christian pastor, author and educator, was quoted as saying—

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failure, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice everyday regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% of how I react to it. And so it is with you... we are in charge of our Attitudes.

Australians have the type of attitude everyone worldwide adores. It is the type of attitude I noticed when I fell in love with my wife while on deployment to Australia as part of the joint Australian-US exercise, Croc 99. The previous speaker seems to have made me all emotional. My wife, Anna Pucci, is a beautiful Brisbane woman who typifies everything that is so wonderful about this nation: bright, sparkly and full of energy, just like the people of Logan. On the surface, people from the outside may think we are totally relaxed, but just take a walk around my electorate of Logan and you will see real Australia bubbling forth.

The families of Logan are hard working and well set in the attitude of making things happen. In Logan and across Queensland there is a sense of a bright new dawn, an era of prosperity and opportunity established by the hard work of generations past and the foresight of our currently elected leaders. The people of Logan are honourable people. A handshake is their bond, their courage is signified by the stoic way they deal with life's obstacles and their commitment is shown by the kindness they show for their neighbours and the love they have for their families. I have been privileged to serve in the US Marines from Korea to Japan, from Saudi Arabia to Australia. In the Gulf War I was honoured to have fought alongside Australian troops to protect the freedom of the people of Kuwait. I have been exposed to many cultures and lived amongst many people from the Asia-Pacific to the Middle East and the Americas. But nowhere is there a greater group of people who make things happen with what they have than here in our home of Queensland, and especially in my home of Logan.

I am a citizen of the world and, no matter where I go and no matter who I see or who I talk to, I have learnt that everyone is basically the same in their core principle; that is, mothers want the best for their children, fathers want to provide for their families and each generation wants what is right and what is better for the next generation. No matter where one comes from and no matter where one lives or who one votes for, people are people. Wayne Goss, a former Queensland Premier but more auspiciously a former member for Logan, said—

I think anybody who has the opportunity to get into government... finds that if you apply yourself in a positive and diligent way, there is much that can be achieved to transform a community or make changes that affect people.

People do not expect much more from governments other than competence.

I am determined to make my mark in this place by ensuring Logan is front and centre in the minds of government, that we grasp the attitude of hard work and making things happen and bring about real change to people's lives, and that we finally take action and deliver for Logan, not just talk about it. We want change, not by implementing more government but by removing the excessive burden of government. I am committed to this honourable task—totally committed.

What a wonderful day 24 March 2012 was. From Weipa to Mudgeeraba and from Windorah to Maryborough, Queenslanders embraced the Liberal National Party's attitude of making things happen. They wholeheartedly embraced change in the electorate of Logan from Browns Plains, Regents Park and Crestmead in the north, Park Ridge and Munruben in the centre, Logan Village in the east, and Flagstone and Greenbank in the south-west. Those people realised that the Queensland of old, mired in debt and high cost of living, ground still by government waste and inefficiency, just had to change. Locals across the state called on the Liberal National Party to take charge, make things happen and have a positive attitude.

What do the people of Logan tell me they want? What do they expect from their new government? How am I going to assist them? The key to a successful future for Logan will be the work this government can do towards implementing the five-point plan that we took to the people. Our action plan is unequivocal, it is tactile, it will deliver. As our Premier, the Hon. Campbell Newman, has articulated—

... our action plan involves growing a four pillar economy—focusing on tourism, agriculture, resources and construction; lowering the cost of living for families by cutting waste; delivering better infrastructure and better planning; revitalising frontline services for families; and restoring accountability in government.

Growth in the four-pillar economy will ensure that Logan's stubbornly high unemployment can finally be reduced. We need to attract tourists to our area from wide and far. In northern Australia, we have a new Marine deployment and I want to encourage those serving members of the US armed services to spend their R and R here in the Sunshine State. I hope to use my contacts throughout Australia and overseas to bring more tourists to our part of the world. Logan needs fresh ideas to attract visitors and tourists, and I am committed to the task of growing our tourism base.

Logan must be allowed to take advantage of the mining boom by further developing its manufacturing industry. It is no hidden fact that Logan is a manufacturing community, with the 2006 census showing 15.8 per cent of Logan's population coming from the blue-collar sector, which was higher than any other sector. The government's recently introduced measures to cut payroll tax will boost employment and help with this process, as will measures to cut business red tape. Recently, I talked to business executives from around the world and local entrepreneurs who manufacture crushing and screening machinery for quarries and mines. Logan's men and women need not go west to find employment in the mines if we can successfully promote the local growth of the industries that serve the mines and minerals sector.

Once Logan was just a rural area on the outskirts of Brisbane, but now it has a diverse and developed economy. Driving our local economy is not only the manufacturing industry but also the construction industry, which I am keen to support. It is also important that we support our traditional agricultural businesses, which I know are still developing across Logan, such as the Mushroom Exchange in North Maclean. As the local member I hope to encourage agricultural enterprises that are employment intensive and teach valuable skills like aquaculture and permaculture.

After many years of neglect by the Labor Party, in Logan our police services are overworked and under-resourced. We must address this issue so that the people of Logan can be confident they live and work in a safe community. The government's plan to put 100 more police on the streets of Logan and the Gold coast is a good start.

I look forward to working with newly re-elected unopposed Mayor, Pam Parker, and her team of councillors and council officers at Logan City Council to implement a strategy to ensure Logan shines and that together all tiers of government do whatever it takes to make life better for Logan residents. Logan residents can be assured that, unlike the tribulations that they endured in the past, I am truly committed to collaboration and listening to the community. People want an honest dialogue, not false accusations, blame shifting in government and name calling in the press. Ronald Reagan, a great American President whom I was proud to serve as a Marine, said, 'Government does not solve problems; it subsidizes them.' We have to move beyond an expectation of governments throwing money at problems, which in turn creates more problems and higher taxes. People feel like they have been taxed enough already. Throughout Logan locals tell me they just need a hand up to realise their dreams and a change in the machinery of government so that it is not overbearing but instead is an institution that lightly touches their lives and does not interfere with people's opportunities, either private or in business. Government should have the same attitude as most Australians, that is, people deserve reward for their hard work.

My mind turns to the many people I have met throughout Logan and most recently during my campaign such as Frank Lipanovic of Crestmead, born in the 1930s here in Australia, of Croatian heritage. Frank is a school bus driver and is working hard in his retirement in the job that he loves, getting kids to and from school safely. I also recall Regina Keil, a young mother from Regents Park in her 20s who has a small bub and one on the way. Regina and her partner are working to pay the bills and build a great life for her children. People such as these are why we have such a great nation, a great state. In their lives and in their work they think only of the next generation and their kids. That is why we are the land of opportunity and forever progressing as a state, as a country, because we allow freedom to reign and opportunity to flourish.

Here, people think of others as much as they think of themselves. The government must encourage not hinder, promote not strangle, deregulate not regulate the lives of these people of Logan, of Queensland, who seek out a better life. It is an honourable cause to reduce the burden of government, and it is a core responsibility that the people have charged the Newman government with.

The honourable and committed spirit of Logan was truly on display in early 2011 when South-East Queensland was so badly affected by the floods. Generously, Logan adopted the Lockyer Valley Regional Council and raised over \$74,000 for the mayor's appeal. Our dedicated SES and rural fire brigades helped clean up on the ground.

The electorate of Logan has changed greatly since it was first established as a seat in 1872, with Philip Nind being the first member. It has existed in many forms and covered large tracks of the state since that time. It has even been abolished but always managing to be reincarnated. I would like to acknowledge that our previous state member was John Mickel, who also held the position of Speaker. I thank Mr Mickel for his notable work as Speaker.



Logan has had a leader of the Liberal Party and an Acting Premier in Sir Thomas Hiley, a former Premier in Wayne Goss and a senior minister in John Mickel all represent the seat. Sir Thomas Hiley, a member of the Nicklin cabinet, was a most colourful and inspirational member for the seat of Logan. Always immaculately dressed, always ready to fight for our state and take on the Commonwealth, Hiley was a highly regarded and austere Treasurer of this great state and he led the parliamentary Liberal Party. Hiley displayed the qualities of courage, dignity and a positive attitude.

The story of Logan is partly an immigration story, a story of tribulations, people fleeing persecution, people just hoping for something better. Figures from 2006 show that 25 per cent of all people from Logan were born overseas and half of these from non-English-speaking backgrounds. That figure is expected to climb when the 2011 numbers are released. These people are welcomed by average Aussies who together work hard for their communities and their neighbours. The department of immigration tells us that most recently Logan has seen immigration predominately from Afghanistan, Burma and the Congo. We also have a very large Pacific Islander and Asian population within our borders. I will doggedly represent residents from all walks of life—Australian citizens and non-citizens alike. There will be no class distinction made by me. I believe everyone deserves a fair go.

Logan has some of the most hard done by and struggling families in the state living within our boundaries. I think of the homeless people that I have met in Logan and the struggles they go through. We need to get our housing policies right so they can have dignity and a place to sleep at night. And I think of the bright young people I have met at TAFE, people who want to finish their apprenticeships and break the welfare cycle that some of them have told me hold their families back. These are bright young people on the path to success whom I am so proud to call the people I represent.

Within our borders we have a wide and diverse group of people from all backgrounds, like my family. When I arrived in Australia I started work in a cleaning business. Through teamwork and commitment, that business was forged into a state-wide facilities management company of which I became the executive manager, a position I held until my election. Logan's story is the story of my family—I am one of them and they are one of me. The people of Logan are honourable to the core, courageous in adversity and committed to their communities.

When I think of Logan's story I can't help but think of my wife's story, the wonderful Anna Pucci, who I talked of earlier. Anna is a first generation Aussie whose family escaped the ravages of communist Russia and then communist China in the dark of night to build a new home in Australia. I recall a quote by John Winston Howard, who said—

I thank all of those who weren't born in this country for coming here and making a contribution to Australia. We are the least discriminatory country in the world, in my view.

John Howard was a masterful political leader who showed true signs of honour, courage and commitment while at the helm of our great nation. Mr Howard recognised the importance of immigration to the national story and proudly talked always of our nation's rich cultural tapestry. Today I pay honour and respect to the man who did so much for our great nation and whose honourable example guided me into this place.

You may have noticed my unique Aussie accent, Mr Deputy Speaker. Growing up in Wisconsin was my greatest exposure to life's harsh realities of needing to work hard to earn your keep. Wisconsin, USA, is like Queensland—a state built on mining, an agricultural state with dairy at its core. I was the youngest of eight and at the age of 11 I started working shovelling snow. The money I made went to my family. Mum struggled on her own. When I was seven my parents separated and when I was 15 my father passed away. I was 22 when mum, Eileen, also passed. I was blessed to have the loving support of my older brothers and sisters during this period of my life and I thank them all for it.

My USA NFL team is the Green Bay Packers, a team that has won more championships than any other NFL team. These days I enjoy watching the Broncos beat the Roosters—in fact, watching the Broncos beat any team from New South Wales is glorious enough in itself. But, better still, at the top of my list is watching the mighty Maroons beat the Blues in the State of Origin.

The story of my family, both as I was growing up and even today, is just like the story of families from one end of Logan to the other—large broods struggling to pay the bills, folk who love and live their various sports and recreation. Like everyone else, I am proud of family. Allow me to honour Brian, my older brother and mentor who passed away just a couple of weeks ago and was laid to rest on the date I was sworn into parliament, on 15 May. Brian organised my first real job as a detailer at a car dealership and helped me buy my first ever vehicle—a 1969 Buick Electra, a smooth metallic green. He was a Vietnam veteran who suffered the consequences of that war and has now met an early demise. Brian, I will miss you and always love you.

It is important for me to thank the many supporters and helpers that ensured a can-do member was elected to parliament for Logan: Betty Graver, who worked on our prepoll along with Hillary Newton; Ken Lock and his partner, Helen; Emma Paznikov, my campaign coordinator, who with my campaign

manager and chair of the Logan SEC, Sean Black, kept all things under control and the campaign on track; Anna and Darryl Sluggett, dear friends; Juanita Gibson and her husband who gave much needed support; the people who manned our booths, Sheree and Boris Chipizupov, David Goodridge and his family, Ian Anderson, Martin Day, Telisha and Kellie Doolan, Anastasia and Matthew Speirs.

Thank you to my neighbours Terry Wiseman and Alex Surdonjic for your support. Wayne Upton, my good friend, thank you for your moral encouragement and everything you did and do for my family. Thank you Peter Paznikov and Ally Charles—two young people who did whatever was asked of them without complaint. Thanks to Kate Wilson, Felicity Stevenson and all those in the LNP team who provided guidance and support.

To Bert van Manen, the federal member for Forde, I thank you not only for encouraging me to join the LNP and run for preselection but also for your help during the campaign. I also want to thank the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek, the Minister for Education, Training and Employment, for the advice and support that you have provided throughout my campaign and for your guidance you continue to provide. Of course I thank the people of Logan for their trust. It is not misplaced and I will never take the opportunity you have given me for granted.


To my loving daughter, Nikole, and my son, RJ, and all of my family in the US: thank you for your constant encouragement and sage advice. To my darling wife, Anna, who did not just stand beside me throughout the campaign but at times got behind me and pushed. And to my two young daughters, Lidia and Marie, who stood by me through the heat, cold, dry and wet weather on roadsides, letterboxing and doorknocking: thank you my beautiful, sweet ladies. I love you all dearly and it is an honour to be loved by you. I truly am blessed.

In the spirit of teamwork, I am proud to say I come to this place like a forward prop goes to the field—a true team member of the Liberal National Party united under the leadership of the courageous Hon. Campbell Newman. We were forged from the Liberal and National parties, a merger that could not have happened if it were not for the brilliant vision of our party leaders. I know our party will set a course for Logan and Queensland that will reignite our passion as a state, establish a new positive attitude and bring forth growth and prosperity to all people from all backgrounds.

The people of Logan can be assured that I seek to be a proactive member of this House. I will serve the people of Logan diligently. I will work with honour, courage and commitment in all dealings with community organisations and my constituents. I will work together with them, always with a positive attitude, to ensure that Logan shines and it is a better place to raise a family, live and work. They will instruct me as their representative—I am them; they are me.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! Before I call the member for Ipswich, I remind the House that this is the member's maiden speech. As such, I would ask that you afford him the courtesies associated with this occasion and listen to the member in silence.

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (5.20 pm): I pledge my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in her jubilee year and give my respects to the Jagera, Turrbal, Yuggera and Ugarapul people on whose lands Ipswich now stands. I pay my respects to Uncle Rossy and Auntie Narella and their families. Both of them gave me encouragement in my campaign. The occasion of the appointment of Queensland's first woman Speaker of this Legislative Assembly is momentous, and I congratulate the member for Maroochydore. She has served and continues to serve her electorate and this parliament with distinction.

The swing against the Labor government in Ipswich was an unprecedented 20.7 per cent. The electors voted for a positive plan and emphatically rejected the negative and baseless smear of the former government. I wish to acknowledge the Premier, Campbell Newman, for at all times remaining focused on getting Queensland back on track. To your family, Premier, especially Lisa, who remained stoic throughout: never again should the family of a public figure be subjected to such an uncivilised and unwarranted personal attack.

As history tells us a little about who we are, I am compelled to give a brief account of the proud history of Ipswich. This history tells of the spirit of its people and explains why Ipswich people are so fiercely proud of our city and its identity. In December 1826 Captain Logan, the commandant of the penal settlement at Brisbane, on landing his boat on Bremer River noticed hills of limestone. Some months later a burning kiln was erected, and thus began Ipswich's manufacturing industry of making lime from the limestone dug from the quarries by the convicts. This lime was used in the erection of stone buildings in Brisbane, namely the store buildings. Allan Cunningham camped in Ipswich on his way to discover the gap which bears his name. We remember him as the man who discovered a seam of coal on 24 February 1828. The settlement of Ipswich laid the groundwork for the four-pillar economy, for it had the coalmining, the lime making, the transportation, the farming and, by the late 1840s, the fourth pillar of tourism.

From the halls of academia to our sporting fields and in politics, Ipswich has a proud record of individual achievement that has enriched both our state and this nation. Sir Llewellyn Edwards AC, affectionately known to us all in Ipswich as Sir Llew, commenced his working life as an apprentice electrician. After injury, he studied medicine at the University of Queensland and then practised in Ipswich. Sir Llew was the only Liberal member of the Legislative Assembly to represent Ipswich. After being first elected in 1972, in 1974 he was promoted to health minister and rose up quickly to become Queensland's Treasurer and Deputy Premier. After leaving politics Sir Llew became the chair of Expo '88 and subsequently served with distinction for 16 years as chancellor of the University of Queensland until his retirement in February 2009. I stand here before you to pay tribute to his contribution to Ipswich and to Queensland.

The late Neville Bonner was a remarkable man in a turbulent time. From absolute poverty at his birth in 1922—he said he was born under a palm tree around the mouth of the Tweed River—he went on to become the first Indigenous person to sit in federal parliament, serving as a Liberal senator for Queensland from 1971 to 1983. Now a matter of public record, his contribution to the cause of furthering the rights of Indigenous people holds him as one of Ipswich's sons. These people I admire and respect. They gave a substantial part of their lives to public service and maintained their principles, integrity, humility and, above all, their core values.

Queenslanders, like Ipswich people, have many reasons to question the previous government's performance, values and direction—the loss of Queensland's AAA credit rating, increased water charges, increased registration fees, increased regulation, a waste tax, a dysfunctional health system, abolition of the fuel subsidy, abolition of the stamp duty concession, and the list goes on. Rising costs are eroding the already slender profitability of business in Ipswich and throughout Queensland, and everyone will struggle even further when the punitive carbon tax hits us in July.

But there is one issue in particular that can be cited as the reason the previous government incurred the wrath and fury of Ipswich voters. The sale of Queensland Rail was a bullet to the heart of Ipswich and an attack on the identity of Ipswich. It was a betrayal of the workers who believed that if they worked hard and remained loyal their jobs would be secure. The former member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan, in answer to a question from the now Speaker of the House, two weeks before the sale was announced, emphatically and without equivocation stated that Queensland Rail was not for sale. If it was not for sale then it must go down the annals of conveyancing history as the fastest sale in the west. I thank the Premier for committing to voters in this state that he will go to an election over the sale of an asset.

The devastation caused by the 2011 floods was vast, and it is seared into the memories of many Ipswich residents. There are still households and businesses in recovery mode. One example is Bob and Jihong Gartside, whose house and business were completely inundated. He suffers health problems but he is doing his best to get back on track. While Grantham and surrounding communities suffered disproportionately in terms of devastation and loss of life, Ipswich was not without its tragedies. I cannot forget the loss of young Robbie, whose life was tragically taken. To the Bromage family I extend my sympathies for their loss of a loved one. To all families who have borne and continue to bear the tragedy of the floods: we shall never forget.

I pay tribute to all the emergency services workers, the defence personnel and especially all the volunteers whose assistance and compassion in the aftermath of the flood were truly remarkable. Extraordinary circumstances bring out the best in people. I wish to make special mention of Van and Dianne Dimitrov, who spearheaded a relief effort for the residents surrounding Andrew Street, Bundamba. The Dimitrovs took the initiative in organising a localised relief effort, helping over 100 families in their area in their greatest hour of need. I thank the Premier for visiting the affected communities in Ipswich and at Andrew Street, Bundamba, to see firsthand the suffering of flood victims and the tremendous response of the volunteer community operation. I know that the Premier was truly touched by the stories of heartache and despair. This LNP government will do everything that can reasonably be done to ensure that South-East Queensland never again suffers devastation from such a major flood event as we had last year.

I wish to acknowledge Mayor Paul Pisasale. When leadership was necessary to keep the city together in the most challenging and perilous of times, Mayor Pisasale delivered. Mayor Pisasale was recently elected by an overwhelming majority, and I look forward to continuing to work closely with him and his council team in serving the people of Ipswich.

I was born in Brisbane to parents Keith and Lesley Berry, the second eldest of five children. I was raised in Sherwood and attended Sherwood State School, then Brisbane Boys' College and finally Corinda high school. I am very proud of my parents, both of whom made many sacrifices to raise five children—through the very hard times when my father had contracted tuberculosis which was obtained from his war years, to the time he broke his leg on his milk run and mum took over delivering the milk, to raising a family and putting us through private schooling. Until the latter days of his working life, my father was self-employed as a milkman in Corinda and, with little exception, made a friend of everybody he met.

I am also proud of the wartime service of my family: from the Boer War, where Sergeant RE Berry gave his life; to my grandfather, Charlie McConachy, a drover from Longreach, who served in the 2nd Light Horse Regiment and the great war; and of course to my father, who served in the Navy as a young 17-year-old on HMAS *Katoomba* serving in New Guinea. My parents always worked hard all of their lives. When it was their time to enjoy life, dad was diagnosed with cancer in 1988 and died shortly thereafter. I know my mother misses him, as do we all of his children.

On 20 July 1976, after completing my articles of clerkship with Ronald Edward Lowe and Clive Alexander Wyman, I set about earning a living as a solicitor. In 1978, I sought and obtained employment with Palmer and Williams solicitors of Ipswich. My love for Ipswich commenced at that time. After a short time with the department of main roads, I returned to Ipswich to enter into a legal partnership, and it did not take much time to convince my wife, Karen, that Ipswich was the ideal place to raise our children.

I have always been involved in the legal community. My time as president of the Ipswich and District Law Association commenced a natural progression to serving on the Queensland Law Society's many committees. In 2002 I was elected as a Law Society councillor and was ultimately elected as its deputy president in 2008, and I had the great privilege of serving as Queensland Law Society president in 2009. I enjoyed my years at the Law Society as it offered me the opportunity to tour throughout the decentralised and diverse state of ours. I have been fortunate to meet many solicitors and discover how actively engaged and committed they are to their local communities. It was during this time that I met Jason and Deb Frecklington at Kingaroy and we had dinner together.

I have also been fortunate enough to serve as a trustee on the board of the Ipswich Girls' Grammar School—and I note that Deb is an old girl. The experience of being involved in the running of a school was both exciting and challenging. School numbers were always a concern, when on the one hand the school must sustain itself and on the other hand it must constantly update and improve its facilities.

I have truly been blessed to have voluntarily served with many organisations in Ipswich. I am currently a member of the Rotary Club of Ipswich City. I have shared that role with my wife, Karen, and I have found it rewarding to contribute to the lives of intellectually disabled people. Ipswich has a number of intellectually disabled people. On the closing of the Challinor Centre in Ipswich, the intellectually disabled clients were moved out into the community. With other passionate people in Ipswich, we created an organisation which provided assisted housing to clients. Eventually, through time, it was left to only Karen and me to run Service Assistance to Intellectually Disabled Inc. Ultimately, the housing became dated and more suitable modern accommodation was constructed. My wife has always had a passion to care for the less privileged. Just after we married, Karen fostered a six-year-old Down syndrome intellectually disabled boy, Paul, from the Basil Stafford Centre. We cared for him until his placement in more permanent residential accommodation.

Ipswich has been my family's home since 1982. My wife, Karen, and I have raised our children and have been fortunate in not only being welcomed but also making many longstanding friends. That is what makes Ipswich so liveable. Ipswich has a strong sense of community and by that I mean we help each other and we readily volunteer.

I am blessed with a wife who understands me most of the time. I have my weaknesses but she loves me anyway. She dutifully tells me when I am not listening and she finds my keys when someone has shifted them without my knowing. She was my school sweetheart and we have now enjoyed 37 years of marriage—38 this year. We are blessed with four children—Rebecca, Justin, Sarah and Hayley—and seven grandchildren, Tyler, Dalton, Ethan, Paige, Tivoli, Calum and Codie. I love you all. It was destiny for us to marry and enjoy a lasting relationship; after all we share the same birthday—I am four years older—and both of us suffer from second child syndrome. Karen is recovering from a near-death experience and she is on that long road to recovery and it is a road we both walk together.

I wish to pay tribute to those who have helped me throughout the election campaign and without whom I would not be here today. I thank the LNP Ipswich executive of Thomas McEniery, Juneau Limpus, Suzie Holmes, James Sedman, Ray Martin, Mark Smits, Kevin Rose and others. In all weather, Juneau has been the cornerstone of the Liberal National Party and now the LNP in Ipswich. Ray Martin helped me with putting up the yard signs and then sent me back out when I made the rookie error of not having the signs facing towards the oncoming traffic—very embarrassing. To my friends Bill Leather and David Love who helped me with the letterbox drop, I thank you. Bill would run 30 kilometres on a Saturday morning and then come out letterbox dropping with me. He is a true friend and I thank him very much for both his support and his friendship.


To Martin Corkey, a fellow Rotarian whose support, loyalty and friendship meant so much to me, I thank him for his support. I thank Kevin Rose, his wife and sister-in-law Macca who painted and donated a piece of her Indigenous art. That was the commencement of and probably our only fundraising. We started off with \$900. However, we did increase it a little over that by the end of the campaign.

I wish to particularly thank my daughter Hayley for her love, her enthusiasm, her undivided loyalty and her invaluable organisational skills. She put our roadshow together. She forced me out of bed. She forced me back on the road after lunch. She told me how to wave at cars. I received many valuable lessons. Hayley was a spruiker from past days and I did not realise there was an artful skill to waving at cars and waving signs.

I thank all of the volunteers and supporters, of which there are too many to name. I extend to them my sincere gratitude. Members should keep in mind that placing an LNP sign in your front yard in Ipswich was something that had not been done for a substantial number of years, so to those Ipswich residents I thank you for your support and your loyalty and for getting off the fence. The enthusiasm of the whole team was infectious and I am really proud to have been your standard bearer throughout the campaign. The efforts of everyone who helped out are sincerely appreciated.

There are special people I wish to thank. I thank the LNP Bundamba team for all of the cooperation and assistance that was rendered to me. In particular, I thank Michael Kitzelmann. He is a true friend—hardworking, loyal, unselfish and forever giving of his time. He showed me how to doorknock. I had no idea! He worked the hardest in any campaign that I have seen of any candidate. To come within a few hundred votes was extraordinary. Unfortunately for Michael, it was not meant to be this time. I pay my respects to the former member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan. Contrary to what happened in Queensland, she fought a hard but honourable campaign and I wish her well. Finally but most importantly, I thank the people of Ipswich for entrusting me to serve as their member of parliament. I thank the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! Before calling the member for Cook, I remind the House that this is the member's inaugural speech and as such he shall be heard in silence. I call the member for Cook.

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (5.40 pm): I acknowledge the Premier, Campbell Newman, who has provided us all with a vision for change and a strong hand on the tiller; the Deputy Premier, Jeff Seeney, who counselled temperance when things got heated during the campaign; all of the shadow ministers and now ministers who supported me over the past 12 months; and my colleagues of this the 54th Parliament of Queensland. I congratulate the Speaker of the House on her historic and timely appointment. I want to acknowledge my friend Eric Deeral, a Gamay elder of the Guugu Yimithirr nation, who held the seat of Cook for our party from 1974 to 1977 as the first Aboriginal parliamentarian in Queensland. I also acknowledge Edmond Willie Woibo, a Binthi man, a true visionary who left us before his work was done. He was my friend and mentor. I also want to acknowledge Detective Senior Constable Damian Leeding in whose memory I wear this tie today. I thank the parliamentary staff for their guidance and infinite patience over past weeks in coping with all 50 new members who, in the first week, walked around these halls trying to look important, acting as if we knew where we were going. An attendant remarked that we looked like a mob of ducklings—where one would go, the rest would scurry. That might explain how 25 of us ended up in the toilet!

Entry to political life has always been with the best of intention and, in most cases, a very noble undertaking. But why do we rise to the call to politics? The usual response is that we are here to make a difference. When I was posed with the 'why' question, it turned out for me there was no simple answer. There are, however, three possibilities—firstly, the phases of life. Self-interest dominates the initial phase of our life as children, teenagers and young adults. How do we get our needs met? How do we interact at school? How do we get on socially? For kids it is all about cars, bars and iPhones. Family occupies much of the second phase, typically involving marriage, a home, securing a future, raising kids with good values, stacking away super and trying to keep our hair on and our weight off! The third phase involves providing us with an opportunity to use our wisdom, our lifestyles and our experience to serve our community in a full-time capacity. So we transition from self to family to community. Serving my community is where I find myself after 35 years in the law. I can only admire those among us who manage to balance self, life and community at the one time. Having spent most of my working life away from my family, I urge each of you with young children to spend some quality time in your children's space as often as possible. Talk to them about whatever is going on in their lives because it is as important to them as the four pillars are to us.

The second-most compelling influence arose through a professional lifetime of battling government and bureaucrats as I witnessed the erosion of property rights and personal interests throughout this great state. By way of example, what successive Labor governments have done to the once great pastoral industry of Queensland at the behest of the ideological green movement would cause our forefathers to turn in their graves. I acted for a young family who about 20 years ago purchased a run-down grazing lease near Emerald, using their life savings and some borrowings. This family with their three kids lived under a blue tarp strung over a pole whilst they built a home and developed a lease into an exemplary grazing property. In true Queensland tradition, these battlers built a castle from a pile of rocks with blood, sweat and tears. In their hands this property became a highly productive, weed and feral animal-free enterprise and represented their life's work. It was that family's future. Their dream never faded, even with the loss of one of those children in tragic circumstances.

The grazing lease was over a state forest which had long since ceased being a timber resource. In the late nineties the Labor government signed a deal with the Greens to convert all timber reserves in state forests in Queensland into national parks. This meant that as grazing leases over forest reserves came to an end they would not be renewed and would be converted into national parks. This young Queensland family who knew no other lifestyle or vocation were going to be thrown off their family farm by a Labor government without compensation. They would be left holding a mortgage to the bank and a very uncertain future. They approached me for help and together we took the Labor government to the Supreme Court. The state started a war of attrition against this young family, thinking that we would run out of money before the matter got to trial. This was never going to happen, because neither the family nor I had any money and me as a sole practitioner did not have any to start with! What we did have was a determination not to be bullied by an uncaring Labor government, and when the government realised it was not going to win it folded and renewed the lease. I have not heard from that family since that matter settled—until last night when I got home and checked my emails. By some divine process, here was the message I received, and I have to say that these people had no idea that I was delivering my maiden speech here today—

Hi David, we both wanted to congratulate you on your new position. We will never forget how you got our lease back for us here at 'Crystal Creek' Capella, but is our battle won yet, as the years are still ticking closer to our 10 year lease running out. It is you that saved us from losing our home. I am grateful to you each day. We hope the change in Government looks hopeful things will improve for all of us that have leasehold land.

Regards, Wendy and Richard Barlow

This will be a matter that I will be taking up with Mr Cripps quite soon. This is by no means an isolated example.

The third reason for my entry into politics is opportunity. The electorate of Cook and the Premier, in his infinite wisdom, have given me an opportunity to bring a life's work and experience to the electorate, this parliament and the ministry. I am humbled by my election and the appointment. It is my view that to succeed as politicians and as a party we must continually check in with our values and motivations. I value family, integrity, friendship and, above all, a fair go for all.

I want to reflect briefly on leadership. Leadership usually attracts such descriptors as strong, accountable, visionary and humility. There are, however, two important leadership qualities that became evident in the 2012 campaign. A good leader must define him or herself at the outset. What does he stand for? What are his core values? What is his history? How does he communicate with his peers and with his people? Our leader, Campbell Newman, etched his style early as a no-nonsense, fair and inclusive leader who likes to get things done and has remained true to this position throughout his political life. It has a whole lot more to do with integrity and trust than being popular. The second leadership attribute became obvious during the unparalleled and totally unjustified assault by the Labor Party on the Newman family during the election campaign. Campbell Newman did what a vast majority of the community would have done in his position: he got on with the job of getting elected and did not engage in the disgusting tactics of Labor. People want a leader who is like them and who does what they would do in a time of crisis.

I was born in central New South Wales a long time ago and grew up on a small cattle property and learned about hard work very early. I never accepted the word 'can't' as a reason for not doing something, and I still do not. My parents were not wealthy. However, they saw all six children achieve a university education and go on to lead productive lives and raise families of their own—although not with the same enthusiasm for offspring as exhibited by my parents!

I entered law in 1976 and was admitted as a solicitor and barrister in 1982 in the Supreme Court of the ACT and the Federal Court and the High Court. I was later admitted into practice in New South Wales and ultimately in Queensland in 1988. I was not known as a conformist and was never afraid to take the extra step to see justice afforded to my clients. I came to Cape York as a tourist in 1985 on a pilgrimage around Australia. My motor car, a current model Toyota, broke down in Cooktown and by the time the parts arrived I was a local—and they still have not arrived. In 1988, I set up the first law practice in Cooktown since 1935, which proved to be an exciting and richly rewarding experience, although not in any monetary sense. I purchased a small farm on the Endeavour River where I raised my family. I part-owned and managed a cattle station in Cape York in the late 1990s, which gave me a great insight into how tough life can be in Cape York. It was here I was able to live out my passion to play cowboys. Michael Trout has not eaten dust until he chews on the bulldust of Cape York.

I became involved in the Wik native title claim on behalf of the farmers in about 1996 as the pendulum swung to and fro in the courts—a decision favouring the applicants, an appeal that swung to the pastoralists, followed by another appeal and another round of endless litigation. It seemed to me that the pastoralists and the Aboriginal elders were saying the same thing. They had existed together in Cape York for a long time and wanted to sort out a solution among themselves. We got the parties together and nipped out an agreement between the pastoral leaseholders and the native title claimants that endures today. I was excited by this notion of negotiated outcomes and I am proud to say that the Wik claim did not thereafter return to court until the final determination in 2004.

I moved to Cairns in 2003 to put my girls through school, and I am very keen now to get back to the bush. I had never been a member of a political party until just prior to my preselection in June last year. There can be no doubt, however, as to my political leanings. I have made my presence felt to every Labor government in Queensland in the last 20 years.

I have heard many members who have spoken before me waxing lyrical about their wonderful electorates with diverse cultures and amazing landscapes and the exciting challenges they face. I can assure members that my electorate surpasses all of these well-intentioned but feeble efforts at electoral supremacy, no matter how eloquent, glossy or descriptive they might be. The number of visits by the Premier, the ministers, federal colleagues and other dignitaries stands as testimony to my claim. Who else can boast—yes, boast—dense rainforests, spectacular reefs, tumbling waterfalls, savanna woodlands, amazingly untamed rivers—and I dare not use the word ‘wild’—the best barramundi and reef fishing in the world, cattle stations, Aboriginal communities, mining towns, agriculture and farming communities, and the jewel in the crown, of course, the spectacular Torres Strait, and I am not even going to talk about the weather. I rest my case.

The electorate of Cook presents an enormous challenge. We have talked about the mess Queensland is in and the problems that face my electorate are many and serious and I do not intend to list them here. I will, however, mention a few needs. For the Tablelands, it is all about infrastructure and services, cheaper power and water, transport, a hospital, law and order, a much needed wind farm and, of course, undoing the devastating impact of Labor’s heartless act of amalgamation. In Douglas, we again have amalgamation, a sugar industry crippled by red tape, flagging tourism, no aged care and a stalled waterfront development. Cooktown needs all of the above. All of the industries of the Cook electorate—grazing, mining, fishing, tourism and agriculture—suffer from years of neglect, red tape, lack of infrastructure support and research and development. Weipa has a chronic shortage of housing and lack of essential services and faces the issue of normalisation.

The federal government’s interference with the South of Emberley expansion at the request of the Wilderness Society is an abuse of power. It is a serious threat to the economic future of several Indigenous communities, the town of Weipa and this state. I will expend all my effort in making the Cook electorate an example of what works well by adhering closely to the policies of this government and its plan for the future. This will be done in consultation with communities and hard work.

I have lived and worked and travelled throughout Cape York for over a quarter of a century. Can I say that successive state and federal Labor governments have spent millions, if not billions, of dollars keeping our first Australians living in a Third World condition. This is a blight upon our country and cannot upon any interpretation find harmony with the vision, values and goals for this great state as portrayed first in the Premier’s address to this House and echoed in every maiden speech since. The Premier and his leadership team have embarked upon a process of change that will define this government in the history of Indigenous relations as courageous, innovative and responsive.

My appointment to the position of Assistant Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs is as onerous as it is humbling. In Glen Elmes we have a minister who is unafraid to make the hard calls, yet displays great insight and understanding. Together we will represent a formidable force against those who think it will be business as usual in the Cook electorate. I have talked widely with the elected representatives, elders and communities of the electorate of Cook and, if I am able to exert any influence, this government will for the first time in the history of this state return dignity and respect and provide real self-determination to the Indigenous communities that populate vast areas of Queensland.

I believe that we should concentrate on the potential of communities to provide their own solution and not to continue to portray them as the problem. I believe in the potential of every human being to contribute to their own wellbeing and the community in which they exist. Indigenous communities do not need more empowerment, capability building, traineeships, partnerships or any of the other plethora of ideas that we have developed for them; they simply need to be given a choice. By providing all Indigenous communities with a choice to decide their own future, manage their own issues and participate in a real economy, there is an opportunity to bring about positive and sustainable change. This will be by way of community owned and driven long-term plans that will become a blueprint against which all programs, projects and funding will be aligned. With this comes a community responsibility for leadership, probity and engagement.

We need to shift our emphasis from spending large amounts of money on infrastructure and services that are often not fit for purpose. We need to support community growth and economic development. We need to provide every Indigenous person in Queensland with an opportunity to own their own home—a freehold home just like ours. Tenure underpins community growth and economic development. The biggest threat to lasting change in Indigenous communities is the welfare mentality of bureaucracy and outside agencies, all well-meaning but often misguided.

I now turn to the environment. In forming an alliance with the Greens for the sake of a few preference votes, Labor’s failed environmental management policy in Cape York has foreclosed on economic development and community growth in my electorate. Labor has failed to comprehend that an environment comprises natural systems and the people who live in and interact within those systems. A

recent independent assessment of environmental management in Cape York in respect of which the previous government participated revealed that the past practices have wholly failed to deliver. On a score of 100, where 40 represents a total system failure, Labor's environmental management policy rated 64. Like Labor, this policy is bankrupt.


The national park expansion strategy, wild rivers and the proposed blanket World Heritage listing of Cape York are all failures and have been overwhelmingly rejected by the community. We need as a government to act quickly to unwind the devastating impact of these failed experiments. The Wild Rivers Act is an absolute disgrace. What a contemptuous, altruistic and insulting attempt at environmental protection! Whenever did effective management come about by prohibition? All management strategies and policies must be inclusive of the community if they are to succeed. The three biggest threats to the environment we know as Cape York are weeds, feral animals and the Greens. We need to eradicate all three from Cape York.

I would like to thank my campaign manager, Max Dickensen, and all of my campaign team who drove me across the line to end over 40 years of mediocrity in the Cook electorate in a hard-fought and well-won election. I would like to acknowledge that my two daughters, Melanie and Sophie, are the light of my life and my inspiration. I thank my parents, my family and all my friends for their support. I acknowledge the tireless efforts of the Premier and all the shadow ministers who travelled frequently north to assist to get us all over the line.

I acknowledge Joe Hockey who launched my campaign, Warren Entsch who has given me unlimited access to his time and knowledge and I thank Barnaby Joyce. I give heartfelt thanks to all those friends, old and new, some who are in the gallery, who have supported me in so many ways, people too many to name but who I have thanked personally and to whom I am forever grateful. I thank Gavin King and Michael Trout for their unswerving support. We will stand together to make sure distance does not dim our presence here in the south-east.

I acknowledge Robyn Quick who not only would have made an excellent member but would have gone part way to correct the gender imbalance in our party, something we should strive for in the future. Finally I thank the people of Cook who have given me an opportunity to serve my community and in doing so fulfil a dream. I give my pledge before this House that I am determined to respect my people and my party and to ensure that the trust in me is honoured.

I would like to conclude with a referee story and perhaps a lesson for us all. In his maiden speech my colleague Tim Mander recounted his ambition to be a footballer. However, his calling extended only to being a referee. I recently received by email a request from a local football club which I scanned quickly and read it to say 'we need your support for a funding application and to be a referee'. So I got on to my personal assistant and I said to please respond that I was happy to support the proposal however I had not been involved in football for 35 years and would not know the rules to be able to be an adequate referee. They wrote back and said, 'We don't want him to referee the football, we just want him to referee the funding application'. This is a lesson to us all: read your emails. Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you, parliament.

 **Mr DOWLING** (Redlands—LNP) (6.02 pm): Tonight I rise to deliver my address-in-reply. Can I begin by pledging my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors in this her jubilee year. I also recognise the Governor of Queensland, Her Excellency Penelope Wensley. I also further congratulate Madam Speaker for her appointment and yourself as Deputy Speaker and also the panel of Temporary Speakers. I also commit my support to our Premier, the Hon. Campbell Newman, in whatever way he needs, to be a part of his team to serve this state of Queensland. I recognise his leadership—leadership in the face of the most vitriolic personal campaign from a failed Labor government, a government with nothing to offer Queensland, nothing to offer Queenslanders and nothing to offer its own constituency. I also recognise the class, the style and the dignity shown by Lisa Newman and the extended family through that most venomous attack and I ask the Premier to convey that sentiment to Mrs Newman.

I congratulate the LNP party—the machinery—led by state campaign director James McGrath, party president Bruce McIver and other executive members: Gary Spence, Barry O'Sullivan, Michael O'Dwyer, Matt McEachen, Mitch Redford, James Martin, Gerard Benedet and so many more of the LNP campaign team. I also recognise my office team, Lisa Horan, Penny Carr and Karen Lusk who made sure that the people of Redlands were not left wanting, that the calls were answered and that their issues were addressed during that hectic campaign period. I also recognise my local LNP branch for entrusting me to be the candidate for the LNP in Redlands.

I would also like to thank my family: my wife Helen, who is here tonight in the gallery, and whom I stole from the playground many years ago—30 years ago, actually; my two now adult children who have lived and breathed through five election campaigns, three local and two state; and my sister Sheena and brother-in-law Lance Hewlett, two of the best campaigners anyone could ever have on their team. For



the endless roadsides, shopping centre meet and greets, rosters for prepolling and handing out on election day, I can only say thank you. In recognising Helen up in the gallery, I also recognise that we have some friends here tonight, Ron and Joan Morton, who have joined us this evening. I also recognise my mum Evelyn Dowling. The mums, dads, brothers, sisters and children of the 89 members here are very proud of our achievement at arriving in this place.

But let me move to the message—and what a clear message it was—that was sent to Labor, who still do not get it, who still have not apologised to the people of Queensland: Queenslanders do not want more of the same. They do not want any more waste. They said no to waste. They said no to an arrogant, self-serving, tired Labor government. They said no to debt. They said no to mismanagement. They said no to runaway inflation through cost-of-living pressures, water prices and the cost of running vehicles. Do members know what else they said? They said that talk is cheap and spin gets you nowhere, and that is what Labor had in spades.

Queenslanders want and need what the LNP and our can-do government stands for. The commitment that the now Premier, Premier Newman, and the LNP team articulated every day of the campaign was our five-point plan. It was to grow a four-pillar economy. While Redlands is not noted for its agricultural contribution, other than the famous Redlands strawberry, we appreciate the importance of agriculture as a key driver in our economy.

**Mr Gibson** interjected.

**Mr DOWLING:** I take the interjection from the member for Gympie. Everyone loves Redlands strawberries. My own community and that of the adjoining communities rely very heavily on construction as a source of employment and growth and development in our communities. I have a trade background. My son refers to my trade, which was painting, as a hobby as compared to his trade, which is plumbing. I also recognise the importance that resources will play in the future economy of Queensland. Without driving the powerhouse that is resources, Queensland will not come back from the \$85 billion debt left by this Labor government. The fourth pillar is tourism. Tourism is critical for my community and that of Cleveland, the Deputy Speaker's electorate. We have Stradbroke Island, which is so underdone; we have Moreton Bay and fishing; and we have Sirromet. We have that whole lifestyle that is tourism. The other pillars are based on lowering the cost of living for all Queensland families by reducing waste, restoring accountability in government, revitalising front-line services—and that means, for Redlands and for many other members here, more police, more teachers, more healthcare workers—and delivering better infrastructure on time.

What a breath of fresh air we have in this Queensland parliament with so many new members, each and every one of them fresh and energetic with new ideas and commitment. We have cast a wide net and reaped a great harvest. I can only echo the sentiments of many other members in this House at the quality and calibre of those members who join us. The maiden speeches have been outstanding. They have been outstanding in their content and in their contrast. We have a true representation and reflection of Queensland and I congratulate each and every one of you. I look forward to working with you, mentoring you, guiding you. But more importantly, I look forward to each and every one of you working with me, mentoring me and guiding me as together we set about the task of getting Queensland back on track. We have each entered into a commitment with our constituency to deliver a better Queensland. A better Queensland may differ between electorates, it may differ slightly, but the overarching principles will be consistent: good governance, accountability and delivery.

My community is made up of a most diverse cohort, equalled only by its geographic diversity and its incredible beauty. I extend an invitation to each and every member to visit my electorate, whether to sail around Moreton Bay, to go boating, paddling or fishing in the waters of Moreton Bay or the Logan River, or to visit one of the five islands—Russell, Lamb, Macleay, Karragarra and Coochiemudlo. I invite members to taste the finest food and wine at Sirromet, Mount Cotton. Between wine maker Adam Chapman and chef Andrew Mirosh, I challenge any member to find a venue with better wine, better food and a better view. Members may enjoy a day on the green. What a fabulous vision delivered by Terry Morris! I recognise his contribution to my community and tourism within my community. The Redlands electorate has forests and parks to walk through where you can look for one of our iconic Redlands residents, the koala. We have safe beaches for swimming and foreshore parks for families to enjoy that which is most precious about Queensland, our lifestyle. We have a motor racing track that I have done a few hot laps on. We have riding trails. We are a cycling—and walking—friendly community.

Ours is a community that has been neglected by previous Labor governments over 20 years. That means it is a community with both great expectation and great opportunity. Residents have entrusted the LNP to free up those opportunities, to allow them to prosper and to sustain, through better transport, better development opportunities, employment opportunities, infrastructure, education, health and law and order—all hallmarks of an LNP government.


In closing, I add my congratulations to the new Mayor of Redland City, Councillor Karen Williams, and her new councillors: Councillor Kim Hardman, Division 3; Councillor Lance Hewlett, Division 4, who coincidentally is my brother-in-law; Councillor Mark Edwards, Division 5; and Councillor Julie Talty, Division 6. We share collectively the responsibility for representing the people of my electorate of Redlands and the southern part of Redland City. Not only is there a new positive mood in Queensland; that optimism has spread to Redlands City since the local government election.

**Mr Newman** interjected.

**Mr Dowling:** It has come in spades. I take the interjection from the honourable Premier. I look forward to working proactively with my parliamentary colleagues and friends: Mark Robinson, the member for Cleveland and Deputy Speaker; Steve Davies, the member for Capalaba; and the new mayor and councillors serving Redland City. Finally, I thank my constituents for voting for the LNP, for voting for a new Premier and a new Queensland, and for voting for me. So strong was the anger at Labor and the mood for change that Redlands no longer has the dubious honour of being the most marginal seat in Queensland, held by less than one per cent and a meagre 34 votes. It now boasts a margin of over 20 per cent and almost 11,000 votes. The honour of having the most marginal electorate now rests with my friend Aaron Dillaway, the member for Bulimba.

**Mr Dillaway:** I gladly take it.

**Mr DOWLING:** And he gladly takes it. I thank Premier Newman, I thank the LNP and I thank the residents of Redlands.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.12 pm): I reconfirm my allegiance to our Queen, Elizabeth II, by the grace of God, Queen of Australia and her other realms and territories, head of the Commonwealth.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I also acknowledge Her Excellency the Governor in opening the 54th Parliament of Queensland. Her Excellency and Mr McCosker have always extended the most gracious courtesies to me and my family on the occasions that we have enjoyed their company, which is certainly not lost on this proud monarchist.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask you to convey my congratulations to Madam Speaker for the unanimous support that she received on her nomination to the speakership of this parliament. Over the past three years, we have worked together in opposition and we represent electorates that share a border and common issues. Therefore, I have every confidence in her capacity, not only to fulfil her role with honour and distinction but also to do it with her own style and good humour. On occasion, of course, that humour may be tested with robust debate and interjections from honourable members, but I trust that honourable members will be reminded when they cross the line that she sets. Mr Deputy Speaker, please convey to Madam Speaker my best wishes and remind her that I served with her in the shadow ministry and in opposition when she was under continual attack from the former government and that I was always there to backup Madam Speaker. I hope that Madam Speaker can now return the favour in parliament, by looking after both the member for Gregory and the member for Kawana. Mr Deputy Speaker, I would be pleased if you would convey that message to Madam Speaker and remind her of that fact.

In acknowledging Her Majesty as I did, I ought tell members that on 15 June this year Kawana will celebrate the most historic occasion of Her Majesty's diamond jubilee, which celebrates her 60 years on the throne. I invite all honourable members and the hundreds of Kawana residents and constituents who are watching the live feed of the parliament on the internet at the moment to the diamond jubilee celebration that we are holding in Kawana. It was unfortunate that our local council did not organise anything. However, I have applied to the Premier's office for the diamond jubilee pack, to get some bunting and other merchandise. Every year my Kawana Community Day Awards celebrate about 100 Kawana residents. I thought this was a prime opportunity to incorporate the awards ceremony, as we celebrate Queensland Week, with celebrating Her Majesty's most historic diamond jubilee. I am pleased to announce that her Excellency the Governor will be in attendance. It is a great coup for the Sunshine Coast and Kawana to have Her Excellency attend on 15 June. My constituents will be most pleased to receive Her Excellency into the Kawana electorate.

The Queensland public has had a say. As the Premier has indicated on many occasions, it is certainly the biggest committee in this state. That committee has put in its report and given the LNP a strong mandate to get Queensland back on track and, of course, to implement our policies on growing a four-pillar economy based on tourism, agriculture, resources and construction; lower the cost of living for families by cutting waste; deliver better infrastructure and better planning; revitalise front-line services; and, the most important item that the Premier, other members on this side and I have spoken about, that is, to restore accountability in government. I suggest that if there was anything that disturbed

Queenslanders most during the campaign, it was accountability and integrity issues. On this side we have accountability and integrity. A little later I will go into the elements of the campaign that Queenslanders had particular distaste for. Accountability in government and restoring that accountability is the highest priority of the Newman government.

As the member for Kawana, I thank my constituents for the faith they have shown in re-electing me as their representative in this parliament. Of course, my foremost responsibility is to my electorate and representing their needs and issues. I strongly attest that I will continue in the same grassroots approach of consultation and advocacy that the Kawana constituents have come to expect since I was elected in 2009. I know that on 24 March 2012, many Kawana residents voted for me and for conservative politics for the first time in their lives. That was evident to me on polling day. People did not want how-to-vote cards, they did not want to indicate preferences, but, of course, their wishes were indicated by the vote at the end of the day. That shows that Queenslanders wanted change. They were sick and tired of their electricity bills going up and the cost-of-living pressures they were subjected to, and they believed that the opposition, as it was at the time, had the plans and the policies to get Queensland back on track. I am extremely humbled to be a part of the team that will, in fact, reach that outcome.

I am honoured and privilege to represent Kawana in this 54th Parliament. My electorate is a place I hold dear. All members assert that their electorates are the best. We have heard that said in every maiden speech and every address-in-reply speech. Members will hear it again from the member for Kawana. Kawana is where I have lived for most of my life. It is where my wife, Sally, and I are raising our family. It is a place that is steeped with opportunity and it is a place that is spirited with people who value and love their communities. Kawana is a coastal urban electorate to the east of the Bruce Highway and home to the suburbs of Sippy Downs, Minyama, Buddina, Parrearra, Birtinya, Warana, Bokarina, Wurtulla, Meridan Plains, Currimundi, Aroona and Little Mountain. It was formed in 2001, essentially replacing the former electorate of Mooloolah, held by my great friend and supporter Bruce Laming.

I congratulate the honourable the Premier on his election as Premier of Queensland, but what is more pleasing for me is to actually congratulate the Premier on winning the seat of Ashgrove.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The new members—and it is great to see so many of them in here—would not have experienced the last 12 months of the parliament where the honourable the Premier, whilst having coffee in Ashgrove, sent his troops in here in their flap jackets to defend him, to defend his reputation and to fight the former member for Ashgrove, Kate Jones. I would say that she took a particular interest in Ashgrove in the last 12 months. In fact, I think she made more speeches about Ashgrove in the last 12 months than she did in the entirety of her time in this parliament prior to the last 12 months and prior to our candidate in Campbell Newman coming on to the scene.

I think Campbell Newman will go down in history as one of our leaders who ran one of the most positive campaigns. He was not distracted by the accusations and innuendos thrown at him from all corners, particularly that corner over there, represented still by five members, some of whom were ministers and were duly responsible for that campaign that was targeted against Campbell Newman and his family. I think Queenslanders will not be satisfied until the Labor Party in Queensland apologise, apologise not only to the people of Queensland but apologise to this honourable gentleman in front of me who now serves as Premier of Queensland. No-one—no-one—should have to go through what the Hon. Campbell Newman, his wife, Lisa, their children, their cousins, their aunts and their uncles—and I recall one press release, Premier, that mentioned dogs and cats—went through. No-one should have to go through what they went through when wanting to serve in public office. We fought a battle on positive policies, and I am just absolutely excited that Queensland accepted that campaign style and absolutely rejected the Queensland Labor Party's style.

What frightens me though, honourable members, is that the one person directly or deputised responsible for that is the member for South Brisbane, who was serving as assistant secretary of the Labor Party at the time. It concerns me deeply that that person now serves in this place and was put up by the Labor Party for preselection. If that was the type of muckery that she was going to be involved in prior to getting into this place, then it does scare me and should scare honourable members what that member is in fact capable of in the future.

We have seen in only the last two weeks how nothing has changed from that style. You would have thought that when the honourable opposition leader stood up at the May Day rally and apologised to the workers of Queensland for selling assets without telling them that they would have the decency to come into this place and also accept responsibility for that election campaign. But they cannot. They cannot do it because the person responsible for the election campaign now sits in that seat at the back there. And they cannot do it because we all know that the member for South Brisbane will be the leader of the Labor Party in Queensland in the not-too-distant future, although from the way the member for Bundamba was acting today, who is their little attack guru now I suspect, she may be running for the job of opposition leader.

But we know that the honourable opposition leader will not be there for long, because we know that the Labor Party had a plan for the member for South Brisbane and that is to install her as leader of the Labor Party in the not-too-distant future. As the Premier said the other day, she is strategically placed in that seat behind the opposition leader. So we watch that with interest.

I congratulate the Premier again on a positive campaign to get Queensland back on track and for not getting involved in the dirty politics of that which is the Labor Party and which Queenslanders overwhelmingly rejected.

We talk about the honourable the Premier and its leads to family. His family supported him. We all have families who support us through this journey. Family is what grounds us. Of course without the love and support of family I know that I would struggle to fulfil this role in the public service of my electorate and the people of Queensland. I would like to thank my wife, Sally, of almost 10 years and our three children, Taylor, Madison and Jasper, for their love and of course unwavering support. I would like to thank my parents, Christine and Pieter, for their unconditional love and support of the Bleijie family and my extended family. I am extremely lucky and blessed to have parents who will do whatever they can to support all their children, something which I endeavour to emanate with our own children.

I would not be in this place without my campaign team and the support of local, good, solid grassroots Liberal National Party members. I acknowledge my campaign director, Ms Carol Humphries, and Ken Crooke for their leadership and guidance to me as the candidate for Kawana in both 2009 and 2012. I thank them for their honest and considered opinions and advice—particularly at times when I most needed their counsel and sometimes when I ought to have had their counsel but did not necessarily want their counsel or did not like what I heard. I always like to engage in grassroots politics and sometimes I get a little overexcited, and you do need people to ground you and to bring you back to a place or to give you a second option. So I always hold them dear in that regard for keeping me on the straight and narrow during my election campaign.

I thank the entire campaign team who have worked tirelessly and diligently for the past three years and particularly, I think in this new realm of electoral disclosures and funding laws, our campaign treasurers—laws that were not of our making, laws that were passed for the benefit of the Australian Labor Party Queensland division and the unions because we all know that Peel Street funds dried up. They dried up because they thought the Labor Party was not going to get elected. So, instead of accepting that proposition, the Labor Party came in here—and I was shadow AG at the time—and changed the electoral laws in Queensland to benefit themselves. As I recall correctly, we had the debate in parliament between the budget and Gordon Nuttall coming in. I think that legislation was passed on the middle day of that week.

We know that now in government we have an opportunity to correct those wrongs and I certainly look forward, as the Premier said, to that review taking place to those electoral amendments to balance it out in Queensland and to not pass laws that simply benefit one particular party. Hence, we are bringing section 57 of the Criminal Code back in.

Coming back to my local Kawana branch, I thank all the branch members and the state electorate council, because it was humbling that we received what I think is the second highest primary vote in Queensland and the fourth highest two-party preferred vote in Queensland. Coming into Kawana, which in fact was held by the Labor Party for a period of time—and some honourable members, particularly the member for Gregory and the member for Callide, will recall Chris Cummins in this place, who actually quite embarrassingly was the member for Kawana for a period of time—

**Mr Seeney:** The 'minister for nothing'.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The 'minister for nothing'; that is right. I believe he nearly burnt down Parliament House because he left his toast in the toaster and set the fire alarms off in his bedroom.

**Mr Seeney:** That's what he's remembered for.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** That is right. The biggest issue in Kawana is of course health and also jobs, the economy and the cost of living. The Labor Party delayed the Sunshine Coast University Hospital for two years, from 2014 to 2016. I congratulate and encourage the community of Kawana because over those last three years we have continually shouted in the streets, 'Hospital delay; no way!' We have run a successful, highly politically engaged and public campaign against the delay, because we have over 200 people travelling each day to Brisbane to get health services for a region of some 300,000 people on the Sunshine Coast. So again it was another broken promise by the former government. They said just prior to the 2009 election, 'We are building this hospital,' and three months after the election they delayed the hospital by many years. We have a commitment to get that hospital built, to build the hospital on time and ahead of budget.

I look forward to working with my ministerial colleagues. I thank the Premier for giving me the opportunity to serve in his first cabinet as Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. I do not take that responsibility lightly.

Queensland faces many challenges. Over the last two weeks I have been meeting with members, particularly the enthusiastic members from North Queensland, who have particular issues with juvenile justice and crime. We will get these matters sorted out. It will take time—Queenslanders understand that—because we are dealing with the legacy of 14 years of failed policy.

I look forward to a new era of opportunity in Queensland—an era of job creation and cost-of-living reductions. The policies implemented by the Labor Party over a number of years directly hurt the people they always purport to represent—that is, the working-class people of Queensland. Yet the working-class people of Queensland use electricity, have showers, use water, fill up their car with petrol and register their car. Everything the Labor Party has done over the past 12 years has in fact contributed to the cost-of-living pressures felt by all Queenslanders but particularly the workers they say they represent.


I look forward to the opportunity for the Liberal National Party to right the wrongs. In my portfolio area we can offer our Safer Streets Crime Action Plan. We can tackle illegal hooning across Queensland. We can break the cycle of youth crime. That will not be an easy task, but it is one that all Liberal National Party members will undertake with absolute courage and determination. We understand that the answer to young juvenile offenders is not to lock them up and throw away the key; the answer is to encourage them and instill in them responsibility and respect so that they know they can contribute positively to society and get a job. We on this side of the House understand that.

I look forward to tackling the bigger issues—illegal drugs and illegal weaponry, particularly on the Gold Coast at the moment with respect to handguns and sawn-off shotguns. We need to restore the faith of Queenslanders in our justice system by ensuring community input into the issues of sentencing and our laws. In my role as first law officer of the state I will uphold and protect the separation of powers between the judiciary and executive government.

I conclude by congratulating all honourable members on their election or re-election to this House. One of the best parts about this job is the camaraderie between parliamentarians and the friendships developed during these long sittings in this grand old building. I look forward to working with all members over the next three years, particularly with my colleagues on this six-eighths of the House, and making the state a can-do state. Let us all get Queensland back on track.

Sitting suspended from 6.32 pm to 7.30 pm.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Berry): Order! Before calling the member for Yeerongpilly, I remind the House that this is the member's maiden speech and as such the member shall be heard in silence.

 **Mr JUDGE** (Yeerongpilly—LNP) (7.31 pm): I am honoured to reply to the Governor's address. May I begin, as others have, by congratulating Madam Speaker on her re-election as the member for Maroochydore and, significantly, on her election as the first female Speaker of the Parliament. I also congratulate all other members of the 54th Parliament on their election or re-election.

I value and respect my community. I feel humbled and privileged to represent the people of Yeerongpilly and I thank them for placing their faith in me. I will work with energy and commitment to serve my electorate, well and truly. As the member for Yeerongpilly it is only right for me to acknowledge the service provided to the community by the former member, the honourable Simon Finn. In doing so, I recognise the electorate staff who supported him from 2004 until the recent state election.

I have lived in the Yeerongpilly electorate with my family since 2003 and our affection for it continues to grow. It is the place where my wife was born and raised, it is the place where my two daughters have grown from girls into young ladies and it is the place where my wife and I welcomed the arrival of our first son.

Historically, the seat of Yeerongpilly has existed since 2001. Originally it was known as Yeronga, from 1950. The Liberal Party's Winston Noble served as the first member for Yeronga, holding the seat from 1950 to 1964. In turn, he was succeeded by Norm Lee, who held the seat for the next 25 years, until 1989. As a member of the Liberal National Party I am very proud to be associated with these two gentlemen, who represented the electorate so well for so long.

Yeerongpilly has changed considerably over the years and today is a very complex electorate. It covers the inner-southern suburbs of Brisbane and is roughly bounded by Kessels Road, the South East Freeway, the Brisbane River and Oxley Creek. In 2011 these waterways inflicted misery on many people in my electorate. I admire their resilient character and commend the work of the Yeronga flood recovery centre and the many other community service organisations and volunteers involved in supporting flood victims.

Yeerongpilly is a place where people from diverse backgrounds face wide-ranging issues, but to some extent they share similar challenges. Some people are still struggling to re-establish their homes after the 2011 floods, some people are struggling to re-establish their businesses, and other people are struggling to re-establish their lives and families after desperately fleeing foreign homelands. Many people are also struggling with cost-of-living pressures, and young families are struggling to secure a future that earlier generations took for granted.

As at 30 June 2010, the estimated resident population of Yeerongpilly was 48,314 people. I realise that each person in my electorate may have specific concerns, and that is why I assure all people that they have equal access to my representation. I will work tirelessly to improve health, police, education and other front-line services for my electorate so as to enhance people's safety and quality of life there. I will also work to improve green spaces so that parents can take their children to freely enjoy local parks, sporting fields and the environment generally.

In addition, I will work to address important issues for marginalised people. On this point, at the time of the 2006 census 1,642 people living in the Yeerongpilly electorate had profound or severe disability, all in need of assistance. Since the 2012 state election, many people in my electorate have informed me that the National Disability Insurance Scheme is a matter of high importance for them. I commend the Newman government for supporting the NDIS in principle, and I join in the call for the federal government to get serious by putting an affordable, long-term funding proposal on the table.

Taking similar responsibility for creating an affordable Public Service is a basic concept that the state Labor government also failed to grasp. Along with their incapacity to create and sustain an environment that allows businesses to survive and thrive, Labor's reckless spending is not the hallmark of a party that may lay claim to looking after working families. Quite the opposite. They deceitfully sold our state's assets and still did not pay down the debt. The shameful reality is that, because of economic mismanagement, the former Labor government is responsible for increasing cost-of-living pressures on hardworking families. It is the fault of the ousted Labor government that the Public Service must now be rationalised—a sad burden inherited by the Newman government because of the serious state debt, irresponsibly and unsustainably incurred by the Labor Party. Our side of politics understands that it is the relentless attention to the engine room of the Australian economy that is small business and medium-sized business that fundamentally guarantees security of employment for working families, not Labor's obsession with building a bloated bureaucracy of false jobs on temporary contracts.

In 2008-09 there were 4,798 businesses in Yeerongpilly. Some 4,499 were small businesses, 253 were medium-sized and just 46 were identified as large-sized businesses. Many if not all of these businesses have struggled under the Labor government, responsible for stifling and strangling businesses with red tape—another Labor legacy inherited by the Newman government.

In 2008-09 the construction industry had the greatest number of businesses in my electorate, with 637 there—all typically small businesses. Because of the Labor government, many business owners in the industry are now desperately struggling to keep their businesses afloat and tradespeople and apprentices employed. The truth is that these good people and other business owners like them are the ones who support working families, not the Labor Party, and the fact is that the former Labor government failed to build an economy that produced real jobs on a permanent basis.

Labor also failed to build infrastructure and plan efficiently. In my electorate many constituents have informed me that they were not properly consulted on Cross River Rail or the transit oriented development. This angered them. I have assured these people that the Newman government will and can do better. Together with my LNP colleagues I will work tirelessly with the Premier and the leadership team of the Newman government to respect Queenslanders, including by honouring the five well-documented pledges that we have all made to the people of this state.

I understand that people, families and business owners across this great state are counting on us to get Queensland back on track. The Premier has spoken about our plans to build a broader and stronger Queensland economy based on the four key pillars of agriculture, resources, tourism and construction. During my life I have worked throughout this state and witnessed how the Newman government's targeted and much needed plan to support key industries and jobs in metropolitan, regional and rural communities is much needed. As the member for Yeerongpilly I will do everything possible to support our Premier and the LNP's leadership team to firmly set these pillars in place to revitalise Queensland's economy.

Let us not sugar coat the truth in here. The real difference between the members of the Liberal National Party and the Labor Party is that our members really do come from all walks of life. We possess the real-life experience and the collective experience needed to understand and represent all people and to competently perform our role.

Might I add to the personal backgrounds already provided by many of our LNP colleagues. My late father was a boilermaker and my late mother was a postal worker. My father, Clifford Judge, is a person whom I loved and admired. He loved his family, and during his short life he also served his country as a submariner in the Royal Australian Navy. Lyn Beasley was a wonderful mother to me and my brother, Leo. Mum did her best to protect and support us for her entire life, which also ended too soon. She died when my daughters were young and never met my son. Mum sometimes struggled to keep bread on the table but freely poured out her love upon her children. During troubled times in our young years, my grandparents, Alf and Dorothy Beasley, made sure that we were all okay.

My big brother, Leo, also did his best to help mum keep me in line as a kid but he stood up for me as needed and I still know that today I can count on him. My stepfather, Kevin Grubb, likewise made a difference in our lives and I respect him for it. He shared a few short years with my mother and brought her much happiness before losing his battle with cancer when I was 14.

These are the people who taught me how to be a good person in life. They taught me how to respect and care for others, to embrace and live life, to value it and, when the time comes, to leave it in the comfort of knowing you have made a difference for others, especially in the lives of children. I will always do my best to follow their example and live up to their standards, including as the member for Yeerongpilly.

I was raised by these people at Rockhampton where I attended school and then completed a trade as a motor mechanic before joining the Queensland Police Service in 1991. Over the past 20 years I have worked days, nights, weekends and weekdays as a police officer, paid a mortgage, raised a family and, in my spare time, studied to gain undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications. I have always sought to broaden my knowledge and most recently completed a Master of Human Service (Management and Policy). I entered state politics to serve the people of Queensland. From this perspective, it has seemed like a natural progression from my policing career—from pursuing law-breakers to joining law-makers.

As a sworn officer, I had the honour of serving people in communities throughout our state: in the central region at Gladstone, Rockhampton and Lakes Creek; in the northern region at Halifax near Ingham; and in the south-east region at Indooroopilly, Logan, Browns Plains and Slacks Creek and later at police headquarters in Brisbane. I have worked as a uniformed police officer at small one- and two-officer stations and walked the beat in metropolitan areas like Fortitude Valley to deal with alcohol fuelled violence in drink-safe precincts. I have served as a detective in arson and fraud squads and specialised in child protection, serving at a number of dedicated units including Task Force Argos at State Crime Operations Command investigating historical crimes and online child abuse.

Towards the end of my career, I also served as a senior sergeant in the policy and legislation development unit. I want to put it on the record that the Queensland Police Service is today a very professional organisation with rigorous systems of accountability to prevent and detect corruption—far removed from the so-called Fitzgerald era. It is an organisation that is made up of fine men and women and they deserve to be collectively recognised for their integrity. They also deserve to be respected for their brave commitment to upholding the law while protecting our communities. I pay respect to Senior Constable Damian Leeding.

I value integrity and commitment, and I stand here today equally proud to be associated with my LNP colleagues in the same way that I was proud to be a member of the Queensland Police Service. Accordingly, I challenge the opposition to move away from their smear tactics and attempts to portray the Newman government as somehow being on a slippery slope to an 'abuse of power and corruption era'. The Labor Party should have left this nonsense behind after its vile state election campaign. Such behaviour now serves to warn the public that the Labor Party is still out of touch and simply cannot do better. While listening respectfully to the member for Rockhampton give his maiden speech, I noted him saying that every member of this chamber should commit to raising people's opinions about the political process and politicians more generally. Let us hope that his Labor Party colleagues listened to him.

Because of my real-life experience and commitment to broadening my knowledge, I comprehend the importance of ensuring that legislation translates into operational effectiveness for police on the front line who are tasked to fight crime and keep our communities safe. I also understand the importance of research and ensuring that political initiatives and responses are evidence based. To this end, I highlight the importance of information sharing and partnerships between our universities and the government. To illustrate, Griffith University's Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security is located at the Nathan campus in the Yeerongpilly electorate. It is an unrivalled resource that we can effectively engage with to help investigate and strengthen our law enforcement responses and community safety initiatives.

I will work tirelessly to create a stronger, safer and even more supportive community. I am proud to say that Yeerongpilly already has a record of being a supportive community. At the time of the 2006 census, it was identified that there were 7,314 volunteers in the electorate. That is more than 20 per cent of people aged 15 years and over, and it is a figure which is higher than the state's average. Many local volunteers joined the mud army response to the 2011 floods. I also recognise that a large number of volunteers regularly work in our local community service organisations and, likewise, many do their best to keep our sporting clubs operating. I realise that these community groups and sporting clubs are at the heart of community life.


To illustrate, I recently attended the 100-year celebration for the Yeronga Bowls Club in my electorate. Club officials, all volunteers, spoke about how the club was started and has developed over the years, along with the successes of the club in terms of outstanding sporting representatives. What I also heard during the evening were stories of people becoming lifelong friends and supporting each other through the challenges of their lives. For these reasons, I will do everything possible to support community service organisations and sporting clubs in my electorate.

At this point, I want to thank the people who voluntarily gave their time and energy to create this opportunity for me to be here and serve my community. First, I want to thank my campaign director, John Matthews, for his leadership, guidance and friendship. I also want to thank the other campaign team members who worked so tirelessly to support me during every week over the past year—in particular, Annabelle Matthews, Marcus Knapp, Anthony Stokes, Andrew Kriedemenn, Paul Darwen, Ray Wilson, Ana Brown, Angela Yin, Rhys Bosley, James Burgess and Judy Holland. I also pay special thanks to Deb, Eliza and Robert Matthews, Angela and Jules Moxon, Marilyn Wilson, Gillian Dawson, and Don and Lila Cameron. There are just too many people to mention by name but I sincerely thank everyone who helped me. It was a hard-fought election but I respect having to earn the trust of the people in my electorate and the privilege of being their local member of parliament.

Finally, I want to acknowledge and thank my family. My wife, Melissa, and two daughters, Keely and Haley, have all supported me and travelled beside me on the challenging journey to get here, and my baby son, Braden, has been a joy since birth and keeps life in perspective for us. I love you all and know that I am a very fortunate man to have each of you in my life.

I conclude by paying an everlasting respect to my late parents and grandparents who all helped shape me. I accept that they would be proud of me today. I feel very humbled and privileged to be the member for Yeerongpilly and reaffirm that I will work with energy and commitment to serve all people from my electorate well and truly.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Berry): Order! Before calling the member for Murrumba, I remind the House that it is the member's maiden speech and as such the member shall be heard in silence.

 **Mr GULLEY** (Murrumba—LNP) (7.47 pm): I wish to acknowledge the great privilege and the heavy responsibility it is to be elected by the voters of Murrumba. I congratulate the Hon. Fiona Simpson on her election to the high office as Madam Speaker, and I congratulate the Hon. Campbell Newman on his election as Premier of this fine state. I acknowledge Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who in her 60th year as sovereign of Australia has set a distinguished example of public service.

Murrumba is a great place, but do not take my word for it. The name 'Murrumba' was first used by the early pioneer, Thomas Petrie, who in 1859 purchased a property in the region then known as Pine Creek district and named it Murrumba. Murrumba is an Aboriginal word for good place. If Thomas Petrie were here today, I believe he would have called it a great place.

Today the seat of Murrumba includes the suburbs of Burpengary, Deception Bay, Griffin, Mango Hill, North Lakes, Rothwell and parts of Kippa-Ring. It is one of the fastest growing residential areas of Queensland, complete with its own bushland and national park, bayside parks, two rivers and suburbs where kangaroos still graze—a great place. But Murrumba is more than just place names; it is great people and great communities—communities that were suffering under the last government.

Cost of living—surprise, surprise—was the single most important issue raised by people when I was campaigning. Of the thousands of people I met and spoke with during the campaign, the one conversation I want to share is this one. With my manager, I met an age pensioner who said that they had voted Labor all of their lives but could no longer afford to vote Labor. It was humbling to listen to someone share their story about going to bed at 6.30 at night in winter because they could not afford the electricity. I could feel their anger, their disappointment and their surprise at sharing their story with a conservative candidate while standing in sight of the ALP member's office. Just a couple of days later at a public forum the previous member proudly stated that battlers are always better off under Labor. That clearly was not the case. What sort of government is that out of touch? Only a government that was, sadly, more concerned about itself rather than the people it was elected by.

The big issues for my constituents not only include cost of living but transport, and I support today and have always supported the Moreton Bay rail link. During the 2006 campaign for the seat, I actively campaigned for the railway at a time when my predecessor was chopping down Anzac pines to make way for the first and now only stage of the busway that was intended to replace the rail link. I look forward to working with the minister and the other two levels of government to see this vital piece of infrastructure completed.

I want to acknowledge the previous members for Murrumba. The seat is an old seat, created in 1912, and yet it has had only seven members, with me being only the eighth to serve. The most significant of the former members was Sir Frank Nicklin, whom the Premier spoke so positively about last sitting week as one of the great premiers of Queensland, who served Murrumba from 1932 to 1950. I know that Sir Frank Nicklin was known for his honesty—a reputation that I aim to emulate whilst acknowledging that a reputation for honesty is earned and not bestowed. I want to acknowledge the former member, the Hon. Dean Wells. The vanquished deserve respect and I acknowledge the achievements of Dean, who served Murrumba for 26 years up until his defeat in March. Dean has only ever been professional in all of his dealings with me and I wish him well in his future endeavours.

Who is Reg? What is my background? On being elected to parliament I am continuing over 130 years of service by the Gulley family to society. English-born Frederick Burgess Gulley served as the first mayor of the northern New South Wales town of Casino in 1880 and served as its mayor eight



times. His son, Frederick William, also served—being the publican of the Byron Bay Railway Hotel, a different type of service but a fine service nonetheless. His son, my grandfather, Don Gulley—the Don—served Australia in the First World War as an air pilot and was injured twice. The town of Kyogle recognised his service to it by naming the Don Gulley Oval after him. My father, Bruce Gulley, who is in the gallery tonight, also served many communities, this time in Queensland—yes, and he does support the Maroons—in his capacity as a clergyman, an ancient profession, a profession that I believe includes the original community and social workers.

The other example of service that I want to draw attention to is that of my mother, Jannie, who came to Australia as a teenager with her family from Holland after experiencing the horrors of wartime occupation. The childhood example that my mother gave me in her own way was also of service in that my mother saw a need in her community and did something about it. In my childhood I saw her inspiration and leadership in setting up the Balmoral Uniting Community Centre, an activity of Wesley Mission Brisbane. This centre has been offering personal support for over 150 people each week for the last 30 years, working with the marginalised in society and offering them friendship and support. I am merely standing here today following the example of the service that was given to me by my parents.

I had the good fortune of some great state schools and attending the University of Queensland. I paid my way through university by fruit picking in the holidays in such great places like Hervey Bay and Gympie and by being groundsman during term. I am the fourth son in a family of six and my theory is that my parents ran out of names, hence Reg—not short for Reginald, no middle name—Gulley. I remember my first T-shirt which had a print on it. I remember walking to school in bare feet, making my own go-carts out of spare parts, taking myself to high school on the first day and I remember asking my father whilst still in primary school to help me set up my first bank account and getting the reply, 'I think you're old enough to do that yourself, son.'

Members will be interested that I was awarded the citizenship award at the end of grade 12. I was not expecting it, having only attended that school for one year. I only mention it today as the award was the Lin and Jan Powell Award. As many in this chamber will know, Lin went on to be Speaker of this very House.

I bring to this House and to Murrumba over 20 years of professional and commercial experience in senior accounting and executive roles in Brisbane, Sydney and London—and, yes, accountants can speak; sometimes—in industries such as communication, retail, finance, manufacturing and education. This background in the rough and tumble world of commerce has given me a wide set of experiences to draw from in order to serve both Murrumba and the state of Queensland.

What do I believe in? I believe Queensland is a diverse and secular society, rightfully represented by the secular principles of Westminster government. I am not going to be shy in declaring that my personal foundation is based on my Christian faith, of which I am certain will sustain me in carrying out my responsibilities. I believe in the freedom of the individual to choose his or her own course in life. I believe that the most important structure in our society is the family, which should be supported and not undermined, and that we owe a great responsibility to our children to nurture them to their fullest potential. I believe we have a great responsibility to the frail and marginalised in our society and that government has a heavy responsibility to act on society's behalf whilst at the same time protecting the liberty of the individual. I believe that governments should be efficient, effective and ethical and face the heavy chore of balancing social needs, economic needs and environmental needs in every decision. I believe that free commerce is the best engine room to create wealth for both individuals and for society as a whole and should be supported by small and nimble government. I believe in the following quote from Martin Luther, one of the most influential men of all times—

There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor political, nor popular, but he must take it because his conscience tells him it is right.

Many people asked me why I chose to run for political office, which, for the record, I first ran for as a Liberal for Murrumba in 2006. I can say that the catalyst for me joining the Liberal Party as it was known then was Gordon Nuttall's treatment of the health workers at the Bundaberg Base Hospital.

The more I read and heard of his bullying tactics towards the staff of that hospital and the complete lack of respect shown to servants of society, the more it made me realise he could not be acting alone and that he was only able to act in this manner because his party and his leader allowed him to. I came to the recognition that the once proud ALP—the party that once was a party of social conscience—was now devoid of ethics and, therefore, reprehensible. I could no longer sit on the sidelines and decided to do something. I refer again to Martin Luther's quote, 'My conscience told me I needed to do something.' Later in 2006 every state member of the ALP voted to change section 57 of the Criminal Code to allow lying to parliament—arguably the most shameful legislative action ever committed by the ALP. This only reinforced my drive to work hard to see this government defeated.


Before I start my giving my thanks, I would like to say that arguably the most satisfying aspect of the 2012 campaign was working with volunteers of such high personal character and integrity. It was such a joy to lead and work beside such a great bunch of people. I would like to thank Luke Howarth as

the manager of the campaign, my financial supports, branch members, booth captains, booth workers, letterbox droppers, my sign site manager and the generous people who put my sign in their front yards, to the crew who joined me each Saturday morning for waving and doorknocking and to Bruce McIver and Campbell Newman, on behalf of the LNP, for such a great campaign.

In addition to my parents—and my parents are here today—I need to thank my parents-in-law for which my own family has relied upon so heavily during the campaign. To Captain Peter Hooper and Annabelle Wikiahu Hooper, I thank you. Did they ever think that the long-haired young man who turned up to their Petrie home in a HQ panel van would one day become their son-in-law? My last thankyou goes to the most important member of the campaign, my wife of 20 years, Jodi. I will not repeat here what she thought of me when she first met me, but I thank her for relenting to my persistence. Thank you for supporting my endeavour to serve and accepting the consequence of now living in the public eye. Thank you for your counsel and for carrying my share of family life. To my daughters, Tabitha, Cassia and Ester, thank you for the resilience, patience and understanding that you show your father.

In conclusion, my commitment is to return the concept of service to the phrase 'public service'. My commitment is to live to the highest example of public and private life. My commitment is to represent all constituents from all walks of life and regardless of political persuasions. My commitment is to vote in the best interests of Murrumba within the political philosophy that I was elected to. I humbly accept the great privilege and profound responsibility to serve the people of Murrumba.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

 **Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (8.03 pm): It is a great privilege to follow the member for Murrumba and to see the quality of the members in this House that we have here. Obviously, the member for Murrumba has made up for his short name by giving his beautiful daughters their lovely names with which they will be graced for the rest of their lives.

It is a great privilege to be a member of this innovative, new LNP government and to be re-elected as the member to represent the wonderful region of Bundaberg. When I look around this chamber, it is indeed a great pleasure to see the diversity of the members and the quality of the present government. Also, it gives me great pleasure to think of the future as we put our heads down and toil to serve the people of Queensland with a great deal of dedication.

For me, Bundaberg is home. It is a great region. It is a place where I decided to bring up my family. The region is close to my heart and I really appreciate the responsibility of representing it as its member. I certainly will not take that responsibility lightly. My family and I moved to Bundaberg and it was through my work as a police officer that we quickly became part of the community. For me, I would never have dreamt during my career with the Queensland Police Service that one day I would have the great privilege to be the Minister for Police and Community Safety. My 19 years with the Police Service has given me a valuable insight into police, ambulance, SES, EMQ, QFRS and corrections. There are many areas of my portfolio that have suffered 20 years of neglect from previous Labor governments. However, the LNP is determined to hit the ground running. We have already identified major areas that are desperately in need of reform. We have already embarked on a program of legislative reform that will revitalise the Queensland Police Service and again give our officers a career to be proud of and to know that the Newman government and the community are right behind them.

In recent years, it has not been easy for our 10,500-plus police officers. Law and order was never a priority of the previous Labor government. We saw—and I served in—a Police Service that continually had officer numbers stripped away and its hands tied with copious amount of red tape and bureaucracy.

**Mr Newman:** They had no respect for the police.

**Mr DEMPSEY:** I will take that interjection. They certainly put the rights of the offender first, then the rights of the community and the victim came last, which is quite remarkable and a reason they are no longer in government.

This government is right behind our front-line officers. We will ensure that the rights of the victims always come first. We will be revitalising law and order in this state by delivering 1,100 extra new front-line police to where they are needed to fight crime—on our streets. We will provide up to \$275 million for this surge, with 300 to be recruited in the first year. At least 100 of the 1,100 new police will go to the Gold Coast and Logan areas. We will return 50 police each year from non-operational duties back to our front line. That means up to an additional 200 experienced front-line police over the next four years to keep our streets extra safe.

We will also plan to make sure that people who commit the types of crime that disgust all Queenslanders are given the sentences that they deserved. Under a Newman LNP government we are proposing that illegal firearm traffickers face a mandatory minimum term of five years in jail. The supply of illegal firearms will carry a three-year minimum term, while someone convicted of possessing an illegal firearm used for an offence will serve at least 18 months. The possession of an illegal firearm in a public place will carry a one year minimum jail term. The maximum penalty for serious assaults on a police officer will be doubled from seven to 14 years and a new offence of murdering a police officer will attract a non-parole period of 25 years imprisonment.

Under Labor, Queensland, and in particular the Gold Coast, has become a haven for outlaw motorcycle gangs and criminal groups. The LNP has a clear plan to tackle organised crime groups and criminals seeking to reap economic gain through illegal and criminal activities. Task Force Hydra has been responsible for the management and investigation of 83 operations targeting outlaw motorcycle groups, their members and activities in Queensland. After the recent spate of violence, the Newman government acted quickly to put an extra 20 detectives into the fight against organised criminals and outlaw motorcycle gangs at a cost \$750,000.

An LNP government will also act to toughen unexplained wealth laws so that the police will have an additional tool with which to combat organised crime. Police and the CMC will be able to apply for orders requiring crime groups to explain how they acquired their wealth. If they cannot, criminals will face confiscation of any unexplained wealth.

All this adds up to a zero tolerance approach to the type of crime that was allowed to fester under the Labor government. However, allow me to make it absolutely clear that these changes are directed totally at criminals. They are not aimed at the thousands of law-abiding gun owners in our society. We will build in safeguards to avoid them being captured in this legislation. To law-abiding gun owners I say that you have nothing to fear from the Newman government. On the contrary, we are introducing changes to our weapons licensing management system that will fast-track new licences and permits via a safe and secure online facility. To outlaws and criminals I say: change your behaviour or wear the consequences.

We have also pledged to provide Queensland with two state-of-the-art police helicopters. Under two decades of Labor, criminals and dangerous drivers were escaping detection and penalties due to the lack of a police helicopter here in Queensland. The LNP will spend \$18 million over four years to deliver two police helicopters to provide air support to criminal investigations and high-speed pursuits. We will also introduce tough new laws to tackle criminals who refuse to stop and lead police on high-speed pursuits. The LNP will introduce new fines and an automatic two-year loss of licence for evading police. Not only do they put lives at risk, but they cause fear in our suburbs and make life unbearable for those within earshot of their activities. The LNP will crack down on hoons by introducing the toughest hooning laws in the nation.

I am also proud to be minister for the tremendous men and women of the Queensland Ambulance Service. For 24 hours a day we have 3,200 operational ambulance officers ready at a moment's notice not only to take the 000 calls from those in urgent medical need but also to respond. Paramedics and emergency medical despatchers do their jobs selflessly to ensure the people of Queensland receive the best prehospital care available. The QAS emergency medical despatchers are the people taking calls from people within the community who are in urgent need of medical assistance. Imagine taking a call from a frantic mother with a choking infant or from a person first on the scene of a serious traffic accident. While you are taking these calls from a person in great distress you have to grasp the seriousness of the case, correctly triage and prioritise it, then select and despatch aptly skilled paramedics. It is a tough job and they are truly the angels on the other end of the phone when we need them most.

Despatched to the scene are the country's highest trained paramedics, the QAS advanced care and intensive care paramedics, who arrive on the scene and commence emergency prehospital care. I recently attended the induction of these paramedics at Kedron. They are highly professional and have a great attitude towards serving the people of Queensland. The tasks these paramedics undertake include administering more than 30 life-saving drugs and carrying out procedures that not long ago were performed only by emergency department doctors. In the past, Queensland paramedics have taken on ambulance services from around the world and have won the Emergency Medical Technician Games. One can only imagine what those technical games involve. They are consummate professionals and we, as Queenslanders, are truly fortunate to have them looking over us.

Similarly, we are proud of the men and women of Emergency Management Queensland. EMQ comprises the State Emergency Service, the Helicopter Rescue Service, disaster management, Volunteer Marine Rescue and emergency cadets. One does not have to think too far back to remember what a sensational collective effort each one of these services played in the Queensland floods and cyclones Yasi and Larry. It was during these natural disasters that the people of EMQ came into their own. Before these disasters struck, thousands of volunteers descended onto our streets and into our towns and neighbourhoods to help us prepare for the impending danger. One only has to remember what the mud army did here in Brisbane. Over the last couple of weeks I have been fortunate to meet with many individuals and teams from all over the world who have come to study what we did here in Queensland as a community in relation to the mud army and working shoulder to shoulder with our mates and fellow Queenslanders. It is something we will continue to be proud of and the rest of the world is looking at what happened during those times and taking it back to their communities. All Queenslanders deserve to be proud.


After the floods and cyclones the men and women of EMQ were the first out there assisting us to get our lives and property back to as close to normal as quickly as possible. While the SES were sandbagging, the VMR were patrolling our rivers. While disaster management was coordinating food drops, EMQ helicopter pilots were rescuing stranded homeowners from their roofs. These are images that will stay with every Australian. They are actions that will never be forgotten by an entire generation of Queenslanders. I can remember as a young boy growing up in Riverview in Ipswich seeing Duncan Street blocked off and looking out at the different boats and neighbours looking after each other. Those memories stay with me. The memories of the last floods will stay with my five children and the many children of this generation throughout Queensland for years to come. As I said previously, it will be the image of mates standing up and taking care of each other.

I would also like to highlight the brave men and women of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, especially the 34,000 volunteers who give up their time freely to help others. Their work has never been more important as we face a challenging fire season. As a police officer I worked side by side with these incredible men and women during road accident rescues and now as minister I look forward to championing their cause. Fires of today do much more than fight blazes. At road crashes they are there extricating victims with the jaws of life while assisting paramedics to stabilise those requiring medical assistance.

The QFRS technical rescue crews are among the best in the world and many of them, along with specially trained paramedics, make up Queensland's urban search and rescue team. QFRS technical rescue crews undertake some of the most dangerous work of all emergency crews. To save the lives of others, these men and women undertake swift-water rescues, as we all saw on television during the 2011 floods, along with conducting confined space, trench and high-angle rescues. We saw that type of rescue only a few days ago in Brisbane where an excavator had fallen over. The USAR teams were also among the first international teams into earthquake affected zones in Christchurch, Japan and Sumatra. And it was Queensland's USAR that spent weeks in Banda Aceh, after the tsunami swept through entire communities, recovering people trapped under debris and providing medical assistance to men, women and children.

Additionally, the fires of the QFRS scientific branch respond to hundreds of jobs each year with the world's most advanced hazardous chemical detecting and identification equipment. They work with volunteer scientists around the state protecting life and environments from biological threats. All of these fire related events are coordinated by the excellent work of the QFRS communications officers.

I would also like to honour the great work of our corrections officers. Our correction teams manage thousands of prisoners every day. This is a tremendous effort. It is a job that has evolved tremendously over many years from prison guards into highly respected professional correctional officers. Their job is one that straddles many aspects of the corrections process including that of containment, education and mentoring. While this government is tough on crime, we also believe most people can turn their lives around and should have the chance to become productive members of the community again. I am proud to lead a portfolio that encapsulates what is good and decent about human nature, and I am also proud to be part of a team that will get Queensland back on track.

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (8.18 pm): For the ninth time I rise in this chamber to speak in reply to the Governor's opening speech. In doing so, I congratulate the Speaker of the Queensland parliament, the member for Maroochydore. I think she will do an absolutely wonderful job. I have been privileged to serve in this parliament with our Speaker for eight terms. I know that she will carry forward the dignity, application and diligence that she has shown since 1992 when she first entered this place. I also congratulate the Deputy Speakers.

I congratulate all members of the parliament who have been re-elected for whatever number of terms. I also congratulate the people who have been elected to this place for the first time. It is, indeed, a great honour. Many hundreds of Queenslanders aspire to this position by putting their names forward on a ballot paper every three years or thereabouts. Chosen from those are only 89 people. That is against a backdrop of a population of 4.5 million Queenslanders. In many ways it is an exclusive club, but it is a club that is all about representation. It is about making sure that we bring into this place a set of values and that we can provide service above self. As I indicated, if we look at the total population of Queensland, to have few people chosen is an indication of what a very great honour it is to serve in this place.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Premier and all of my ministerial and government colleagues. Certainly in his role before he came into this place, the Premier led us with a great degree of energy, tenacity and diligence. He was able to withstand what was one of the most regrettable campaigns run against any political leader or any political party over a long period. Those opposite will live to rue the day that they did that.

I express my loyalty and affection for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. I am an unashamed monarchist, I have been for my entire life and I will continue to be so. I particularly congratulate Her Majesty on her diamond jubilee year. I congratulate her for the dignity and confidence that she brings to her job, for the wonderful way that she leads by example and also for the extraordinary leadership that

she has shown as a monarch. I acknowledge her empathy for the people of the Commonwealth and the more broader communities of the world. At a time such as this, when the world is experiencing a great degree of instability and there is an enormous amount of uncertainty in our society, the wonderful thing about a constitutional monarchy, led by somebody such as Queen Elizabeth, is that it provides an element of stability and certainty at a time when people do not have that in their lives. I am sure that there are many countries around the world where people yearn for that sort of stability. Even though the United States severed its royal connections over 200 years ago, its people have a great affection for and interest in things such as the wedding of William and Kate. We can see that in many ways they yearn for a reattachment to the royal family. Certainly, in a sea of change and despair, we have continuity. We have an absolutely brilliant and outstanding monarch who has been able to serve us very well in that time.

I thank my family who have diligently stood by me and provided me with a great amount of support over the 22½ years that I have been in this place. I thank my wife, Linda. I thank my four children, Megan, Jens, Laura and Thomas, who were born in the time that I have been in this place and basically have known their father to be away most of their lives. My wife does an extraordinarily good and diligent job in the challenging environment of raising children. That can be a significant challenge for a united couple who are both present every day of the week, but it is even more challenging when one partner is away most of the time. I pay tribute to my wife for being so supportive and for raising the children so very well in my absence.

I thank my campaign team, led by David Littleproud, and all of the wonderful people, who are too numerous to mention, for their support in assisting me in gaining my ninth term in this place. To my electorate, thank you very much. My constituents have given me an enormously high honour. I have tried to repay the faith that they have put in me over a long period. Hopefully, we will be able to do it in spades, as finally we have not only reached government but have reached government with an overwhelming majority. Certainly, I would not be able to do the job without my staff at a ministerial and an electorate office level. Every member would appreciate the importance of having really good staff, because they keep the home fires burning when we are away on long absences, such as when we have cumulative parliamentary weeks or if you hold a ministerial position or a position as an opposition shadow minister or an opposition leader, which are positions that I have held in the past. In some ways I have a degree of empathy for members opposite, because only about 10 years ago I led an opposition at a time when we had about 11 members. That indicates the vagaries of what happens in this place from time to time. No doubt, the future will see those sorts of things transpire again, but not too quickly.

I want to talk about the LNP. The LNP has been a remarkable success story in Queensland. As we embarked upon the formation of the LNP over the past decade, many people stood in the road. Many people said that it could not be done. Many of those people were motivated by absolute and blatant self-interest. They were more concerned about the preservation of the relevancy that they surrounded themselves in over such a long period. The people of Queensland were yearning for something much more than that. The people of this state were sick and tired of the Liberal and National parties being incoherent and incohesive when it came to presenting a united alternative for the state. I thank all of those people who joined in the journey for the formation of the LNP in this state.

In 2009, in our first outing, in many ways we laid the foundations for what we were able to achieve in 2012. What we saw in the federal election of 2010 gave a clear indication of Queensland's growing confidence towards the LNP, which almost single handedly delivered Tony Abbott the Lodge after just one term in opposition. On this occasion what we have seen is absolutely extraordinary and unprecedented in the history of Australian politics. It proves that they who dare embark upon such a dangerous path in the eyes of some, but nevertheless a path of such reward, ultimately can be rewarded. But the greatest reward will be our chance to repay the people of Queensland for their faith and their confidence.

It is the people of Queensland who have supported the values of the LNP. They are the values that underpin individual aspiration in Queensland. They are the values and the ideologies of lower taxation, of better management, of smaller government, of individual enterprise and of individual responsibility. That is the sort of thing that establishes the individual, not the nanny state, as the most important consideration. That is the way that our side of politics wishes to operate as opposed to those who sit on the other side. We believe in smaller government; they believe in larger government. They believe in a government that intrudes more and more into every aspect of people's lives and that the people cannot be trusted to make their own decisions. We believe that people should be given more responsibility to make their own decisions. That is why we are going to make government far more efficient and far more effective, based around that very key philosophical value of individual enterprise. For far too long in Queensland people have felt shackled by big government. As we move towards a more deregulatory environment in terms of the amount of regulation that binds up people as individuals or businesses, we will see aspiration once again rise to the top and not be constrained and shackled as we have seen in Queensland in recent decades under Labor.

We will also see a way of rebuilding government in this state that is far more service orientated. Indeed, in my portfolio area of health I am hoping to preside over the further breakdown and devolution of the health system and put control back into our communities. In the time that I have been in this place, in just over 20 years, I have seen the community become disempowered. We need to re-empower the community. We need to give them control over their own destiny.

When I came into this place in the early 1990s we still had hospital boards, we had ambulance boards, we had fire boards and we had a whole range of other areas that were devolved to the community. We saw a situation where people were far more comfortable and more confident with what was happening in their community because they felt that they owned the decisions, that they were in charge of the decisions that the government was making and that they had some say.

What we have seen happen in the last 20 years is an encroaching process of centralism and socialism where we have seen the previous government go into communities and say, 'This is our solution for you; now you implement it for us.' We look at it a different way. We actually believe that the individual has all the inherent capability of being able to deliver the best outcomes around their communities. We are not like Mao's China, where we all run around in little Mao suits, dressed up and jumping around singing Mao chants. People live in different areas of Queensland because of the particular peculiarities of those areas—the things that really tickle them, the things that really make them feel a part of that community. Indeed, my colleague the honourable member for Mundingburra is seeking to re-establish that as he re-engages with local government around Queensland.

One of the saddest things the Labor Party did was basically disembowel and disempower local communities through the process of forced amalgamations. The reason that people choose to live in different parts of Queensland is that there are different things about those places, different flavours, that they like. That is the great thing about being individuals in a libertarian society. You cannot force people to be all the same. That is what Labor basically sought to do. That is why people revolted so much. That is why we have seen such angst when it comes to a one-size-fits-all approach by the Labor Party opposite. We are going to give the community the opportunity to reconnect and to actually have faith and confidence in the government—a government which is their servant, not their master.

In health I look forward to the opportunity to value our 82,000 staff, those people who principally make up about 80 per cent of front-line workers—our doctors, our nurses, our allied health professionals, the people who provide the clinical and technical support that backs them up and who are also supported by an appropriately resourced back office. Indeed, there will be changes in health and in the way that the health organisation operates in the future, and so there should be, because I think that we have seen living proof of what happens when you centralise, as I said before—that is, going away from a community owned, community controlled, maximum community input to the way health care is delivered to a maximum centralist model. My vision for Queensland Health is to see Queensland Health—the central agency—be lean, be focused and having the role of being system manager, concentrating on best policy for the state of Queensland and working with our hospital boards as they go about connecting their local community.

I believe that we should trust in local people to be able to deliver. They have proven they could do it in the past, so they can actually do it in the future. My values for Queensland Health are these: having better services for our patients; having better community health; valuing Queensland Health employees and empowering in particular our front-line staff; empowering local communities with a greater say over their hospital and local health services—that is, what we are going to do with our hospital boards which we will be debating in this place some time in the next few weeks or so—and having an approach of openness, because we did not see an approach of openness enough from those members opposite when they were in government. I think that if you take people into your confidence then they are going to understand some of the realities and some of the challenges of Queensland Health.

The situation is this: we all understand that there are two ways of getting access to health services—the first is that you are able to pay for it; the second is time. So you either have to open your wallet or you have to wait for it. The issue when you are dealing with a public health system is how long is a reasonable time to wait for a service. Indeed, when we have people on our books who have been waiting—whether it be for a dental appointment, a dental procedure or another medical procedure—in some cases beyond 10 years, you would have to say that that is indeed too long. Most people understand that they do have to wait some considerable period of time in some cases to access a public health service, but they do draw the line at something which is unreasonable.

What I envisage is that the waiting list figures, including the list of people who are waiting to see a specialist, will ultimately be published and published reliably and published regularly so that people know what they are confronted with when they are dealing with our public health system in Queensland and to have a range of options so that they and their medical advisers and their treating doctors know where they might be able to access a service much earlier. Those sorts of things I think people understand and appreciate do need to be done as we go forward.

I look forward to the opportunity to roll out the LNP's Mums and Bubs policy, which will see us invest \$92 million in providing the best—the best—care for mothers and babies across Queensland. That will see them being able to have a home visit at two and four weeks and then having access at two, four, eight and 12 months to a maternity health facility so that those mothers can be supported in what can be a very challenging time in their life.


I have also had the great opportunity in recent weeks to travel to Townsville with my colleagues to make our commitment to ensuring that the paediatric intensive care service in Townsville can get up and going, to make that commitment so that service can get up and going on 1 July this year. We know that that is a very, very important regional tertiary hospital in a remote area of Queensland which has a huge catchment area. Therefore, to establish a facility such as this, which will see fewer children with intensive care paediatric needs having to be flown down to Brisbane, will be of significant benefit to the people of not only Townsville but also the catchment area across North Queensland.

I have also had the opportunity to put in place the first stage of our commitment to moving Cairns Base Hospital towards becoming a tier 1 facility—the first stage of a \$15 million commitment to enable that hospital to advance to the next stage of being able to take on additional clinical services, advanced clinical services. This commitment of \$4 million only recently was the first stage of our \$15 million commitment to upgrade the capability of that hospital over the next three to four years. That is a commitment that recognises that people in rural and remote and regional areas do have to travel quite extensive distances to access patient care and that is very costly. That is why our enhancement to the Patient Transport Assistance Scheme will see us, during the course of this term, advance the kilometric allowance from 15c a kilometre to 30c a kilometre and advance the accommodation allowance from \$30 per night to \$60 per night.

At the same time, we will be working to ensure that we can re-establish a whole range of rural and regional services which have been taken away over a period of time, and a lot of that happened around the abolition of the boards some 20 years ago. It became a self-fulfilling prophecy as it became regionalised, then centralised and then embraced in a district model which was unworkable and unrepresentative. Therefore, we saw an attitude within government which actually took services that could be competently, safely and clinically provided in those areas and moved them to major regional centres and then moved even further on to our capital city hospitals. We need to be able to give people more access to those services in their local areas.

I also look forward to implementing our \$129 million commitment for better access for emergency healthcare needs across Queensland, where we can actually bring on board more front-line staff in peak times and also make an investment in reducing the long wait surgery times in Queensland by up to 8,000. We have also made a \$12 million commitment for 44,000 extra public specialist outpatient appointments. One of the great challenges we have is with those people who are waiting to see a specialist to be assessed as to whether they need further surgical care or whether their healthcare needs can be dealt with in another way.

I look forward to doing all of those things against the background and the realisation that I still have to represent the wonderful people of Southern Downs and the many things that they will be looking to this government to deliver for them as well as we go about establishing our four key pillars of the Queensland economy, re-establishing DPI and delivering better services in their area.

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (8.39 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise in reply to the Governor of Queensland's opening speech, delivered on Wednesday, 16 May 2012, as a member of Queensland's 54th Parliament. As so many others here in this parliament have done, I pledge my loyalty to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

I am deeply privileged to have been asked to be the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games in the Newman government—a government with a plan to get Queensland back on track—and I wish to place on record what a great honour it is to serve the people of the Currumbin electorate for a fourth term. I thank them for once again placing their faith in me to be their representative in the state parliament, and I assure them that I am as dedicated and as enthusiastic as I was in February 2004. There are still days on which I walk around the Currumbin foreshore that I have to pinch myself that I really do represent this electorate, blessed with such great people and such breathtaking natural beauty.

I extend my sincere congratulations to every newly elected member and to my colleagues upon their successful re-election, in particular the class of 2004. I would also like to congratulate the honourable member for Maroochydore upon her election and subsequent appointment as Madam Speaker, making history to become Queensland's first female in this role. Having worked with the honourable member for a number of years in this House, I am sure that she will foster fairness and respect in her new role.

After so many years in opposition it is indeed a rewarding, yet somewhat surreal, feeling to be the government. Having said that, I am acutely aware of the responsibility that brings to each of us and the high expectations of the people of Queensland, as well as the legacy of debt left behind by years of Labor's incompetence and reckless spending.

The LNP members are all indebted to our Premier, Campbell Newman, for his herculean efforts and strong, decisive leadership which saw us win 78 seats in the Queensland parliament. My colleagues the honourable members for Clayfield and Callide are to be applauded for steering us along the tumultuous journey leading up to the state election. And let us not forget the formation of the LNP under the guidance of the honourable member for Southern Downs and the honourable member for Caloundra. We have much to thank them for.

However, it was our leader, Campbell Newman, and his family who were targeted incessantly, in a cowardly and callous manner that eventually disgusted even the most loyal of Labor voters. As they say, though, what goes around comes around. And the rest is now history. Like I said, Labor voters were appalled by this gutter campaign and were further disenchanted when Labor ran a candidate in Currumbin who lived in Brisbane and did not even bother to set foot in the electorate—not even on polling day.

Much has been said about the 2012 election being a dirty campaign—if not the dirtiest campaign in Queensland history. Well, I have seen a few in my time, and I can say that the dishing of dirt started well before the campaign proper. It was the normal behaviour of Labor in this House as they showed a complete lack of respect for the parliament and those of us on the opposition benches.

Elections require enormous amounts of human resources, and it is fitting that the scores of people who volunteered to assist in some way in the lead-up to and during polling day are adequately recognised and applauded for their significant efforts. Some of my new colleagues campaigned solidly for 18 months prior to the election, putting in marathon efforts which clearly contributed enormously to the outcome. Travelling around the state in my shadow ministerial role I got to know many candidates and saw firsthand the hard yards they were putting in. Now, here they are as honourable members of this parliament. And I am sure they will continue to put in the hard yards with renewed vigour as we get on with lowering the cost of living and making Queensland a powerhouse once again.

As the mentoring member for the seat of Burleigh I wish to acknowledge the hard work of Michael Hart and his team. Stumping up for a third tilt in a row takes a lot of persistence and, to Michael's credit, he kept working away on local issues for the betterment of his community.

I now wish to express my deep gratitude to the members of my campaign team and my branch, many of whom have been campaigning on my behalf for literally over a decade. Currumbin people are a vibrant and active group of people who are always ready to lend a hand. Thank you, one and all, for your friendship and belief in me as your member.

To salt-of-the-earth residents like Bill Garay, who gave up three weeks to man three poll booths, one of them a very quiet one that had maybe 10 votes a day: I say thank you. Countless others assisted with fundraising, hosting signage, feeding the troops on polling day and numerous related tasks. I am truly grateful to each one of them. To my fantastic campaign team—Richard Stuckey, Carley McNeil, Tim Gear, Peter Barrett, Ben Naday, Anne and Robert Wright, Virginia Freebody and Minna Knight: you are simply the best. I would also like to thank my hardworking electorate office staff, Robin Prior and Kadie Scott, for making sure constituents are respectfully and efficiently handled; and my former policy adviser Michael Read for his guidance and support. The team at LNP headquarters did a fantastic job over such a long period. I say well done to all concerned.

The support of family has featured in members' maiden and not-so-maiden speeches. I am no different and simply could not have managed without the love and sustenance of my husband, Richard. He has made many sacrifices over the years for me to realise this goal, and I am profoundly appreciative of his generosity of spirit. It was also very comforting to have both our children, Olivia and Edward, home for the election, to share in this historic and humbling victory.

As I said earlier in my speech, Currumbin is blessed with attributes. Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary is one of these. The LNP announced a pre-election pledge to a \$26.5 million koala protection policy, with some funds allocated towards koala rescue and rehabilitation services. I will continue to wholeheartedly support the sanctuary and the incredible efforts of the staff and volunteers at the wildlife hospital to gain a share of any available funding so they can continue their life-saving work.

Law and order remains an issue in the Currumbin electorate, with residents continuously contacting me with concerns about hooning, graffiti and general crime. Extra police numbers pledged by the LNP during the election are sorely needed. Already our Minister for Police has put 20 detectives into the Gold Coast at a cost of \$750,000, and at least 100 of the 1,100 new police promised by the LNP will be sent to the Gold Coast and Logan areas. Unlike Labor, the LNP is tough on crime.



In 2008 I started a Hoon Watch initiative to provide an avenue for the community to appropriately report incidents of hooning. Under the Newman government, the residents of Currumbin will finally see some action against these hoons with our plans to introduce the toughest hooning laws in Australia. Offenders will see their cars clamped and off the road for their first offence, and subsequent offences will see the cars forfeited or crushed. These laws will send a strong message to hoons that their activities will no longer be tolerated and will provide some peace of mind for the residents of Currumbin in their bid to make our streets safer.

The government also has followed through with its promise to continue funding the police helicopter for the Gold Coast. Our police minister, the honourable member for Bundaberg, announced that the chopper will be funded by the state government for 20 hours of flying time per week.

The Newman government has also shown its support for Neighbourhood Watch, a wonderful community initiative, by providing an extra \$1 million a year in funding to boost community policing initiatives. Currumbin has seven Neighbourhood Watch groups which will benefit from this commitment. These groups are so important in our community, and it is refreshing to note that we as the new government will ensure their presence can continue to be felt throughout Queensland.

The Currumbin electorate has suffered enormously under 20 years of Labor government, with cost-of-living pressures through the roof. Under the Newman government Currumbin will immediately begin to feel the ease in cost-of-living pressures, with the introduction of a number of LNP initiatives.

Ongoing issues surrounding the \$1.2 billion desalination plant in Tugun have caused enormous upheaval and unrest for residents in my electorate. The previous government was only too happy to pose for photo opportunities while this showpiece of the \$7 billion water grid was being built, but they failed to come near the site or the nearby residents who put up with all the dust, dirt, noise and disruption as the series of faults and failures unfolded.

The Labor government were experts at keeping residents in the dark about the operation and continual failures of the plant. Their excuses were not only creative; they were downright shifty. As I have said many times, the Tugun desal plant has had more episodes than *Days Of Our Lives* and twice as many heartaches. I recently visited the site with the Minister for Energy and Water Supply, the honourable member for Caloundra, to review the operation—or lack thereof—of this trouble prone facility which is currently costing taxpayers \$19 million every year to keep it operating in hot standby mode with twice weekly flush outs. I have a feeling there will be more episodes to come and I am very pleased the minister has shown an interest in the status of this plant.

I wish now to touch briefly on the portfolio that I am so proud to represent as a minister in this government—that is, Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. The Newman government recognises tourism as one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy. Under Labor, tourism languished through neglect. Jobs were lost and businesses went to the wall. Bringing these intrinsically linked agencies together provides a unique opportunity to maximise and reinvigorate our marketing and planning efforts to achieve our goal of returning Queensland to No. 1.


We will accomplish this in part through the revolutionary DestinationQ strategy—a genuine whole-of-government approach to tourism that will provide our industry with the support and focus it needs to reach its potential. In partnership with industry, we will work towards the goal of doubling overnight visitor expenditure to \$30 billion by 2020. An important component of the DestinationQ strategy is the tourism cabinet committee which has been established with ministers whose portfolios have wide-reaching effects on tourism. They are State Development, Infrastructure and Planning; Education, Training and Employment; Transport and Main Roads; and National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. Today members of the newly formed tourism backbench committee were determined, and the assistant minister, the honourable member for Cairns, will be chairing this committee so that all of Queensland will be able to contribute to our tourism industry's future.

Industry First Response is another revolutionary aspect of our DestinationQ strategy. Under this initiative, immediate steps will be taken to provide enhanced cooperative marketing opportunities, product development intelligence and trade events. As nine in 10 tourism businesses are small businesses, Industry First Response will be a useful tool to assist operators who have been doing it tough.

Our government understands small businesses. We know what makes them tick. So many LNP members of this parliament have small business backgrounds and know too well of the torture Labor have put them through with strangling red tape and regulations. Queensland has some 400,000 small businesses representing over 95 per cent of all businesses in this state. We need to get our small business sector back on track which is why the Newman government has committed to cutting red tape by 20 per cent over six years and to achieving four per cent unemployment over the same period. This is hugely positive news not only for Currumbin but for all of Queensland.

As a state the size of Queensland, we cannot underestimate the value that events bring to our economy and our regions. In 2011-12, major events had delivered an economic boost to Queensland estimated at \$290 million. The Queensland government supports an enormous portfolio of events in all corners of our great state and will be working even harder to ensure we can become the premier tourism and events destination.

With the Commonwealth Games coming to the Gold Coast in 2018, we will be looking to maximise employment opportunities in the region. The Commonwealth Games are not only a great international sporting event but an important marketing and branding tool for our great state. There is a lot of work to do to prepare our city, the Gold Coast, for the games which are expected to deliver a \$2 billion boost to our economy and create some 30,000 jobs. I have every confidence in the newly appointed Commonwealth Games Corporation Board to deliver this significant project on time and on budget and to leave behind a legacy the Gold Coast can be truly proud of. I look forward to championing the cause of tourism operators and small businesses through this exciting portfolio and continuing to serve the good people of Currumbin for the benefit of our community.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (8.54 pm): I start by also expressing my appreciation of Her Excellency the Governor for opening this the 54th Parliament of Queensland. I also acknowledge Mr Stuart McCosker. Her Excellency and Mr McCosker have been frequent visitors to the electorate of Glass House, and it was a pleasure to welcome them again as recently as Sunday to the Bankfoot House Open Day. I suspect in my new role as minister not only for the environment but also heritage and given Her Excellency's avid interest in heritage matters that our paths shall cross on numerous more occasions.

I also acknowledge our Premier. Premier, to you, to Lisa, to your daughters and to your extended families, thank you. You withstood the vilest of storms, carried yourselves with honour and dignity and drove with your usual verve and vigour our campaign to success and the LNP to government. Premier, I thank you for the honour and responsibility you have bestowed upon me in my appointment as the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Your leadership within the parliament in the lead-up to the election was exemplary, your friendship and advice priceless.

Three years ago I delivered my first speech—my first address-in-reply speech. At the time I was staggered that a former frustrated public servant had been humbly elected as the new LNP member for Glass House. I am still struggling to understand where those last three years have gone. As I grappled with the responsibility of representing a wonderful part of a wonderful state in this esteemed chamber, I spoke of how I wanted to approach this important position. I spoke about Sir Francis Nicklin, as many others have also done in their maiden speeches over the last couple of weeks. Sir Francis Nicklin hailed from my home town of Palmwoods. He was renowned, as the good member for Murrumba mentioned in his speech this evening, for his trustworthiness, honesty, resilience, conciliation, assertiveness and sternness. I knew I could do far worse than seek direction from the example left for me by Sir Nicklin.

Three years ago, I spoke about my Christian faith and spoke of the challenge that whoever wants to be great must become a servant. I also mentioned my university studies in geography and history as well as politics, but I did not mention I also studied Russian language and culture for four years. I remember—not necessarily with the fondest of memories—one particular subject on the Russian Intelligentsia. It was pretty tough going—

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr POWELL:** No, I am not a Communist, member for Mermaid Beach. I am sitting on the wrong side of the chamber for that. It was pretty tough going but I do recall reading some of the works of Leo Tolstoy. I need to declare—just in case the member for Mermaid Beach gets carried away again—that I do not share Tolstoy's eventual anarchistic predilections but Tolstoy did leave us some wise words of wisdom. It was Tolstoy who wrote—

Joy can be real only if people look upon their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.

I have chosen—and the people of Glass House have again afforded me the opportunity—to live a life of service. After three years in the role and with the prospect of serving in the Newman government for the next three years, I can assure everyone that Tolstoy was spot on. This job, this service, brings joy.

If I look at just some examples in my own electorate over the last three years of the joy that I have received because of the work and the outcomes we have been able to achieve in Glass House, members may get some sense of that joy. I will look at electorate-wide issues and focus perhaps on public transport. I stood up alongside other members on the Sunshine Coast when Sunshine Coast commuters were treated with absolute and utter disregard when a new timetable was promoted for the North Coast rail line.

I thank the member for Caloundra for his support and my fellow colleagues in this chamber. We stood up for the voices of Sunshine Coast commuters and, whilst not achieving all that we intended, helped get the then government to back down on its proposed timetable. Even more joyful is the fact that in electing an LNP government I know that Sunshine Coast commuters will not be facing 15 per cent fare increases year after year after year. This LNP government is committed to drive down the cost of living, and we are doing that for Sunshine Coast commuters by halving those fare increases each and every year.

If I focus on the townships in my electorate—and there are more than a dozen of them—we have had success at the township level as well. An early win was to get a fully funded and supervised pedestrian crossing for Elimbah State School. I acknowledge my comrade in arms—and do not get carried away again, member for Mermaid Beach—Councillor Adrian Raedel from the Moreton Bay Regional Council who, together with the P&C at Elimbah State School, fought the fight to ensure that we had a supervised crossing on Beerburrum Road outside Elimbah State School. For too long that school community had been fighting for that crossing. Too many times kids had been hit or nearly hit, and one final accident was one too many. With the assistance of the good council and the good councillor, we were able to achieve that outcome by pressuring the then state government to provide that.

I refer to the township of Conondale. All of us have experienced the heartache of the 2011 floods. I, like many others, continue to see the damage wreaked upon the electorate of Glass House. There are still four roads that are either fully closed or partially closed while they continue to be repaired. But for the community of Conondale, Grigor Bridge is such an intrinsic part of its infrastructure and its ability to get to the outside world. Every time it rained in 2010 or 2011 that nearly century-old bridge was damaged again and again and again. It was closed for weeks on end after each incident, causing people to have to travel more than 40 kilometres out of their way to get to places like Maleny—and I am talking kids trying to get to school. The government at the time in its wisdom believed that it was only a case of repairing the bridge instead of replacing it. I thank Major General Mick Slater for taking the time to visit Conondale and for helping me convince the former Labor government that it was time to replace this bridge, not repair it. The good news is that those works will start in the next couple of months.

At the personal level or the family level, I can think of examples where, through the work of my office and through my intervention, we have achieved outcomes for families and individuals in the electorate of Glass House. I think of Mat and Lisa Sherry, a fellow Palmwoods family who were the only family in their street whose property was not going to be resumed as part of the north coast rail duplication. They were going to be left isolated by that work. They were going to lose their dam that is the main water source for their horses. When Transport did the original study it looked at an air photo rather than testing it on the ground and therefore they were not to be bought out. We convinced the government to get out of George Street, go to Palmwoods and witness firsthand the fact that their property was going to be impacted just as much as their neighbours' properties. As a result, the Sherrys received fair compensation. The fantastic news is that they moved only within the township of Palmwoods itself and Mat and Lisa continue to be an intrinsic part of the Palmwoods Devils rugby league club. Joy in this job has also now come from my role in the environment portfolio, first as the shadow opposition spokesperson and now as the minister.

**Mr Cripps:** And what a tremendous minister you are as well.

**Mr POWELL:** Again, Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, you are getting a little carried away, but I take the interjection and I thank you for your kind words. I had wonderful pleasure in visiting many of the electorates now represented by LNP members in this House. It was a fantastic opportunity to see the best parts of the state—the environmental parts of this state.

**Mr Johnson:** Have you been out to Gregory yet?

**Mr POWELL:** Member for Gregory, I have not, but we are coming soon.

**Mr Johnson:** Because that's the rest of Queensland!

**Mr POWELL:** Yes, that is the rest of Queensland—the only third of Queensland I have not seen. I need to follow up with the member for Gregory to ensure that we get out there very soon.

**Mr Johnson:** It's the real part of Queensland.

**Mr POWELL:** So I am told, member for Gregory. Those visits allowed me to also develop the policies we needed to take to the election to convince Queensland that we stand for strong environmental protection but that we do so in a balanced and reasonable way. It is now my pleasure to be implementing many of those policies, whether it be to remove the waste levy, to work on the cape or to address many of the wildlife issues in our state, and I again thank the Premier for the opportunity in which to do that. We are very much about a balance in this portfolio. We are about putting science first, not politics.

**Mr Newman:** Hear, hear! It's not about Greens preferences, is it?

**Mr POWELL:** This is not and never will be about Greens preferences, and I take that interjection from the Premier. We will never make decisions on Green party political preferences. We will make decisions—the right decisions, the best decisions—for the environment based on the science. We will not sell out.

But let me return to Tolstoy. Joy can be real only if people look upon their life as a service and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness. Not only do I have joy through a life of service; I have a definite object in life outside of myself, and that is to be the best husband and father I can be. Fortunately, at a time where I could have taken my eye off that object, I have been reminded in a very real and in a very hard way that, as important as this new role as minister is, my family comes first. They are the source of my true happiness.

On that note, I again thank the Premier and Deputy Premier and my colleagues for their support through what has been the most challenging period of my life to date and to my many friends and family who through their prayers and support have strengthened me and my family. To my wife, Taryn, I do not know where to begin for fear I will not be able to stop. Thank you. Thank you for continuing to support me in this amazing adventure. Thank you for caring so diligently for our crazy young brood. Thank you for being forgiving and understanding. But thank you most of all for getting well again. In those dark hours of the past two months, my mind has taken me to a place I do not want to return to for a very, very long time. A future without you is no future at all.

To my kids Daniel, Erin, Brielle, Benjamin and Rohanna: boy, haven't we had some fun and adventure! Thank you for being the troopers you are. Dan and Erin, you stepped up when mum and dad needed you to. You have had to grow in wisdom and maturity far too fast. Keep having fun, big kids. We do not need to rush you anymore. Adolescence will come soon enough.

**Mr Elmes:** And don't you know it then!

**Mr POWELL:** Yes, won't I know it then! I take that interjection from the member for Noosa. Brielle, dad misses your hugs, beautiful girl. Benjamin, I'll be home soon to read you *A Dragon in a Wagon*. Rohanna, keep on being the little imp you are. Kids, I love each of you so very, very much; I just hope you have recovered from Sweden's win in Eurovision by the time I get home—crushing win, crushing win!

In the time left to me I need to thank team Glass House. Alaina, you have been with me since the 2009 election campaign. I hope you are with me for plenty more. You juggle the responsibilities of the electorate office with shadow portfolio responsibilities so effortlessly and efficiently. I know there is a new world for both of us now. Hang in there. Frangi, thanks for coming on board and holding the fort. There is no doubt you won over the people of Glass House and the environmental stakeholders with your bubbly and friendly persona. You are an asset to the team, girl, and I thank you. Johanna, we did it! You stepped up and helped out in a portfolio that potentially could not have been further removed from your strengths and experiences, but I think in hindsight that helped us, helped me and helped the LNP in the preparation of a strong suite of environmental policies. Congratulations on your new role. May the friendship and professional relationship long continue. To my campaign managers Joyce and Bob, where do I start? Joyce, I hope one of these days you are able to find a less taxing hobby, but in the meantime keep doing what you are doing. Bob, bad luck in your own election effort, mate. You put in a great attempt and should be very proud of what you have achieved for the Sunshine Coast hinterland. To my campaign treasurer Susannah, who had to grapple with the Labor imposed laws and regulations surrounding campaign finances, you set a benchmark that few electorates could match, and I thank you.

To Greg, Florence, Margaret, Stan, Bob, Peter, John, Cary, John, Kel, Gerry, Annette, Rod, Graham, David, and everyone else who helped in each of the four branches of Palmwoods, Maleny, Glass House-Beerwah, Wamuran-Woodford—and I must not forget the women's sections as well of Maleny and Glass House—you humble me with your efforts and your enthusiasm. To all of the election day workers, I thank them. To Bruce McIver, James McGrath, David Moore, Matt McEachan, Peter, Zoe, Paul, Mitch, Maddy, Danielle and so, so many others, we are here because of your efforts.

To my family, in particular my father, Steve, and my brother, Glenn, who manned the Forest Glen booth all day and to Jono, thanks for giving us a hand. You must be pretty stoked. You helped to bring in the new LNP member for Kallangur in your home town of Petrie in the morning and then turned up to help me in the afternoon and get your brother returned as well. To mum, thanks for being one of my biggest fans and to my sister Suzanne as well. Mum and dad, I am who you raised me to be and I hope I have made you proud.

I want to also put on the record my thanks to my new ministerial team. It is early days but I am excited by what I see. Finally, my greatest appreciation goes once again to the people of Glass House. It is they who have allowed me to discover real joy. It is they who I serve. As Tolstoy said—

Joy can only be real only if people look upon their life as a service, and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness.

All I can say is I am a pretty happy man.


**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

Debate, on motion of Mr Stevens, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (9.11 pm): I move—  
That the House do now adjourn.

### St Augustine's College

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (9.11 pm): Last Saturday I had the great pleasure of attending the third biennial St Augustine's College fete. St Augustine's College is a private college in my electorate located at Augustine Heights. It is a great school that has been in existence now for 10 years and in that time I have seen it grow and go from strength to strength. The school is developing a great reputation in the community for providing quality education. I am proud that over the years it was supported by our then Labor government that I was a part of to achieve that growth and meet the demands of a growing school community. I hope this association can continue for many more years to come with the students being the focus of the positive outcomes that working together can achieve.


The Worlds of Fun fete was a fantastic day for the school community and I wish to congratulate Greg Brown—a great bloke—the P&F president and his great team of volunteers for a very successful event. The parents, staff and students gave up countless hours over the past 12 months planning this biennial event. This year was the third fete held by the P&F and is its major fundraising event on the school's calendar. There were lots of rides for the kids, face painting, dodgem cars and the usual fare: great cake stalls and jams and preserves and also an international food court to keep people fed. There were cooking demonstrations, a bucking bull, sumo suits for wrestling, camel rides, an animal farm and other great activities to fit the theme of Worlds of Fun—and it indeed was worlds of fun!

I especially enjoyed the great performances from students at the fete and a sneak peak of the upcoming musical at the school *The Wiz*. I love seeing the students perform and think it does a great deal, on top of the academic stream of their education, in assisting them to become great citizens, confident and able to contribute to their community.

Other great entertainment on the day included a fashion show and a spectacular laser light show. All in all, it was a very successful event, with over 3,000 people in attendance and it raised approximately \$40,000 for the school. The funds raised will be put towards the school's project for a multipurpose court facility, which has been identified as a priority by the school community. The school has taken it upon itself to fund this great new facility.

As well as the great volunteers of St Augustine's College, I would also like to thank the local businesses that so strongly supported the fete, particularly Springfield Orthodontics and the other sponsors including Stocklands, Australand and New Hope Collieries as well as TrackStar Alliance, which is building the great new railway line through to Springfield. Like the many others who attended this fete, I cannot wait for the 2014 event to come along. I would particularly like to thank the grandmas who crocheted the rugs that were on sale. I bought one. It is not just an ordinary rug; to me it is a work of art that I will treasure forever.

### Ipswich Show

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (9.14 pm): On Friday, 18 May 2012, Ipswich celebrated the Ipswich Show holiday—a proud annual fixture on the Ipswich calendar. The Ipswich Agricultural and Horticultural Society was established on 14 March 1866. It then became the Queensland Pastoral and Agricultural Society on 28 August 1872 and it is now called the Ipswich Show Society. The first Ipswich Show was held on 13 May 1873. Many Ipswich locals will know the Ipswich showgrounds well. However, originally, the show was not held at that site. The first show in 1873 was held at a site in Churchill facing the Bremer River and was subsequently moved to its present site on Warwick Road in 1877.

The Ipswich Show Society is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to promote and encourage the development of pastoral, agricultural, horticultural and industrial interests in the Ipswich and West Moreton district of Queensland. The Ipswich Showgrounds is home to the annual show, various expos and events, horse shows, bird shows, greyhound racing and trialling, the Indoor Sports Centre—which in younger years I used to frequent—including indoor cricket, netball and soccer, wedding receptions, birthday parties, seminars and conferences, community group and club meetings and activities and the Showplace Markets.

I would like to thank the President of the Ipswich Show Society, Mrs Marcia Cruickshank, and all the dedicated members of the committee as well as all the volunteers who made the Ipswich Show a great success. The Ipswich Show Society is a great institution in Ipswich. Having the Premier of Queensland, the member for Ipswich West and I open the Ipswich Show demonstrates our government's commitment to the Ipswich Show Society and the people of Ipswich.

The fact that the Premier was there was like a breath of fresh air. It was absolutely amazing to see sponsors and small business operators go up and shake our Premier's hand. It was really an inspiring experience. It just seemed that from March things changed. There was an optimism. Quite frankly, I for one enjoyed the experience. The Premier saw my booth, which I held with the member for Ipswich West. It was just an absolute experience for all of us. I have not had so much fun since Savage Garden was there and I took my 13-year-old daughter, Hayley.


**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BERRY:** Yes, members, I know Savage Garden.

**An honourable member:** You saw Savage Garden?

**Mr BERRY:** Hold on, I did not actually see them; I heard them. I did not actually pay to get in, but that is another matter.

### Mackay, 150th Anniversary

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (9.17 pm): I wish to advise the House that this year marks the 150th anniversary of Mackay—once a sleepy, tiny settlement on the banks of the Pioneer River but nowadays one of the shining lights of the state and national economy. The 150th anniversary celebrates the establishment of Captain John Mackay's camp at Greenmount in January 1862—Greenmount being a landmark and historic local property 20 minutes by car south-west of Mackay in the state electorate of Mirani.

Mackay is home to a huge proportion of my constituents in the seat of Whitsunday. I can advise the House that the Mackay Regional Council has organised celebrations throughout the year, giving everyone in the Mackay region an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on what it means to live in this great North Queensland community—a community that has certainly come a long way since Captain John entered what is now the Pioneer Valley.


I for one could not help thinking of those pioneering days only last Sunday when I had the opportunity to return to Greenmount for the first time in 24 years—on this occasion for a heritage fair as part of the M150 celebrations being organised by the Mackay Regional Council in conjunction with community groups. The fair was extremely well supported, with plenty of familiar faces from Whitsunday coming along and a lot of them taking the opportunity to view the 97-year-old homestead that showcases the past.

To further celebrate Mackay's 150th anniversary, the Mackay Regional Council has called on two local historians to identify 10 unsung heroes and pay tribute to their contributions on Queensland Day, Wednesday, 5 June at a free community BBQ at the city's Bluewater Quay overlooking the magnificent blue Pioneer River.

I commend the Mackay Regional Council on its good work and leadership in promoting M150 and delivering these activities in relation to the anniversary, activities that are part and parcel of community engagement in a special community marking a special milestone. I might add also that the council has launched a program to commemorate our city's fallen soldiers with new street blades to be erected as part of Mackay's 150th anniversary celebrations.

While we look to the future, it is important that we reflect on the past and trailblazers such as Captain John Mackay and his party who left Uralla in the New England of New South Wales way back in 1860 in search of new country in the north. I encourage the good people of Mackay, in particular my constituents from the Pioneer to the O'Connell, to embrace the M150 celebrations during the course of 2012, a year in which Mackay should stand tall and proud.

### Dream It Up

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (9.20 pm): Hundreds of enthusiastic year 9 and 10 students converged on the Logan Entertainment Centre on Friday of last week, to enjoy what is now an annual event, Dream It Up, to be inspired, entertained, amused, uplifted and given a challenge to step outside of their comfort zone, strive for excellence, never give up and reach for the stars. Sixteen schools were represented and the entertainers and guest speakers held the students spellbound. Lewis, a great MC and entertainer, has amazing talents and instantly engages with his audience. Following the acknowledgement of the traditional owners by Aunty Betty McGrady, we enjoyed a wonderful rendition of the national anthem by the Woodridge High singers who then sang the Beatles song *Imagine* in their beautiful harmonies.


Having totally engaged the students, it was time to inspire. Stephen Dale, whose book has inspired thousands, related his personal story of his boyhood and then his 30-metre fall from a cliff where his body was completely shattered, splitting his head open. With serious spinal injuries his prognosis was grim. He was helicoptered out and it was thought he would die before morning. Following

a long period in a coma and eight months in hospital, he spent 10 years in rehab. He tells of his decision that through his pain he made a choice to live. His is a story of great courage and will have had a profound effect on many of those students.

The audience was then treated to the remarkable talents of MC Kitch whose feats with a microphone are legendary. He also shared some personal insights. It was then time to meet Natasha Zuvela, actor, TV presenter and winner of the No. 1 rating spot on MTV for three years in a row. Now a mother, Natasha spoke of her earlier life struggling with dyslexia, then her fear of public speaking—which is how she earns her living today. However, the big highlight for the students was her relating details of her dream job when she took over at Australia Zoo in the Crocoseum when Steve Irwin was tragically killed. She became a snake catcher and croc handler. But Natasha's earlier life was quite tragic: she was sexually molested as a child; spent five years with depression; was in an abusive relationship; and attempted suicide. She is now a published author—her book *The Crocodile Effect*—and has overcome her fears. Her message is that nothing happens inside your comfort zone, rise above challenges and be extraordinary.

Dream It Up was devised by Peter Forday, Greg Dodge and Bill Richards and attracts a huge number of volunteers, sponsors, exhibitors and many teachers who all make for a life-changing experience for these hundreds of young people. A big thank you to all.

### Townsville, Rotary Markets


 **Mr HATHAWAY** (Townsville—LNP) (9.23 pm): I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the Townsville Rotary Markets and their success in raising funds to establish local, state, national and international community projects. The Rotary Markets showcase is Cotters Markets, which are held every Sunday on the newly developed Flinders Street in the city. They also include the Townsville City Markets, Strand Night Markets and the Willows Rotary Markets. The Cotters Markets are very familiar to me as they played a significant role in my success at becoming the member for Townsville by giving me the ultimate environment for a one-on-one, face-to-face interaction with the community during my campaign. These markets offer the opportunity for local residents to promote and sell their products that show the true talent and pride in our local community. The success and atmosphere of these markets attracts stallholders and visitors from as far north as Cairns and the Tablelands, west to Charters Towers and south to Bowen.

The markets are a great community initiative and are attended by hundreds of thousands of people each year. An example of this is the Strand Markets, which can attract anywhere between 12,000 and 15,000 people. The Willows Markets are equally as popular with approximately 7,000 people attending each week. They also appeal to all groups and demographics and provide a wide range of entertainment, from local fruit and veg, pottery and local art and handmade jewellery to entertainment for the kids, jams and sweets and local talent to keep everyone entertained.

We Townsville folk are blessed with the best weather conditions suitable for these kinds of markets. There is nothing better than attending the Strand Markets on a Friday night with our beautiful beach and Magnetic Island as the backdrop to a great evening. On top of this, the markets are family friendly and you can even bring along the family dog. Families do not need to spend hundreds of dollars on a night out, they can simply come down and join in the atmosphere and enjoy the hustle and bustle and magic of the Strand Night Markets. It is where locals meet and play their role in being involved and welcomed into their community.

Each year Rotary contribute funds from these markets back to the community. In the last 12 months over \$70,000 has been donated, with 80 per cent of this funding contributing towards local projects, 13 per cent towards state projects and the remaining seven per cent towards international projects. An example of local projects includes contributions made to Palm Island Rodeo, a lounge for Townsville Hospital, PCYC prize donations, Foodbank and Blue Nurse care. These are only a few of the many donations that Rotary has made. They are quite popular and I understand there is about a 26-stall waiting list to get in at the moment. I think congratulations must go to Christine McKenzie, the market organiser, and her Rotarian supporters, and I hope they keep it up forever more.

### Captain Cook 1770 Festival


 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (9.26 pm): I rise to share with the House the activities of the Discovery Coast region in facilitating the Captain Cook 1770 Festival. The festival has been an annual event for 20 years commemorating the visit of the *Endeavour* and the landing of Lieutenant James Cook and his party on 24 May at the Town of 1770, as it is known today. This was the first landing for Cook and his crew in Queensland. So truly, members here tonight, we claim the birthplace of Queensland, and others will have a fight to take it off me. The festival has won the 2006, 2007 and 2008 Zonal Tourism Awards for the most significant event. In 2009 the festival was also inducted into the Tourism Hall of Fame for the Rockhampton, Gladstone and Bundaberg tourism regional area.

Saturday is the main festival day with live entertainment throughout the day. A special feature of the evening is a spectacular 20-minute fireworks display showering over the bay. While the festival concentrates on the fun aspect, the festival committee is aware of the fact that many Queenslanders have no knowledge of the historical significance of Cook's landing at 1770. The committee wishes to promote and educate visitors of the Indigenous history of the area. The Gooreng Gooreng people are the traditional owners and on the morning of the main festival activities the Gooreng Gooreng dancers, lead by Merv Johnson and his nephews, explain the dreamtime stories of the area and perform traditional dances to the sound of didgeridoos. There is also a re-enactment of Cook's landing with professional actors in period costumes.

The Captain Cook 1770 Festival is well on the way to being a major event on Queensland's tourism calendar. Last week I was honoured as the new member for the Burnett electorate to be asked to participate and officially open the annual Captain Cook 1770 Festival. I am proud to represent the Discovery Coast region that puts so much effort into organising and upholding the remembrance of such a significant day in the history of Queensland and Australia.

The festival is of particular interest as the organisers have structured it to include the entire community in the street parade. Participants and visitors can enjoy many associated events in the lead-up to the festival, including a spectacular art and quilting show, the beer brewing competition and the Captain Cook 1770 Festival Damper Making Competition, in recognition and celebration of Mavis Row, who was well known locally for her delicious dampers and her community work. There have been significant changes to the area since the landing of Captain James Cook in Bustard Bay, but the area has maintained its unique beauty. The Discovery Coast region needs events like the Captain Cook 1770 Festival. After a day of rain, we were all thankful for the fine day that presented last Saturday. The reality is that in this part of the Burnett rain can and does cause significant economic hardship. I thank the Discovery Coast Committee.

### Mitchell Luder


 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (9.29 pm): In our line of work, many of us have the privilege of meeting people in our communities who are compassionate and caring. My electorate has held a number of fundraisers—as I am sure many electorates have—such as the Million Paws Walk and the Little Mater Miracles walk, which were held last weekend and the previous weekend. Last weekend we had the Old Station Fly In. For many years our previous mayor, George Creed, his wife, Leonie, and their children have fundraised for the Royal Flying Doctor Service. Whilst the rain and the chilly weather may have put some people off, I am sure it increased the sale of rum.

The Luder family of my electorate have a son called Mitchell, who has a very serious cancer for which he is receiving treatment. He is a very brave young boy. A friend of the family, Christine Lew, started an auction for Mitchell, who is a Pokemon fiend. He loves Pokemon. It is his wish to go to Japan and see where the Pokemons are made. However, the Make-a-Wish Foundation was not able to help. In order to achieve the goal, Christine and Mitchell's grandmother Marian started the auction online. It took place last week and the week before. They have raised over \$8,000. They hope to raise \$10,000 in order to take Mitchell to Japan.

The prospect of that wish has kept Mitchell going through his chemo and through his radiation treatment. I put on the record my thanks to Christine, Marian and all of those who helped with formulating and getting the auction ready, collecting donations, delivering prizes that had been purchased—I have a couple; I have a very nice CocaCola clock—all of the minutia that makes for a successful fundraiser.

We all wish Mitchell a speedy recovery. We wish that once his radiation is finished he has the opportunity to take that trip to Japan and it inspires and encourages him. We want his mum, dad and family to know that people in Gladstone and environs care, although it was not just people from the Gladstone area who were involved. The bloke who beat me to a holiday lives in South Australia. That is just wrong! We want Mitchell's family to be encouraged and to know that people care and are prepared to support them financially, emotionally and in any way possible to see this young man achieve his dream to see where the Pokemons are made and to achieve his dream to be well.

### Great Keppel Island

 **Mr YOUNG** (Keppel—LNP) (9.32 pm): Great Keppel Island lies 15 kilometres off the coast at Yeppoon in Central Queensland. The island is the largest of the 18 islands in the Keppel group and covers an area of more than 14 square kilometres. The island was named in 1770 by Captain James Cook after the then First Lord of the *Admiralty*, Admiral Augustus Keppel. Prior to European settlement, the island was home to the Woppaburra people of the Darumbal nation.




The tropical climate and 17 white sandy beaches makes Great Keppel Island an ideal place for the enjoyment of locals and tourists alike. Currently, the island is serviced by ferries and aircraft. The coral reefs around Great Keppel Island match those of the Whitsundays, with clear water for most of the year making it our jewel in the crown.

Great Keppel Island once boasted a resort owed by Contiki, which was dedicated to making it a backpacker's island. We all can attest to the 'get wrecked on Great Keppel' slogan. Some years ago the island was taken over by the privately owned Australian company, Tower Holdings, which closed the facility after only two years. Tower Holdings unveiled a \$1.15 billion revitalisation plan for the island, which includes a 300-room resort hotel, 300 apartments, 1,700 villas, a large marina and ferry terminal, a championship golf course and a cultural centre.

The plan includes 550 hectares of environmental parkland on lot 21, which is currently public land for recreation purposes. This land has already been recommended for a conservation park by the former department of environment and resource management. This has been a very contentious issue for all concerned. The situation now finds local residents divided between those who support the redevelopment and those who are opposed to it. The proposal is about to go to the environmental impact statement stage.

The closure of the resort has had an enormous economic impact on the Capricorn Coast, with tourism investment in the region coming to somewhat of a standstill. Our once thriving community is struggling with the loss of island employment, island retailers, supply firms and flow-on effects to tourism generally. Once Great Keppel Island is fully operational, we could see up to 1,000 full-time, part-time and casual jobs generated. The flow-on effects for privately funded infrastructure and industries, including transport barges and maintenance, would be invaluable to this region. We need work out a way to move forward with the development of the resort without compromising our wonderful environment and come up with a result that pleases both parties.

### Vincent, Storm Damage

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government) (9.35 pm): In the early hours of Tuesday, 20 March this year, the people of Vincent and surrounds suffered a severe storm that cut a swathe through the city. Winds up to 140 kilometres per hour destroyed 10 houses and damaged 107. Roads were closed by felled trees and power lines, businesses were left with no roofs or electricity, and schools, the local child-care centre and the library were forced to shut as crews swung into action to start urgent repairs.


The usual heroes—the police, firefighters and other emergency services staff, as well as SES volunteers, Townsville City Council work crews, the Australian Army and many other community minded volunteers and groups such as the Townsville Lions Club and the Salvation Army—started their work quickly. They are no strangers to swinging into action, as they have done just that many times in the past to look after those left vulnerable by the might of Mother Nature. The Voluntary Community Recovery Co-ordination Group was instrumental in coordinating the recovery efforts, along with the Townsville City Council Emergency Management Team.

I also mention the big hearted individuals from throughout the north who came to the aid of those less fortunate. Yet again, the men and women of North Queensland rescued and comforted each other. In the clean-up, 722 tonnes of materials were collected, including 11 tonnes of demolition waste and 681 tonnes of green waste. What happened to Vincent on 20 March and in the recovery efforts afterwards is a story of northern bravery, hard work and humour. We have had a lot of opportunity to practice those qualities and I think we have just about perfected them.

While I could tell hundreds of stories of heartbreak and near misses, I want to place on record a few of the ones I witnessed firsthand, as Councillors Ray Gartrell and Tony Parsons and I went through the area helping storm victims. I mention people such as my close friends the Parkes, whose mechanical business was torn to shreds; and the Centrals football club, which, under the leadership of Quentin Kersh, immediately began quarantining an unsafe building.

However, it was people's homes that truly revealed the extent of the damage and the true grit of the North Queensland spirit. Despite his own house suffering irreparable damage, Doug Sale could only think of his beloved wife, Anne, who was in hospital and whether or not he could cook the barbecue at the Vincent State School at the weekend's election. Peggy Brazel's magnificent lawn was covered in branches and her neighbours came to help. David and Rachele Preston are young homeowners who, despite copping a battering, were worried for the welfare of their elderly neighbour, Les Jackson. As an example of just how severe this storm was, a fibreglass pool from a business over 500 metres away ended up on their front lawn. Warren Losberg and Robert Jang watched as years of blood, sweat and tears spent planting trees on the council parkland in front of their house was blown away. They will bounce back, as will Tim and Kym Jolly, whose pride and joy, their back deck, was swamped. This tragedy affected the North Queensland community, but our spirit is strong and the community is rebuilding.

### Dutton Park, Mobile Phone Tower

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (9.38 pm): The suburb of Dutton Park, located in my electorate of South Brisbane, is a unique community, boasting its own distinctive character with fantastic local schools, shops and parks. Dutton Park is also a community that rallies together. This community spirit was on show last week when locals discovered that Optus plans to build a mobile phone tower on top of state government property at 228 Gladstone Road. The proposed tower looms six metres above the current building, which is located directly across the road from St Ita's Primary School.

At a community meeting last Saturday many local residents gathered on the street to raise concerns and questions. Locals were asking why residents, the St Ita's school community and occupants of the department of housing building had not been properly consulted or advised. Parents wanted to know what health effects a phone tower of such intensity would have on their family and kids at St Ita's and why information available to them so far had proven to be misleading and inconsistent.

These are all important questions and I want to assure the local community that I will continue to work with them to ensure their concerns are heard. However, as the landowner of the proposed site, it is the Newman government who must ultimately provide answers to these questions.

While the Minister for Housing is busy building extravagant riverside monuments for himself and Campbell Newman, public housing tenants are having massive phone towers installed on top of their homes. The approval of this tower will have an enormous impact on the wider Dutton Park neighbourhood, with a large structure looming over their local skyline, not to mention the untold health effects of the electromagnetic radiation on local families, particularly primary school children less than 150 metres as way.

I call on the minister to assure local families and residents that their health will not suffer as a result of this unthinking decision. I can only hope that the Minister for Housing will show more dignity, grace and humility than the Minister for Transport, who last week demolished a 100-year-old footbridge in Dutton Park despite pleas from local families to maintain the structure.

The recent experiences of Dutton Park residents clearly show that after only two months in government Premier Newman and the LNP government have stopped listening to local communities and stopped acting in their interests.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.41 pm.

### ATTENDANCE

Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Byrne, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Cunningham, Davies, C. Davis, T. Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Douglas, Dowling, Driscoll, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Hopper, Johnson, Judge, Katter, Kaye, Kempton, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mulherin, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Powell, Pucci, Rickuss, Rice, Robinson, Ruthenberg, Scott, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trad, Trout, Walker, Watts, Wellington, Woodforth, Young

