



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hansard Home Page: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/hansard>
 E-mail: hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au
 Phone (07) 3406 7314 Fax (07) 3210 0182

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 8 August 2013

Subject	Page
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	2493
Overseas Trade Mission	2493
Ekka	2493
Open Government Policy Forum.....	2494
State Finances.....	2495
Emergency Services, Resources	2495
Gold Coast Commonwealth Games	2496
Homeless Persons Week.....	2497
Apprenticeships and Traineeships	2497
Get in the Game.....	2498
NOTICE OF MOTION	2499
Queensland Health, Payroll System.....	2499
MOTION	2499
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders	2499
EDUCATION AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE	2499
Reports	2499
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 18—Subordinate legislation tabled between 6 March 2013 and 5 August 2013.	2500
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 19—Review of Auditor-General's Report 11: 2012-13 Results of audit: Education sector entities 2012.	2500
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 20—Education and Care Services Bill 2013.	2500

Table of Contents – Thursday, 8 August 2013

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE.....	2500
Report and Submissions	2500
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 31—Treasury and Trade and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013.	2500
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 31—Treasury and Trade and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013, submissions 1 to 4 received in relation to the inquiry.	2500
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT.....	2500
School Group Tours.....	2500
NOTICE OF MOTION	2500
Disallowance of Statutory Instrument.....	2500
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	2500
Gold Coast, Events.....	2500
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games.....	2501
Papua New Guinea, Border Protection	2502
Dawe, Mr G.....	2503
Beattie Labor Government.....	2504
Arrow Energy.....	2505
Beattie Labor Government.....	2506
Queensland Rail	2506
Beattie Labor Government.....	2507
Beattie Labor Government.....	2508
Queensland Rail	2508
Environmental Impact Statements	2509
Beattie Labor Government.....	2510
Royal Children's Hospital, Acting Director of Oral Health.....	2510
MOTION	2511
Queensland Health, Payroll System.....	2511
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Health and Community Services Committee 2013 estimates pre-hearing question on notice No. 6.	2514
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950, current as at 1 July 2013.	2516
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Email, dated 7 August 2013, from Dr Stephen Withers to members of parliament regarding the Gold Coast Hospital.	2518
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.	2522
Resolved in the negative.	2522
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.	2523
Resolved in the affirmative.	2523
QUEENSLAND INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL BILL	2523
Second Reading	2523
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 13 April 2012, to the Premier, Hon. Campbell Newman, from the Clerk of the Parliament regarding the administration of salaries of members of the Legislative Assembly.	2524
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract of Parliamentary Members' Salaries Act 1988 (Qld).	2524
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Premier's briefing note, dated 22 August 2012, regarding salary and allowances increase for members of the Queensland Parliament in 2012.	2524
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media release, dated 1 July 2013, from the Acting Premier, the Hon. Jeff Seeney, titled 'Government will resist back pay claims'	2524
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Page 795 of Queensland Government Gazette No. 53, 5 July 2013.	2525
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Transcript of 612ABC Brisbane interview of 9 July 2013 at 8.34 am.	2525
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Transcript of 612ABC Brisbane interview of 9 July 2013 at 8.37 am.	2525
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document titled 'Comments by Newman Government regarding MP pay rises, 9 July 2013, ABC'.	2525
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Memorandum, dated 28 June 2013, from the Acting Crown Solicitor to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, regarding advice in relation to salary rates for state members of the Legislative Assembly.	2527
IDENTIFICATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL	2531
Introduction	2531
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Identification Laws Amendment Bill 2013.	2531
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Identification Laws Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes.....	2531
First Reading	2532
Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.....	2532
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....	2532
John Eales Rugby Scholarship	2532
Dennis, Mr J; Byrne, Mr A; Cooly Rocks On; Surf Lifesaving	2533
Cleveland Electorate, Transport.....	2534
Balmoral State High School.....	2534
Rudd, Mr K.....	2535
Electricity Prices	2536
Morayfield Electorate, Queensland Plan.....	2536
Will Kits; Resumes	2537
Cairns Electorate, Homes with Books Project.....	2538
Noosa Hospital	2538
Charlton State School; Wyreema State School; Toowoomba South State School	2539
Queensland Plan; McCulloch, Mr B.....	2540

Table of Contents – Thursday, 8 August 2013

Nurses.....	2540
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Non-conforming petition in relation to privatisation of public hospitals.	2541
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Nurses Union booklet titled 'Hands off our public health services!'.	2541
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Nurses Union booklet titled 'The Newman Government supports privatising our public hospitals'.	2541
Albert Electorate, Schools.....	2541
Nanango Electorate.....	2541
Lockyer Electorate, Roads	2542
Townsville Electorate, Health and Fitness	2543
Coorparoo, Transit Oriented Development.....	2543
Emergency Volunteers	2544
Lamb, Reverend A.....	2545
Cameby Downs Mine	2545
Bowen Lions and Lions Ladies Club	2546
Moggill Electorate, Country Women's Association	2546
Men of League	2547
Tertiary Education, Financial Assistance	2547
Batterby, Mr J and Mrs A	2548
Stretton Electorate, Festivals	2548
Police Service; Neighbourhood Watch	2549
Homeless Persons Week.....	2550
QUEENSLAND INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL BILL	2550
Second Reading	2550
Consideration in Detail	2557
Clauses 1 to 9, as read, agreed to.	2557
Clause 10, as read, agreed to.....	2557
Clauses 11 to 29, as read, agreed to.	2557
Clause 30—.....	2557
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal Bill 2013, explanatory notes to Ms Palaszczuk's amendments.	2557
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.	2559
Resolved in the negative.	2559
Non-government amendment (Ms Palaszczuk) negated.	2559
Division: Question put—That the amendments be agreed to.	2560
Resolved in the negative.	2560
Non-government amendment (Mr Katter) negated.	2560
Clause 30, as read, agreed to.....	2560
Clauses 31 to 41, as read, agreed to.	2560
Insertion of new clause—	2560
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.	2561
Resolved in the negative.	2561
Non-government amendment (Ms Palaszczuk) negated.	2561
Clauses 42 to 112, as read, agreed to.	2561
Third Reading.....	2561
Long Title.....	2561
PRIVILEGE	2561
Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of a Committee and the House by a Minister	2561
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence regarding an alleged deliberate misleading of the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee and the House by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads.	2561
PRIVILEGE	2562
Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee.....	2562
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	2562
ADJOURNMENT	2562
Park2Park; Greater Springfield Run for Life.....	2562
Bastille Day; Buy Locally Saturday.....	2563
Gaven Electorate.....	2563
USS George Washington; Rochedale Rovers	2564
Ipswich West Electorate	2565
Burrum Coalfest.....	2565
Gladstone Electorate	2566
Mount Ommaney Electorate	2566
Feral Cats.....	2567
Nutrition.....	2567
ATTENDANCE	2568

THURSDAY, 8 AUGUST 2013

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Overseas Trade Mission



Hon. CKT NEWMAN (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.31 am): I am happy to report to the House about the productive trade mission I led to New Zealand between 28 July and 2 August 2013. The mission was a tremendous exercise in building stronger ties between New Zealand, the Queensland government and the Queensland business community. Members may be interested to know that this mission was the result of a direct invitation from the New Zealand Prime Minister, the Rt Hon. John Key MP, a reflection of the enthusiasm that our closest neighbour has for doing business with Queensland.

The business delegation that accompanied me comprised a cross-section of Queensland's leading companies and organisations, representing sectors such as infrastructure and construction, property development, design, education, project management, information technology, surveying and engineering services. Our trip included site visits, meetings and briefings covering a range of sectors, including health, transport, tourism, agribusiness, construction and higher education—all areas in which Queensland excels.

A real highlight of the trip was my signing, along with New Zealand health minister Tony Ryall, an agreement to drive cooperation in health planning between the Queensland and New Zealand health systems. This important agreement will advance health regimes on both sides of the Tasman and will include exchanges of information and strategies related to: procurement and implementation, including IT and management technologies; health technology assessment; integrated models of healthcare delivery; rural healthcare delivery and telehealth initiatives; business transformation and change management; health promotion, prevention and health care including for Indigenous populations; quality and effectiveness of services; and effective use of financial and human resources. This agreement will increase contact between our health systems, with annual reports provided to ministers in both governments.

I can also report that I had the opportunity to tour the rebuild zone in Christchurch. Witnessing the devastation caused by the earthquake was a truly humbling experience. The total reconstruction bill is likely to exceed NZ\$40 billion, or A\$35.5 billion, and what they need right now is businesses outside New Zealand to support them in their reconstruction efforts. While touring the rebuild zone, I was told by Ms Sheila McBreen-Kerr, Manager of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority's Invest Christchurch division, that Queensland's infrastructure development companies should start exploring ways in which they may be able to help. This is a great opportunity for Queensland businesses, many of whom are experienced with disaster reconstruction, to pitch in and lend a hand to our friends across the Tasman. Such exchanges of knowledge will help Queensland and New Zealand prosper into the future, and I thank Prime Minister Key for this unique opportunity.

Ekka



Hon. CKT NEWMAN (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.34 am): It is show time, and I am again looking forward to attending the Ekka this year—and so is Lisa Newman. The Ekka opened its gates this morning and will run for the next 10 days, until Saturday week, 17 August. It will be great to see all the visitors and families from right across our state enjoying the traditions of this wonderful event. Furthermore, as is the tradition, I look forward to attending the Royal National Association's annual cabinet dinner this evening, and the RNA will also be hosting the ministry for a cabinet meeting this coming Monday, 12 August. As part of the Ekka, the Queensland government will also occupy a precinct within the grounds over the 10 days.

This year the theme of the government precinct is 'Great State, Great Opportunity', and it will give patrons the chance to take part in an active discussion on the Queensland Plan. Children and adults alike will be able to have their say through various activities including recording their vision for Queensland in the time machine video booth. Showgoers will also be able to find out more about government services and programs, from learning how to keep your car safe, to building, buying or renovating your home and our Great Start grant. There will be plenty of information available about our tourism, agriculture, mining and construction industries and how they are helping us grow our four-pillar economy. People will even be able to decipher their energy and water bills by learning how they are calculated. There is plenty to keep the kids happy as well, with a six-metre climbing wall, Lego building display and a photo booth where visitors can 'try on a different career'.

I encourage all Queenslanders to come and visit their government at the Ekka, our state's largest annual event. Last year, the Ekka attracted more than 400,000 visitors and it looks set to attract huge crowds again over the next 10 days. Ekka week is a very special time of year for Queensland, and the Queensland government is proud of its long-standing involvement with the show. From the food, fresh produce, animals and competitions, to the rides and show bags, the Ekka is an important event in our state's calendar and a wonderful opportunity for families and friends to enjoy the best of Queensland.

Open Government Policy Forum

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.36 am): On 16 July, during estimates hearings, I announced we would take the next step in making this government the most open and transparent in the nation through an open government reform process. Integrity and accountability are the cornerstones of creating an open government.

Since the Fitzgerald inquiry in the 1980s, there has been a continual evolution of Queensland's integrity and accountability framework and this government believes it is time to take stock of, and improve, our integrity systems and mechanisms. Our integrity system has become a complex maze of different bodies, rules and regulations which is increasingly difficult to understand. The proliferation of integrity bodies and the confusion this creates was noted by the Hon. Ian Callinan and Professor Nicholas Aroney when they conducted their recent review of the Crime and Misconduct Act 2001. Clearly, we need an integrity framework that is both workable and sensible.

The government's first step in fixing the mess is our Open Government Policy Forum being held next Tuesday, 13 August, here at Parliament House. I am very pleased that Professor Peter Coaldrake, the Vice-Chancellor of QUT, has agreed to chair the forum. Representatives of advocacy organisations, the private and non-government sectors, the media, opinion leaders and academics have been invited to attend. The public will also be able to take part through an internet broadcast, and a transcript of proceedings will be published on the government's website.

We want to hear about what we can do to keep government honest and accountable as we move forward with public sector renewal. This includes ideas about making our integrity system simpler, more accessible, robust and effective. We are also releasing a series of issues papers and a short survey on our integrity and accountability framework to help stimulate public discussion on these issues. I encourage all Queenslanders to visit the open government web page on the government gateway at www.qld.gov.au, to read the papers and have their say about our integrity and accountability framework.

We have already taken significant steps towards becoming the most honest, accessible and accountable government in Australia through our open data revolution and the publication of ministerial diaries. It is a pity that the opposition will not release theirs. We have released around 350 public data sets through data.qld.gov.au, and we are inviting open data enthusiasts to join us on 31 August for a free Open Data Mixer to discuss real-life issues government is experiencing that need innovative data solutions. These solutions can be entered into the Premier's Awards for Open Data in which \$5,000 will be awarded to winners in four categories.

The LNP government is all about transparency and accountability, and I look forward to reforming the system to make sure Queensland's integrity and accountability framework is as strong and effective as it can possibly be.

State Finances

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): The Newman government has always been open and honest with the people of Queensland about the challenges that this state faces. The fiscal challenges facing the state are well known and are accepted by a range of sources, including Queensland Treasury, the independent Commission of Audit and, of course, the Queensland Auditor-General. Significant fiscal repair efforts have been required to reduce Labor's projected debt from \$85.4 billion to \$80.1 billion in 2014-15, and that hard work continues.

We will always welcome open and honest debate about our positive plans for the future, knowing, as we do, that the state opposition has no plans for Queensland. The same, however, cannot be said of the Rudd Labor government. They have a plan, and it is simply a plan to tax, tax, tax. While the federal coalition is committed to scrapping the carbon tax and the mineral resources rent tax, the federal Labor government has introduced or increased 43 new taxes since taking office. While the coalition is promising to deliver a company tax cut of 1.5 per cent, in the last month alone Labor has introduced: a \$5.3 billion increase in tobacco excise; a \$733 million levy on Australian bank accounts; a \$533 million increase to visa application charges; a raid on Australian superannuation; and a \$1.8 billion hit on the car industry through the abolition of the car statutory rate for fringe benefits tax. All of this is from a party whose leader continues to claim—somewhat unrealistically—to be a fiscal conservative. He is not even up-front with his tax hikes and instead presents them in his budget documents and public statements as savings. In addition to taking a meat axe to the Public Service, Kevin Rudd has taken a meat axe to the Australian taxpayers.

In keeping with our commitment to lower the cost of living, the Newman government made the tough decisions necessary to repair the state's finances primarily by getting our own house in order. We are doing the heavy lifting on the expenditure side of the ledger by putting an end to Labor's waste, not by finding 'savings'—which are really higher taxes—as Labor would have. So whilst we are honest about what is needed, Kevin Rudd and Labor continue to peddle mistruths about what the Newman government is doing here in Queensland. Federal Labor has been quick to point to the fiscal repair taking place in Queensland as proof of so-called cuts, but an analysis of the budgetary positions of both the Queensland and Commonwealth governments actually reveals that the federal Labor's planned fiscal consolidation is in fact larger than the LNP's here in Queensland.

Using their own estimates, in the four years from 2012-13 to 2015-16 federal Labor's forecast consolidation totals almost \$48 billion, or 0.7 per cent of gross domestic product—much larger than any fiscal consolidation by the Queensland government. Contrary to Labor's claims, we are continuing to spend in the right places. In 2013-14 we increased health funding by 4.5 per cent to a record \$12 billion, and we increased education spending by 6.5 per cent. Labor cut funding to health and education late last year, and as recently as last week in their midyear budget update they cut further funding for vocational training.

Labor is attempting to hide the size of this consolidation by delaying the majority of the repair work to the out years. Put simply, federal Labor are hypocrites. Kevin Rudd is a dud! Their reckless economic management is negatively impacting on Australia's bottom line, business confidence and, subsequently, the economy. On 7 September, how can Australians trust the very same government which created the black hole to fix it? Australia deserves a grown-up government that is up front and accountable; a government which does what it says, and that is what the LNP is offering.

Emergency Services, Resources

 **Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police and Community Safety) (9.43 am): This state government is committed to ensuring that Queensland has the best emergency services to help keep Queenslanders safe and secure. As part of that commitment, today I have the pleasure of informing the House about some of the many resources we have recently acquired to assist our hard-working police officers and SES volunteers.

Today I am announcing that a Queensland company has been awarded the contract for three state-of-the-art police catamarans. Aluminium Boats Australia submitted an impressive tender application for new vessels for Cairns, Townsville and the Whitsundays. The class 1 catamarans will allow police to perform extended long-range patrols as well as search and rescue operations. Each of these vessels is worth approximately \$4.2 million. This will be a significant boost for the Queensland

police and the local company. This partnership will create more local jobs for Queenslanders, workers and trainers, and it will boost Queensland's economy. Aluminium Boats Australia has a terrific track record and have recently completed some significant projects such as a number of high-speed ferries for the Gladstone LNG project.

I am also pleased to say that just last week we delivered two new flood boats for the SES units in Cooroy and Pomona. These boats together are worth more than \$80,000 and will support the entire Sunshine Coast north unit, which is comprised of six SES groups at Cooroy, Tewantin, Pomona, Boreen Point, Coolumb and Nambour. This LNP government is focused on ensuring that our volunteers are supported in the important and sometimes dangerous work that they do in keeping Queensland communities safe. We will also be delivering a total of 27 new and replacement flood boats this financial year.

Emergency resources have not only received an upgrade on the water, but also in the air. Yesterday the Premier and I had the pleasure of inspecting the replacement police helicopter for the Gold Coast region. Unlike the previous helicopter, for the first time in police history we will have a fully badged police helicopter which will boost public confidence and send a clear message to people who break the law: 'We have an eye in the sky and we are watching you! We will catch you!' The helicopter has been fitted out with state-of-the-art technology, including forward-looking infrared cameras and illumination equipment. It also features a Power Sonix twin-speaker public address system which includes a siren. This system projects extremely clear siren or speech sounds over the noise of engines, rotary and other conditions. Messages can clearly be communicated from approximately 1,000 feet in the air. All of these innovations make this one of the most advanced helicopters of its kind in Australia.

The replacement helicopter, the new catamarans and the new flood boats ensure that Queensland's emergency services have a strong presence in the air and on the water, not just the beats on the ground. It is part of this government's pledge to ensure that our police and emergency services have the best and most up-to-date equipment available to them. This is certainly a great state with great opportunities, and this equipment will make it an even safer state.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games



Hon. JA STUCKEY (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (9.46 am): I rise today to address allegations raised in the media regarding negotiations between this government and the Gold Coast City Council over financial commitments to the Gold Coast's 2018 Commonwealth Games. It is disappointing that any conversation regarding the Gold Coast and the Commonwealth Games may have been misinterpreted. I reject the claim that threats were made in regard to this or any other issue.

This government's commitment to the Commonwealth Games and the Gold Coast is crystal clear. Last month this government announced the renewal of the Gold Coast 600 for another three years. In the 2013-14 state budget this government committed \$41.4 million to progress the planning and development of the Commonwealth Games village. We also allocated \$33.3 million towards the redevelopment of the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre. I make no apologies for being a tough negotiator when seeking the best return for taxpayers' dollars. The negotiations between the state government and the Gold Coast City Council have been frequent, vigorous and robust.

The state government is contributing \$2 billion towards the cost of hosting the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. We are asking the Gold Coast City Council to put in \$100 million. It needs to pay its fair share. The Gold Coast City Council has a budget of \$1.1 billion, and what they are being asked to contribute is less than two per cent of their annual budget.

Dr Douglas: From ratepayers!

Mrs STUCKEY: In return, the council and their residents—

Madam SPEAKER: I will stop the clock. Member for Gaven, I warn you under the standing orders if you keep interjecting.

Mrs STUCKEY: The Gold Coast City Council has a budget of \$1.1 billion. What they have been asked to contribute is less than two per cent of their annual budget. In return, the council and their residents will receive a lasting legacy of world-class facilities.

My focus has been, and will continue to be, about delivering the best Games yet with a lasting, positive legacy of which we can all be proud. We make no bones about the fact that we are funding the Commonwealth Games so that it will be a resounding success. The state's ongoing investment in major events on the Gold Coast is well and truly on the record, and all we are asking is that the Gold Coast City Council contributes their fair portion of these significant costs.

This track record of delivery is proof that the allegations raised are clearly not correct. This government is delivering for the Gold Coast.

Homeless Persons Week

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (9.49 am): This week is Homeless Persons Week. The theme of this year's events is 'The Hidden Homeless'. Understandably, most of us think of homeless people as those who are living on the streets or sleeping rough, as it is known. But while those people may be the most visible, they account for only a small percentage of the overall homeless population. When we think of homelessness we often forget about the young people who are being forced to rely on the goodwill of their friends or family to put them up, or the younger families who are living out of their cars, or the kids who are forced to live in severely overcrowded homes just to have a roof over their head.

Fixing this problem is something governments of all stripes have spoken about for years. Kevin Rudd famously made homelessness a priority in the early days of his first stint as Prime Minister. How tragic is it that his government now point-blank refuses to commit to a long-term funding agreement that might help achieve our goals? Despite the repeated urging from state governments and from the sector, the federal Labor government has refused to sign up to any funding agreement beyond the middle of next year. Fair suck of the sauce bottle, Kevin! This is an insult to vulnerable Queenslanders and it has created a great deal of uncertainty for homelessness support services, many of which operate on an extremely tight budget.

Unlike federal Labor, the Newman government is interested in more than pretty words and empty gestures. Back in June I launched the Homelessness-to-Housing Strategy 2020—a new approach that seeks to find the root causes of homelessness and helps people to break the cycle and get their lives back on track. On Tuesday night I went out with the Street to Home team from Micah Projects to get a firsthand look at the challenges that we face. I met a young bloke by the name of Christopher, who sadly lost his parents when he was young, moved to Queensland from Sydney and for one reason or another has ended up homeless. Christopher is a normal guy with regular dreams and aspirations who simply needs some support to break out of the cycle he is in.

It would be nice to think we would be able to completely eliminate rough sleeping, but the situation is never quite that simple. One thing we can do, however, is make sure that if people do sleep rough it is not because they have no other option. The Homelessness-to-Housing Strategy will emphasise bricks-and-mortar solutions as well as overhaul the way we engage with homeless Queenslanders by putting in place a triage style intake system. Highlights of our strategy include building additional supported accommodation facilities, starting in Cairns with a 40-bed facility, Townsville with a 40-bed facility and Redcliffe with a 20-bed facility; providing additional dwellings for the Street to Home program to reinforce our housing-first emphasis; and entering into 10 joint ventures with the non-government sector to deliver new housing and support initiatives.

The new triage system I mentioned will allow us to tailor an individual case managed plan to connect vulnerable people with the support they need. This will mean that wherever you first enter the system—be it through one of our housing service centres, a community housing organisation, the Street to Home providers, the health system or the child safety system—wherever you first come to the attention of the government, we will be able to apply a consistent assessment of individuals' needs and put in place an appropriate case management plan to help them get their lives back on track. While there is a great deal governments can do in this space, in the end Homeless Persons Week reminds us that ending homelessness is everybody's responsibility.

Apprenticeships and Traineeships

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (9.53 am): Last Friday the Rudd government released their pre-election economic statement. In that statement Labor cut \$242 million from funding for apprenticeships and traineeships.

Specifically, the cuts are to incentives given to employers for the successful completion of an apprenticeship. Last week Kevin Rudd had a thought bubble and announced to the world that he wanted to take over TAFEs. By the end of the week he was cutting a quarter of a billion dollars out of training. No wonder every talented frontbencher in the federal Labor Party resigned in disgust at his revival as Labor leader.

But members should not take my word for it; they should listen to some of the people in the industry. Martin Riordan, the chief executive of TAFE Directors Australia, slammed the government, saying—

Reductions in employer incentives made—

by the Gillard government—

in July 2012 was the main reason for the dramatic drop in apprenticeship numbers in the past year. There is no doubt this decision will have a similar effect.

Contrast that with the Newman government, which has committed \$86 million to 10,000 new apprentices and in our Great Skills, Real Opportunities VET five-year action plan—a commitment to cut red tape to make it easier for employers to put on apprentices.

So this is the economic strategy of our fearless leader, Kevin Rudd. We live in a country where the central bank has had to slash interest rates to emergency lows and where unemployment is rising. Yet we still face a productivity lag because of skills shortages. And what is Kevin Rudd's answer? It is to cut money out of training, one of the few mechanisms a government has to fill skills shortages to boost productivity and increase participation in the workforce.

Here is a bloke who likes to call himself the education Prime Minister, and what is his record? He is cutting \$1.15 billion out of kindies. This will mean that fees for Queensland families will rise. He is cutting \$3.8 billion out of universities. This means fewer Australians will go to university and fewer will want to go back to undertake postgraduate study. And now he is doing his level best to gut apprenticeship numbers by stripping a quarter of a billion dollars from training.

At this point I have to say to the Queensland Teachers Union: where are you? Why are you not standing up for education? Why are you not out there condemning these cuts to kindies and training? To the Australian Education Union member running in the seat of Brisbane, Fiona McNamara: how can you sleep at night after selling out your education scruples, supporting Kevin Rudd while he guts kindies, slashes apprenticeships and pillages universities? I said yesterday and I say again today: when I see what Kevin Rudd is doing to my portfolio, I have to agree with the *Daily Telegraph*: it is time to kick this mob out.

Get in the Game



Hon. SL DICKSON (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (9.56 am): The Newman government's flagship Get in the Game commitment has been extremely well received by both Queensland families and our local sporting and recreation clubs. The three programs from this initiative—Get Started, Get Going and Get Playing—are gaining enormous momentum. Get Started provides vouchers of up to \$150 as a contribution for eligible children and young people towards local sporting and recreation club membership. The first round of Get Started saw 12,000 vouchers go out. Of those 12,000 vouchers, 23 per cent went to young people who had never before participated in team sport. That is just a fabulous outcome. We opened a new round on 15 July and so far already 6,100 vouchers have been taken up. That is a great outcome.

I say to all members of this House: when you go away today, go to your sporting clubs and let them know that this is an opportunity to get kids involved in sport. We know that today young people aged between five and 15 years are being diagnosed with obesity. It leads to liver disease, kidney disease and diabetes. We as a community have to ensure we have a healthy, fit society. This is our opportunity to pull together, to work together to make a difference. We know that mums and dads need a hand-out. Get in the Game is about helping families with the cost of living—delivering great outcomes and helping out our youth. Let us keep them out of the health system in the future.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Queensland Health, Payroll System



Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (9.57 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes the report of the Queensland Health Payroll System Commission of Inquiry;
2. notes that the report names a number of former Labor government ministers;
3. notes that the report names a number of current and former public servants, and supports the Public Service Commission taking appropriate action to hold responsible officers to account;
4. censures IBM as contributing to the Queensland Health payroll debacle and endorses the government's intention to exclude it from further government contracts until such time as it can demonstrate improved accountability;
5. condemns the former Labor government for its lack of judgement and accountability;
6. formally apologises on behalf of the previous government, former Premier Anna Bligh and members of her cabinet to all Queenslanders who were disadvantaged or adversely affected by the Labor government's failure in the management and implementation of the Queensland Health payroll system, which is set to cost Queensland taxpayers in excess of \$1.2 billion; and
7. calls on the Minister for Health to convey this apology to every existing Queensland Health employee.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (9.58 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in Standing and Sessional Orders, the Minister for Health be permitted to move, at 11 am today, the motion of which he gave notice this morning, with time limits for speeches and debate as follows—

- 10 minutes for the Minister for Health and Leader of the Opposition or nominee;
- 5 minutes for each other member;
- Total debate time before question put—1 hour.

Motion agreed to.

EDUCATION AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Reports



Mrs MENKENS (Burdekin—LNP) (9.59 am): I lay upon the table of the House three reports of the Education and Innovation Committee. The first is report No. 18, *Subordinate legislation tabled between 6 March 2013 and 5 August 2013*. This report considers the proclamation made under the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Act 2011, which commenced the remaining provisions of the national law. All provisions of the act have now started. The committee did not identify any significant issues regarding consistency with fundamental legislative principles or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation.

I also table report No. 19, *Review of Auditor-General's report 11: 2012-13 results of audits: education sector entities 2012*. This report details the consideration by the Education and Innovation Committee of the Auditor-General's report on audits of the 2012 financial statements of grammar schools and universities established under acts of the Queensland parliament. The Auditor-General's report was tabled in this House on 30 April 2013. The committee noted in particular two issues highlighted by the Auditor-General—challenges facing universities and an improvement in grammar schools meeting reporting requirements. In addition, an issue identified in respect of grammar schools last year has been resolved.

The final report I lay upon the table of the House is report No. 20, which outlines the Education and Innovation Committee's consideration of the Education and Care Services Bill 2013. The bill regulates education and care services that are currently regulated by the Child Care Act 2002 in Queensland. Services regulated by the bill are generally small in scale and operate in regional and remote areas.

I thank all of those who have assisted us in our consideration of both pieces of legislation and the Auditor-General's report, including staff from the Queensland Audit Office, the Department of Education, Training and Employment, the Parliamentary Library and the Technical Scrutiny of Legislation secretariat. I commend the reports to the House.

Tabled paper: Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 18—Subordinate legislation tabled between 6 March 2013 and 5 August 2013 [\[3173\]](#).

Tabled paper: Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 19—Review of Auditor-General's Report 11: 2012-13 Results of audit: Education sector entities 2012 [\[3174\]](#).

Tabled paper: Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 20—Education and Care Services Bill 2013 [\[3175\]](#).

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Report and Submissions

 **Mr DAVIES** (Capalaba—LNP) (10.02 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 31 of the Finance and Administration Committee. I also table the submissions received. This report was adopted by the committee prior to my appointment as the chair of the committee and has been signed by the former chair, the member for Coomera. This report presents the results of the committee's examination of the Treasury and Trade and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013, which was introduced by the Treasurer and Minister for Trade on 5 June 2013. The committee has recommended that the bill be passed. It is also seeking further clarification from the minister on a number of issues. On behalf of the committee, I want to thank the officers from Queensland Treasury and Trade and the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel who provided a briefing and additional information on a timely basis. Their assistance was invaluable in allowing the committee to complete its deliberations. We also thank those individuals and organisations that took the time to provide submissions to the committee. I also thank the former chair and other members of the committee for their thorough consideration of the issues raised in the bill. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 31—Treasury and Trade and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 [\[3176\]](#).

Tabled paper: Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 31—Treasury and Trade and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013, submissions 1 to 4 received in relation to the inquiry [\[3177\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

Madam SPEAKER: I acknowledge the Banora Point Primary School from New South Wales, Kedron State High School from the electorate of Stafford and Miami State High School from the electorate of Burleigh.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

Ms TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (10.03 am): I give notice that I will move—

That the Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, subordinate legislation No. 150 of 2013, tabled in the House on 6 August 2013, be disallowed.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Gold Coast, Events

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (10.04 am): My question is to the Minister for Tourism, Small Business, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister explain for all members, particularly her eight fellow LNP Gold Coast MPs, why she would hold the city she supposedly represents to ransom by reportedly threatening to remove funding for major projects such as the aquatic centre and pivotal events like the V8 Supercars?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. I thought I might have made it very clear in my ministerial statement earlier this morning, so let me say again that I reject the claim that any threats have been made. Let me also say that, together with the other members on the Gold Coast, we are totally committed to not only delivering the very best Commonwealth Games in 2018 but a string of absolutely magnificent events in the lead-up to that. I know a number of members have driven past the wonderful work that is happening at the aquatic centre at the moment as we see this magic transformation of that existing aquatic centre—one, I understand, that the member for Southport trained in as a little; I think he even learnt to swim there—into a state-of-the-art, world-class facility. Could we have expected that to happen under Labor with its track record? Of course we could not.

This project is going to be delivered in time for a major event next year called the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships. The Pan Pacs have not been in Queensland for 25 years, so this is a very significant event that we are bringing forward. The commitment of this government allows us to have this world-class facility, which will be the envy of the world as vision is beamed across so many different nations for the Pan Pacs. It also puts us in a position to be able to utilise that facility for a number of other major tournaments in the lead-up to what will be the biggest sporting event in a decade, and that is the Commonwealth Games—a games that is being proudly hosted by the Gold Coast and I know that those members are right behind that. We also understand that the Commonwealth Games belongs to the people of Queensland and the people of Australia, and as such some events will be held elsewhere.

Let us take a look at some of the other events that we have brought to the Gold Coast. Only late last year or early this year we announced the PGA—a premier golf tournament—is to be held. Tough negotiations? You bet they were, but we got the PGA. We also just hosted the 35th year of the Gold Coast Airport Marathon—another big investment from this government in major events. The member for Burleigh enjoys very much the Burleigh Breaka Pro which sees world-class surfing champions come to compete on those waves, which I think are not quite as good as mine in Currumbin. Let me make it clear: this government is committed to ongoing investment on the Gold Coast in events and across a range of other major services.

Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games

Ms PALASZCZUK: My question is to the Minister for Tourism, Small Business, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister explain—

Mr Seeney interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I will ask the Leader of the Opposition to start again and I warn the Deputy Premier under 253A for interjecting during a member asking a question. I remind members in the House that the person with the call to ask a question should be heard in silence. I call the Leader of the Opposition to start again.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Tourism. Will the minister explain why she would not only ignore the threat to international tourism caused by beach erosion but would now reportedly threaten to remove funding for vital projects, the majority of which she has no power to remove because they are outside her portfolio responsibilities?

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. That question deliberately has inferences and imputations in the matter and quite clearly is asking about a hypothetical matter and an expression of opinion.

Madam SPEAKER: I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to ask the question again and then we will make a determination.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My question is to the Minister for Tourism. Will the minister explain why she continues to ignore the threat to international tourism caused by substantial beach erosion on Gold Coast beaches? Now, it has been reported that she threatens to remove funding for vital projects—the point I am making here the majority of which she has no power to remove, because these projects are outside her portfolio responsibilities.

Madam SPEAKER: I am going ask the Leader of the Opposition to rephrase the question without the imputation and to put the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My question is to the Minister for Tourism. Will the minister explain why, as Minister for Tourism, she has not consulted with the mayor of the Gold Coast in relation to the erosion of Gold Coast beaches and, in relation to the reported threats, why she is continuing to talk about funding for vital projects, the majority of which are outside her portfolio responsibilities?

Madam SPEAKER: I will call the minister to answer those aspects of the question that pertain to her portfolio.

Mrs STUCKEY: Once again, I repeat: I reject the claim that threats were made. I am very pleased to see that the mayor is accepting his responsibility to fix the beaches and that is underway.

But now that I have the opportunity—and seeing that I have hardly ever been asked any questions by the opposition about one of our four economic pillars and, of course, I speak here of tourism—I would very much like to talk about tourism. I think the Leader of the Opposition mentioned visitor numbers or something being affected. I just happen to have some very recent figures. If members would like to hear about how tourists are flocking to the Gold Coast, I have some good news for them. But of course, this opposition has not shown any interest in tourism or events for the whole of this parliament, until the estimates.

Let me share these figures. I am sure that honourable members on this side of the House are keen to hear them. Queensland airports at Gold Coast, Townsville, Mount Isa and Longreach have reported some really good figures. But seeing that we are talking about the Gold Coast, let me share these figures with members. For domestic and regional, this financial year just finished—2013—we have had a growth of 7.3 per cent in this financial year just finished. The international growth for the Gold Coast airport for the year ended to 2013 is 19.3 per cent. Overall, the total passenger increase, if you balance it out, is a nine per cent increase.

Scout airlines has been bringing in international visitors for just over a year. Many of those people are from Singapore.

A government member interjected.

Mrs STUCKEY: Yes, has anyone been flying Scout? It is a fantastic low-cost airline. Let us not forget that Qantas returned to the Gold Coast with a full service. Qantas connects us, through Sydney, with the rest of the world. So contrary to the naysayers, contrary to what the opposition would like us to believe, the Gold Coast is going very, very well, because this government has recognised that it needs to invest and support aviation with new and existing routes. It knows that we need to support investment and, of course, events. Fifteen major events have been held on the Gold Coast that have brought a significant benefit and boost to our economy. I do not know about the members opposite, but we on this side are really proud of our track record and what we are doing not just for the Gold Coast but for Queensland—a great state which has great opportunity.

Papua New Guinea, Border Protection

Mr KEMPTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. What are the Queensland government's key concerns about the porous border with PNG in the north? Have others expressed concern? Who is responsible for Queensland's interests in this matter?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the honourable member for his question. Before answering, I acknowledge the presence in the visitors gallery of Di McCauley, a former minister in the Borbidge government. It is good to see her here today.

Kevin Rudd has made Australia's problem Queensland's problem. His government has been warned about this. Even Anna Bligh's Labor government wrote to him and his colleagues on this issue. Kevin Rudd does not understand the danger posed by his arrogant approach to border protection between Queensland and Papua New Guinea.

In 1999, Peter Beattie—Peter Beattie?

Government members: Who?

Mr NEWMAN: Peter Beattie complained of smuggling rings and people moving drugs through the strait.

A government member: And here he comes again.

Mr NEWMAN: And here he comes again! We will deal with that later on.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: Madam Speaker, I seek your protection.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Members.

Mr NEWMAN: There is a very real risk to Queenslanders and Australians. The first is a risk to health and quarantine posed by a relatively unpoliced border and a daily trade that exposes our island residents to serious illnesses ranging from sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, rabies and cholera to mosquito-borne viruses. As I have said before, Queensland taxpayers are being short-changed to the tune \$10 million a year as the taxpayers of Queensland carry the can for the shunned health responsibilities of Kevin Rudd.

The second issue is border security. A recent Senate inquiry found that an average of 59,000 people cross the Papua New Guinea border through the Torres Strait each year.

Mr Springborg: That doesn't need a passport.

Mr NEWMAN: Ninety per cent come without passports. That is correct. We know that a number of asylum seekers were treated in Torres Strait hospitals in the past six months. That included a Syrian man who was treated for tuberculosis. The numbers that we do not know about could be much, much greater. Once they reach Queensland they can get to Horn Island and the illegals are just a short plane ride down the coast to Brisbane, to Sydney and to Melbourne.

Three years ago Islanders told senators that they knew of visitors arriving at night well away from any designated entry point. A local witness to the Senate inquiry said—

People from PNG can come into Australia anytime of the day, anytime they like and stay as long as they like.

These are the facts about Australia's open border with Papua New Guinea. Queenslanders know that PNG is where Mr Rudd plans to settle thousands of asylum seekers hell-bent on travelling south. Queenslanders will not stand for it. They will not stand by while these key weaknesses in Kevin Rudd's dud plan for asylum seekers are ignored. I call on Kevin Rudd to back Queensland and to protect Australia's borders.

Dawe, Mr G

Mr PITT: My question without notice is to the Premier. Did the Premier know Mr Glen Dawe, who has now been appointed to the \$600,000-a-year CEO job at Queensland Rail, either personally or professionally before he was appointed acting chair of QR in June 2012 and, if so, how?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the honourable member for the question. The short answer is, yes, I know Mr Dawe, but he is someone I knew from over a decade ago in the grain industry. He was in Queensland Rail, where he was the executive manager, coal and mainline freight, and he was the service provided to both the Grainco Australia trading division and the AWB, which was one of my clients. I got to know him and he was very good at his job. He has been an outstanding chairman of QR. He has achieved things that the former Labor government never achieved.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: They asked the question. At least they could listen to the answer. While he has been chairman, Queensland Rail has achieved its highest peak on-time running in a decade—96 per cent for April-June 2013, after falling to a three-year low in the final quarter under Labor—and who was the transport minister?—of 86 per cent for January-March 2012. Who was the transport minister? Glen Dawe has been a very good chairman and he is going to be a great CEO. The point I make is that we believe that he is also showing the economies of this government, because contrary to the—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: They ask the question, but they are so rude. There are a whole lot of schoolchildren here today. One would think that they would behave themselves.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I now warn members on my left.

Mr NEWMAN: As usual, they come in here and make assertions and verbal people. They said \$600,000. How do they know that? Did they read it in the paper? They are wrong. The package is \$500,000. I can tell members what it used to be when Paul Scurrah had the job.

Mr Seeney: Who's he married to?

Mr NEWMAN: When Paul Scurrah had the job under their stewardship he received \$700,000 a year. Was Paul Scurrah a member of the Australian Labor Party? That is a question for them. Was he a member of the Labor Party and who was his spouse? That is right: it was Nicole Scurrah, the chief of staff to the then Premier. What influence came to bear then? What was Paul Scurrah's background? Was he like Glen Dawe? Had he run a rail business? Did he know what he was doing? Had he ever had a senior job running a rail business? Clearly not, because he presided over the worst on-time running performance. A Labor mate who was incompetent and could not do the job was getting \$700,000 a year and for \$500,000 we have a guy who actually knows how to run a railway.

Beattie Labor Government

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. Can the Deputy Premier inform the House of the previous Beattie government's record in government?

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: I will now call the Deputy Premier. I realise that it was a late night last night and people are very boisterous, but I ask them to please pay attention and direct their matters through the chair.

Mr SEENEY: I suspect that I may need extra time. It is a good question given that we have heard today that the man who never again wanted to be in politics is now going to be the saviour of the federal Labor Party by running for the federal seat of Forde. More than that, it is a good question because I think that the old band is being put back together. The old team is back in town.

Mr PITT: I rise to a point of order. Due to all the hubbub, we could not hear the question particularly well. Madam Speaker, could the member repeat the question to be sure that it relates to the Deputy Premier's portfolio?

Madam SPEAKER: I will take the point of order, because there is a question in respect of whether this is portfolio related. I ask the member to repeat the question, with apologies to the Deputy Premier.

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. Can the Deputy Premier—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I have warned members about interjecting during questions. I will now warn the leader of opposition business under standing order 253A. With respect, members, it is a normal practice that members provide a copy of a question to Hansard. Not only is it inappropriate to interrupt a person when they are being asked to repeat a question out of courtesy to the House, but also it is a distortion to say that this is inappropriate as we provide copies of questions to Hansard so that they have clarity. Member for Albert, please start the question again.

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. Can the Deputy Premier inform the House of the previous Beattie government's record in government?

Madam SPEAKER: Member, that does not specifically connect to the Deputy Premier's portfolio. I will ask you to rephrase the question and keep in mind that it must relate to the Deputy Premier's portfolio.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Can the Deputy Premier inform the House of the planning projects and the mismanagement in infrastructure in terms of the previous government's record in government?

Mr PITT: I rise to a point of order. I think there is an imputation in that question.

Madam SPEAKER: I will allow the question. It relates to the Deputy Premier's portfolio.

Mr SEENEY: It is understandable that the current Labor members in this House should be acutely embarrassed about what is happening today. They should be acutely embarrassed about the fact that the once-proud Labor Party has had to resurrect a member of this House who led the worst government in Queensland's history. The record of that government will be examined in the days ahead following the announcement that the king of bulldust who stood here for so long is now going to try to support his long-lost and loving friend Kevin Rudd in the federal parliament.

The people of Queensland remember Peter Beattie's record. They remember the health crisis, they remember the water crisis, they remember the electricity crisis, they remember the kids-in-care crisis, they remember the infrastructure crisis. They remember crisis after crisis after crisis that are at the heart of the financial problems that Queensland suffers today and will suffer for generations to come. On election night I said that Anna Bligh and her government suffered the worst election defeat in Australia's history at the hands of the Queensland people, but the person who deserved that punishment most was Peter Beattie. In the subsequent days, he agreed with me. On the front page of the *Courier-Mail*, he was quoted as saying, 'It's my fault.' We know it was his fault and Queenslanders know it was Peter Beattie's fault, and they will not forget that.

However, he is getting the old band back together. I bet you, comrades—colleagues, that Merri Rose and Liddy Clark are printing T-shirts as we speak. I bet that at the moment those ministerial stalwarts Bill D'Arcy, who used to sit there, and Gordon Nuttall, who used to sit there, are applying for day leave to hand out how-to-vote cards. The vote rorters, Jim Elder and Mike Kaiser, are doing the numbers because they knew how to get the votes—

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order.

Madam SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, there is a point of order.

Ms TRAD: My point of order is that I am pretty sure that this does not relate to planning and infrastructure projects, as was asked of the minister.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr Nicholls: We love it when a plan comes together.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I now warn the Treasurer under standing order 253A for talking while I was on my feet. I remind the House that, while there is a lot more humour in the air than normal after a late-night sitting, I wish to hear the Deputy Premier addressing the question.

Mr SEENEY: Madam Speaker, I assure you that there is a lot of planning going on. Paul Lucas and Stephen Robertson are planning to come back. They are planning a role in the campaign. Most of all, I bet that the campaign treasurer for Peter Beattie will be the man who lost Queensland's AAA credit rating. Andrew Fraser will be there. He will be the campaign treasurer. He is out there planning and he will be looking for the member for South Brisbane to raise some money for him for a campaign that will fail, because the people of Queensland remember Peter Beattie and what he did to this state.

(Time expired)

Arrow Energy

Mr HOPPER: My question is to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection. Is the minister aware that Arrow Energy's supplementary report to its EIS is 7,000 pages long, which is too big to table. I ask: how can his department and the people of the Cecil Plains area respond when this closes by 23 August?

Mr POWELL: I thank the member for his question. What he has raised is the important task that my department and other departments within this government, particularly the Deputy Premier's department, have to undertake in assessing projects against high environmental standards. Let me make no bones about it: we do uphold high environmental standards in this state. My team is working extraordinarily hard to ensure that we rigorously assess all projects, be they coal seam gas or otherwise, across the entire state. We will continue to do that.

I can tell the member for Condamine that one way we are doing that is by not stressing the little stuff anymore. Last year we introduced the green-tape legislation. This green-tape legislation has seen us eliminate the need to assess some 9½ thousand small businesses that each and every year had to submit a 20-page application. They had to pay \$1,500 if they were a motor vehicle workshop, a printer, a cabinet-maker or a spray painter. All those projects had to be assessed. All of those projects had to be considered by either my officers or local council officers. Officers had to spend time looking at the conditions for such projects and make sure they abided by the environmental standards we have for that level of low-risk environmental management.

What we have done, member for Condamine, is take that out of the equation. What it means is that these same officers in my regulatory team have more capacity to look at and assess larger projects because they are not stressing the small stuff. They are looking at the significant projects.

They are looking at the mining projects throughout the state. They are looking at the coal seam gas projects throughout the state and they are assessing those against our high environmental standards. I can assure the member that at this moment my team is working on that EIS.

Mr Hopper interjected.

Mr POWELL: The member raises the point about the size of the EIS. Let me share with the member some fantastic work that we have been doing in conjunction with the Deputy Premier's team and assistant minister Lisa France around the terms of reference for EISs. They have blown out of proportion. There is no question about that. What information do we require to make sure that we assess these projects rigorously? We are streamlining that. We are looking at improvements. We are looking for better ways to receive that information and looking to make sure the community can understand it, make sure the regulators can have confidence in it and make sure that Queensland's economy can get going. This will not happen by my department standing in the way. My department will continue to apply those high environmental standards and ensure the Queensland environment is protected well into the future.

Beattie Labor Government

Mr CRANDON: My question without notice is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade. Can the Treasurer please inform the House of former Premier Peter Beattie's record on financial and economic management and whether there are any alternative views?

Mr NICHOLLS: I would like to thank the member for Coomera for that question. I am able to tell the House a little bit about former Premier Peter Beattie's economic record and the alternate views. Often times those alternate views are Peter Beattie's alternate views as well because we did not know that what he was going to say at lunch time was going to be what he said at dinner time and what he was going to say the next morning. As the Premier said, it is Ekka time in Brisbane and surely the clowns should be at sideshow alley, not down at Labor Party headquarters.

They are so desperate that they are dragging out a former Queensland Labor self-confessed media tart to save the furniture here in Queensland. Battered and bruised, the call has gone out to the Old Guard. As the Deputy Premier has said, they are going to get the band back together again and he is going to bring his eyeball with him so he can sort out all the problems.

Bereft of talent, Queensland Labor has picked up the retiree from New York or North Carolina or Los Angeles. It has dusted him off, it has dragged him out of the cupboard, it has propped him up in a corner. It is like *Weekend at Bernie's*. It has pulled Bernie over from the US. It has him sitting up there. It is not too sure. It might be the Hollywood theme. It might be *The Return of the Living Dead*. He turns up out of the blue. He is spending six months of the year in New York and the other six months of the year travelling around as a travelling media tart advising people of what should be going on.

We know Peter Beattie and we know his alternate views. As we have seen a number of times, he does admit, 'It is all my fault.' If we go further into this report of a couple of months ago, what does he say? He says—

For me personally, I am happy if I never appear in print in the *Courier-Mail* again and I am sure Queenslanders would be just as happy.

What was the congressman from New York actually responsible for when he was here? He put in place a botched system around electricity that saw electricity prices for an average family go from \$807 a year in 2007-08 to over \$1,700 in 2013-14. The system was so badly implemented that it led to those horrendous blowouts in costs and prices that we are now starting to fix up.

I say to the electors of Forde, 'When you want to blame someone for your rising cost of living, when you want to know why infrastructure was not delivered, when you want to know why water prices are up, guess whose fault it is?' It is Peter Beattie's fault.

(Time expired)

Queensland Rail

Ms TRAD: My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister advise whether the Acting CEO of Queensland Rail, Mr Jim Benstead, and an overseas applicant were both ranked higher by the QR board selection panel than the government's hand-picked ultimate choice Mr Dawe, whom we understand is known to the Premier?

Mr EMERSON: I thank the honourable member for the question. I think the Premier has talked about Mr Dawe and his record already. Can I say in terms of that process that there were 70 applicants and they were short-listed to four. We have said very publicly that the choice of the panel was a gentleman from overseas who would have required a 457 visa. What we get is Labor wanting someone from overseas to take over who needs a 457 visa. That is what they wanted.

We looked at the four short-listed candidates and said that Mr Dawe has the track record. He is someone from Australia. He is someone who has worked for Queensland Rail. But, more importantly, as the Premier said before, in his time as chairman what has he achieved? He has achieved a 10-year high in on-time running. That compares to a three-year low under the Leader of the Opposition.

We wonder why the member for South Brisbane asks these questions. She wants to slip the knife into her leader. She knows we are going to say over and over again that there has been a 10-year high under Mr Dawe. As the Premier indicated before, we have heard the member for South Brisbane say around here that the CEO gets paid \$600,000.

I have to correct the record. I apologise, Premier, but I have to correct the record. You said that Paul Scurrah was paid \$700,000. That is wrong. In fact, with his bonuses he was being paid \$727,000. Paul Scurrah is the husband of Anna Bligh's chief of staff. The member for South Brisbane's good friend, close friend and confidant was paying \$727,000. What is Mr Dawe being paid? Mr Dawe is being paid \$500,000. That is 30 per cent less than what their Labor mate got paid, but, more importantly, he is doing a better job already. He has achieved a 10-year high.

As the minister I am proud of that. It is a better record than that of Annastacia Palaszczuk when she was transport minister, better than that of John Mickel, better than that of Rachel Nolan, better than that of Paul Lucas; a better performance for on-time running than under those former transport ministers. Mr Dawe is performing already. He will do a great job but for a lot less money than the Labor mate they employed.

Where did the Labor mate come from? He came out of Flight Centre, not out of the rail centre. No wonder he could not perform. He came out of Flight Centre, not out of the rail centre. You paid him a bundle and he blew it. He could not do the job.

Beattie Labor Government

Ms MILLARD: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister please remind Queenslanders of the impact on the Health portfolio when then Premier Beattie famously used the eyeball test that resulted in the calling of a special sitting of parliament for the sole and exclusive purpose of exonerating the corrupt minister for health, Gordon Nuttall?

Mr SPRINGBORG: I thank the honourable member for Sandgate for her question. Before I go into the substantive nature of the question, I do need to say to my wife, 'You were absolutely right.' Some two years ago we were in the kitchen one morning and we heard Peter Beattie come on the radio with Heather. They had just called a press conference at which Peter said that he was going to resign and he was going to fade off into the sunset. He basically declared himself a self-confessed yesterday's man. He went through the whole reason and he said, 'And I really don't care if I'm never heard of again and no-one ever reports my name again,' to which my wife promptly retorted, 'He's going to run for federal politics.' Well, two years later he is!

Let us have a look at what Peter Beattie said to the now current Prime Minister, recycled, of Australia. On 17 September 2011 he wrote him an open letter providing him with his advice—

Kevin, you are very clever when it comes to manipulating the media. As someone who was once accused of being a media tart, I understand and respect your skills. You are an awesome media operator and I am an amateur compared to you.

All I can say is, 'Watch out, Kev, because he is coming right after you.' What we have are two shallow showmen here denying any aspirations of higher office and I just say, 'Kevin, you are in big trouble.'

Let us look at what happened in 2005 after Gordon Nuttall was accused of a whole range of nefarious activity. Indeed, one needs to consider Peter Beattie's judgement in his electorate that is putative and maybe apply the eyeball test to him. Look deep into Peter Beattie's eyes to try to decide whether he is telling you the truth or not. Look at his record. Because he has never done it before, why is he going to do it in the future?

When Gordon Nuttall was accused of a whole range of nefarious activity, and indeed facing criminal charges in Queensland, Peter Beattie came into this place and said, 'I looked deep into his eyes and he said to me, "Premier, I didn't do it," and I believed him.' Not only that, he came into this place and he exonerated Gordon Nuttall of criminal activity. And not to be outdone, a few months later he came into this place and actually changed the laws on lying to parliament because he could not trust himself to tell the truth. He needed to change the laws to accommodate the fact that he could not tell the truth. That is what he did here. The simple reality is this: maybe the voters should apply the eyeball test to him and anyone that legalises lying to parliament should never be given a free ride into the federal parliament.

(Time expired)

Beattie Labor Government

Mr LATTER: Mr Deputy Speaker, what an opportunity. My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Minister, what did 'PowerPoint' Peter Beattie do for rail passengers as Premier and what can he do now to fix 'Repeat' Pete's poor legacy?

Mr EMERSON: I thank the member for Waterford for the question. Charge up the flux capacitor—he is back! It is back to the future with Peter Beattie. Charge it up. He is coming back. As the member said, what is his history in Queensland? Can we forget? Let us go all the way back. Do we remember the trains they built that were too big for the tunnels? They were too big for the tunnels! That was his record on transport—trains too big for the tunnel!

Let us talk about that other great project that was not raised in the parliament this week—Cross River Rail. Peter Beattie talked about Cross River Rail. He raised it as an issue. How far back was that? Let us go back to the future again—2005. What did he do about it while he was Premier? Zip. He did nothing—zero. What did Labor do on Cross River Rail while they were in power? Did we ever see a shovel hit the soil in the seven years they were in power? No—zero, once again. So what we see in terms of Peter Beattie's performance on transport is all talk and no action. Have we heard that from someone else before? Kevin Rudd is all talk and no action. You must wonder why he brought him down, because they are part of the band again—all talk and no action.

On Cross River Rail it is extraordinary. Here we have Peter Beattie, who knew about the problem in 2005 and did nothing about it. So my challenge to Peter Beattie is: get him to get the deal done. Get him to accept that fair deal that we have put forward. What is extraordinary this week is that we saw the Deputy Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, who cancelled meetings with me over and over again about Cross River Rail, here on Tuesday. He was here on Tuesday just 500 metres from this chamber, but he could not be bothered to come and talk about Cross River Rail. He could not be bothered to do the negotiations to sign up that deal.

But where was he on Tuesday? He could not talk about Cross River Rail. He did not have a couple of minutes to speak about Cross River Rail. But what could he do on Tuesday? Well, there he was having a beer with one of his old Labor mates. And who was that? Craig Thomson. Do you remember Craig Thomson? He is the one who is facing 173 fraud charges including hiring prostitutes with his union card. So Albo has time to have a German beer with his old mates on Tuesday, but he could not take the time to meet with me to talk about Cross River Rail. So that is my challenge to Peter Beattie today: get him to sign up to our genuine fair deal, or once again we will know that Peter Beattie is all talk and no action. It is a case of charging up that flux capacitor again and back to the old future under Peter Beattie.

Queensland Rail

Mrs MILLER: And now for a change of pace. My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Minister, if the government was intending to appoint a local as Queensland Rail CEO, why did it approve an international recruitment process and how much did this wasted exercise cost taxpayers?

Mr EMERSON: I thank the honourable member for the question. Let us be very clear: we were looking for the best person to do the job. We wanted to make sure we had the people out there who could do the job. But the reality was that we got 70 applicants and we got four short-listed people. We found that we had a local with experience, with ability and also with the runs on the board, and that is what we got. We got a local who could do the job—someone who was already demonstrating capacity, who did not require a 457 visa, who did not require \$727,000 to do the job. That is what we did. It was a great result for Queensland.

Let me go through it again. I understand why they may be querying this, because they are very happy to hire someone out of Flight Centre to do a rail job. They are very happy to pay \$727,000 to the husband of the chief of staff of Anna Bligh—the member for South Brisbane's good mate. They are happy to pay \$727,000. They are happy to hire someone out of Flight Centre to do a rail job, with no rail experience at all. And what have we done? We have a local who was short-listed by the panel—one of four short-listed. The panel said, 'Not only is he good enough to be short-listed but look at his record. He has a great record. He is well known. He has demonstrated capacity.' Can I say that, in terms of his time as chairman, as soon as he came in he focused on improving the reliability of our train system.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Those on my left will cease interjecting. The minister has the call.

Mr EMERSON: Because under Labor, under the Leader of the Opposition as transport minister, what did we see? A three-year low in terms of on-time running of rail reliability. So when we came in we started changing that. In his time as chairman of Queensland Rail, we have seen considerable changes in Queensland Rail and improvements in reliability. Let me go through the numbers again—96 per cent on-time running. That is a 10-year high, better than was done under Annastacia Palaszczuk as transport minister, better than was done under Rachel Nolan—remember Rachel?—better than John Mickel, better than Paul Lucas. It is a great result.

Glen Dawe has already proven his ability to turn Queensland Rail's performance around. He was one of the four candidates on the short-list. He was a local. He had the demonstrated ability to turn Queensland Rail's performance around, and he is not being paid \$727,000 like the Labor mate Paul Scurrah, who was married to the chief of staff of Anna Bligh when she was Premier. That is what Labor does not like. It is happy to pay more and get less. That is always Labor's plan—pay more and get less.

Environmental Impact Statements

Mrs CUNNINGHAM: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. The minister has stated an intention to streamline the EIS process, including removal of the social impact assessment requirement. How will government understand the impacts of developments on communities if this is removed? How will proponents be held accountable for their impacts if no assessment or measure is required?

Mr SEENEY: I very much thank the member for Gladstone for the question because it is the sort of question that should be asked in this parliament about issues that are important in the portfolio that I administer. We are certainly making major changes to the approvals process, and I have talked about that a number of times. Our Coordinator-General, Barry Broe, has made huge progress in shortening approval times—approval times that had blown out to between five and seven years under the previous government. The process that was put in place by the now candidate for Forde, Peter Beattie, was something that produced absolutely nothing.

We dealt with that in the first 18 months in government. We have markedly changed the approvals process, and we will continue to work with the industry and with communities to make sure that happens. One of the parts of the process that was frustrating for everybody was at the heart of the issue that the member for Gladstone asked about, and that is the SIMP process—the social impact management plan. It was a requirement as part of the approvals process for a proponent to prepare such a plan. Unfortunately, like so many things that the Beattie-Bligh Labor governments did, it was all about talk and did not produce any sort of an outcome.

Rather than have a process that deteriorated into a departmental wish list, we have replaced it with a process that is based on what the communities want and what local governments want. The part of your question that is not right is at the end where you said there would not be a process. There is an alternative being put in place which we are working with local governments and local communities on to make sure it is being driven by a coordinated appraisal of what local communities want. Often in the discussions in designing that process the situation in Gladstone has been used as an example. A number of different proponents were required to make contributions to offset their community impacts, and quite rightly so, but there was no coordination. There was no overall plan for the Gladstone community. The Gladstone community itself had next to no input into how those impacts might be mitigated. The health department did, the education department did, the police department did, but the local community did not have the input that it deserved. So we are ensuring

that the process will be driven by the communities which are affected by the proposals, and it will be integrated with programs such as Royalties for the Regions so that the overall needs of the community can be assessed and those needs can be met by working together with those types of programs to ensure that the communities can deal with the impacts.

(Time expired)

Beattie Labor Government

Mr GULLEY: My question without notice is to the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience. Can the minister advise the House of the trail of destruction that Peter Beattie left for local government in Queensland following his stint as Premier and comment on why the referendum on local government will not proceed?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I sure can, Reg. Thank you very much for the opportunity. The news coming out of Forde this morning should send a shiver up the spine of anyone in this state who cares about local government. It is an opportunity for the people of that electorate to pass judgement on the architect of the mess and mayhem that we are living with today. Let us think what a magnificent combination we have: 'Dr Death' and 'Mr Sorry I'll fix it'. We can have the execution followed by the apology all in one little package. That is what faces the people of this country in the years ahead.

When I say that Mr Beattie left local government as a train wreck, probably the person who has most credibility to comment on this is a gentleman by the name of Paul Bell. He was the president of the Local Government Association when it was put through hell by Peter Beattie. He is a Labor luminary. He said—

It is disappointing, but local government has come to understand that Mr Beattie is given to saying the opposite of what he really thinks. His actions often contradict his words.

He also said—

Ten years of power have eroded the Premier's belief in freedom of speech to the extent he is even prepared to sack 20 mayors and councils for daring to call a referendum on his massive changes to the local government system.

We are living with this legacy in communities across this state. There was a lack of consultation on the way that local governments were put to the sword. They were told one thing, patted on the head for doing what was supposed to be a process that would lead to a right income and then taken out at dawn and brutally executed. That is the legacy that communities face.

The member also asked about what the implications are for the referendum. We thought this was another example of a government that simply cannot get anything right. Every time it attempts to implement anything it ends in tragedy, but we now know the real reason why the constitutional recognition of local government will not be occurring. The reason there will be no referendum is how on earth could Prime Minister Rudd with any credibility roll up with Peter Beattie and talk about local governments? How on earth could that happen?

I say to the electors of Forde: this is the same Peter Beattie who cut and run and left this state with a legacy that we will have to endure for generations to come. They have their opportunity to pass judgement on him. The people involved in local government will remember this legacy and will live with it for generations to come.

Royal Children's Hospital, Acting Director of Oral Health

Dr DOUGLAS: My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister please confirm the current Acting Director of Oral Health at the Royal Children's Hospital in Brisbane—the former director—has been both censored and is being investigated for highly irregular behaviour to staff and patients, and what will he do about it?

Mr SPRINGBORG: No, I cannot confirm that. The honourable member needs to understand that in Queensland Health we have just short of 65,000 full-time equivalent employees across the state, almost adding up to a headcount of 80,000 people. It is not my job to micromanage every particular level. As with everything the honourable member says, it needs to be taken with a grain of salt but followed up nevertheless, and that is something that I will do.

I indicate to the honourable member for Gaven that we have a very worrying pattern which is starting to emerge from the honourable member. When he was in this place as a member of another party he was far more cautious in his approach with regard to making wild allegations in this place. Indeed, on occasion he counselled the former member for Burnett with regard to making particular

allegations in this place without any form of evidentiary base. But it is amazing what an epiphany can do. He has now left that other party and appointed himself as the head of another party in this place and has now become a colleague of that person who was much maligned and whom he was critical of. So he seems to be following the same pattern as well.

If we look at some of his more interesting allegations on the Gold Coast in recent times, he came out some time ago and said there was going to be some extraordinary cost for the staff of Queensland Health who were going to use the car park in the new Gold Coast University Hospital only to find that his allegation was inflated by more than 300 per cent. He then said that we should be building a new hospital in Coomera when we have not opened the brand-new 700-bed one and was slapped down by the AMA's branch in this area. He then made all sorts of kite-flying expeditions as to what could happen with the Robina health precinct.

I would counsel him to be rather cautious with regard to his other allegations on the Gold Coast until such time as we get any evidence that may verify them. I listened with interest this morning when some of those allegations were put forward on 612 4QR by people who were saying there was a problem on the Gold Coast. When it came to giving any examples of patient harm they were not able to give any. It boiled down, in the course of that interview, to be a significant managerial conflict issue. If there is evidence we will find it and, unlike the previous government, we will act upon it. We will not sweep it under the carpet, as they did in Bundaberg and other places around this state. We are going through significant managerial reform in Health in Queensland at the moment. It is delivering results. As a consequence of that sometimes things will come to you which do not have any veracity whatsoever.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time for questions has expired. Pursuant to the resolution of the House, I call the Minister for Health.

MOTION

Queensland Health, Payroll System



Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (11.00 am): I move—

That this House:

1. notes the report of the Queensland Health Payroll System Commission of Inquiry;
2. notes that the report names a number of former Labor government ministers;
3. notes that the report names a number of current and former public servants, and supports the Public Service Commission taking appropriate action to hold responsible officers to account;
4. censures IBM as contributing to the Queensland Health payroll debacle and endorses the government's intention to exclude it from further government contracts until such time as it can demonstrate improved accountability;
5. condemns the former Labor government for its lack of judgement and accountability;
6. formally apologises on behalf of the previous government, former Premier Anna Bligh and members of her cabinet to all Queenslanders who were disadvantaged or adversely affected by the Labor government's failure in the management and implementation of the Queensland Health payroll system, which is set to cost Queensland taxpayers in excess of \$1.2 billion; and
7. calls on the Minister for Health to convey this apology to every existing Queensland Health employee.

I think we are all very well aware of the background of the Health payroll disaster in Queensland. It can only be described as that. It is something that the previous Labor government covered up in Queensland, something which it is in denial about now, but something that we have acted upon to bring about significant and substantive change to ensure that it will never, ever happen in the future. I think it is important that in order to address a problem you first of all have to recognise that you have a problem. You need to understand how you got to that particular point and then you need to understand the steps that have to be taken to address those issues for the future.

I refer honourable members to page 23 of the KPMG report into the Health payroll in Queensland. It indicates that at the time, in the year leading up to the system going live, the normal operating cost of the Health payroll system in Queensland, Lattice transitioning into the new SAP/Workbrain creation in this state, was around about \$60 million—\$64 million. That was the normal operating cost for this system. In the following year it grew to around \$150 million, \$201 million, \$230 million. We managed to arrest that a little in the current financial year: \$201 million, \$160 million and beyond and beyond and beyond.

This Health payroll debacle has torn the heart out of the Queensland Health system. It has had an extraordinary effect with regard to a reduction in confidence amongst Health workers. Last financial year we had to divert almost \$150 million of core funding from Queensland Health into maintaining the payroll system. That was extraordinary expenditure, as was identified in the KPMG report. Some 1,600 Queensland Health workers lost their jobs as a consequence of that. That was \$530-odd million, which had not been budgeted for by the previous Labor government, to run something in extraordinary expenses over around about a four-year period. I commend the Treasurer who this year gave us that additional money for that extraordinary expenditure so that we could lessen the pain on Queensland Health employees.

This motion seeks to redress some of the situation. We need to do that. There has never, ever been a formal apology to Queensland Health workers for the pain and suffering that was inflicted upon them by the decision of the former Labor government. At no stage have those opposite recognised that there was an obligation on their part to admit that we have a problem—as was pointed out by Commissioner Chesterman, arguably the worst such failing in the country. I share a similar view to the honourable Treasurer that maybe the Collins class submarine debacle was a little greater, but this comes a very, very close second.

This motion notes that there were former Labor ministers who were named in the report and also censures IBM for its role in this and charts a path forward in regard to the potential, if any, rehabilitation of IBM before it will be considered for any contracts in the future. This is important because this company used its global size, quite frankly, to act in a dishonest and an unconscionable way. It basically slid into town and took advantage of a weak government that was desperate to replace the system because it felt it was going to fail without any process of due diligence, probity or oversight. It has left a trail of carnage and needs to be censured and put on a path of expectation before the government in Queensland will ever consider doing business with it in the future.

It is very interesting and very instructive to look at what 'Comeback' Pete said. We had 'Three-Pete' once, we now have 'Four-Pete' who is going to come back as the potential member for Forde. He issued a press statement on Monday, 4 July 2005 in which he said—

IBM division opens Asia Pacific office in Smart State.

It would be very interesting to ask was there any quid pro quo? Was there any nod and a wink? Was there any understanding that if you come here we will look after you down the track? That is something that the former Premier Peter Beattie needs to address. Let us for one moment consider this: as I understand it, the former Premier Peter Beattie resigned from parliament and the Premiership on 13 September 2007. What actually happened on 12 September 2007? The much maligned, and rightly so, Terry Burns, IBM employee, who gave IBM the inside running with regards to the contract, issued the invitation to offer for the replacement of the Health payroll system in Queensland. It is interesting. That offer went out on 12 September 2007—Peter Beattie's dirty work done—and then the next day he slips out of the system. What an amazing and quite extraordinary parting gift for the people of Queensland from the former Premier Peter Beattie.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPRINGBORG: We hear honourable members squealing with indignation and embarrassment over there. They have been joined in the last day or so by the honourable member for Nicklin who says that we should stop pursuing this poor hapless former Labor government in Queensland. I will never stop pursuing them because when there is a debacle like this someone needs to be held to account. This has ripped the heart out of the Queensland Health system. The only way that you can clearly understand how a government operates, not only now but will pretend to operate in the future with regard to their own fiscal diligence, their own management structure, their own management process, is to look at how they conducted themselves in the past: with a very hands-free, lack of due diligence process when it comes to the delivery of proper government strategies in this state.

It is not appropriate to conclude that they acted ignorantly and in a trustworthy fashion with regard to the acceptance of advice, because Commissioner Chesterman himself concluded that before any decision had been made to give away the state's rights there should have been the seeking of higher level Crown Law or senior counsel advice to understand what the state was giving away. One would have thought that CBRC or the cabinet should have asked that particular question and it never did. If you want to accept for one moment that they purely acted upon advice, then why was it that towards the end of 2010 there was a recommendation to minister Lucas and Anna Bligh that they should separate the end of the roster from the pay date so that the amount of overpayments

could be reduced? That went to them well over 12 months before we came into government and they ignored that advice. Conveniently they accepted advice when it suited them and they ignored advice when it suited them. They sought to ignore advice that would have been crucial to reducing more than \$20 million of overpayments.

They cannot have it both ways. They cannot say that they were blissfully ignorant. A fish rots from the head first. It was the culture of a lack of governance in Queensland by this former Labor government over a period that led to the fake Tahitian prince, that led to ambulance ramping, that led to a failure with regard to the grants system in Queensland, that led to this payroll disaster, that led to so many things because there was a crucial failure of leadership, due diligence and oversight.

We should formally apologise to Queensland Health workers. If this motion is passed today I can give an undertaking to this parliament that I will make sure that that apology is formally and appropriately relayed to Queensland Health workers who have suffered under this system. Whilst we have now put fixes in place which have actually reduced that suffering and the overpayments and has corrected a lot of things, it will go on for a long time yet. If we look at abnormal expenditure with regard to the Queensland Health payroll system, it goes to almost \$800 million, and that is coming directly out of money that should have gone into—

(Time expired)



Mrs MILLER (Bundamba—ALP) (11.10 am): I move—

That all words after 'That this House' be deleted and replaced with:

'calls on the Newman government to immediately address the recommendations of the \$5 million Chesterman inquiry and notes the Newman government's massive cuts to hospitals and health services.'

Opposition members: Shame!

Mrs MILLER: Shame! The opposition also notes the report of the Queensland Health Payroll System Commission of Inquiry. We note that this inquiry, at a cost of \$5 million, has not found anything that was not already known. It should be noted by every member of this House that the \$5 million that was spent on this royal commission could have employed the equivalent of around 100 graduate nurses.

We also note that this report has not found—we have to be clear on this—that any former ministers had any case to answer. That is why everybody over there is so upset. That is why they cannot believe that this report, costing \$5 million, has not come out with the recommendations that they wanted. Clearly, we all have to understand and accept that, as found in this report, there has been poor administrative practice by a number of public servants. We all understand that and we accept that. However, if Premier Newman chooses to go on a witch-hunt with regard to those former public servants, that is his business alone. We know that this government's members have become experts on witch-hunts in the Queensland Public Service not only in Queensland Health, not only in Education Queensland that I know of but also in many other departments across the state—and not only in the Public Service here in Brisbane but also in regional centres and in all smaller country towns around the state as well. We support the Public Service Commission in ensuring that we have effective and well-managed government agencies and departments. We will always support that. We always believe that these government agencies, including Queensland Health, need to be adequately resourced, which means that they need to have the money but they also need to have the manpower to meet their responsibilities to the people of Queensland.

The staff cuts and the service closures that are the hallmark of the first year of this LNP government undermine the effectiveness of our public health services. That is clear. Everywhere that I travel across this state one of the first things that I am asked about is the health cuts and closures. That is why they describe the Minister for Health as the 'minister for health cuts and closures', because that is what they see him doing across the length and breadth of this state. No matter where I am, whether I am talking about housing issues, mines issues in various parts of Queensland or natural resources issues, which are also part of my shadow ministerial responsibility, everyone brings up Health. Let me tell honourable members why. Over many, many decades everybody in this state has come to believe in a public health system so that if they get sick, are in a traffic accident or a workplace accident, or if they have inherited a genetic disease—or whatever may be wrong—they have a public hospital system that will look after them and a public hospital system that is well funded. They want to know that their public hospital system has doctors, nurses and allied health professionals—including radiologists, pharmacists, social workers and pathology officers—who are top class and who are there to look after them no questions asked. The biggest fear in the minds of

those in our community is that they are going to have to pay to access these basic services. Many people have said to me that they are so concerned about this that it worries them sick, day and night. I have been told of cases in which the first question people are asked when they go to hospital is, 'Are you in a private medical fund?' That is the first question they are asked. I can tell members that they are living in fear of that because they know that if they are members of a private health fund and they go into the private health system, the second question they are asked is, 'What are your credit card details?' That is what normally happens in the private hospital system.

Mr Springborg: That's what you wanted to do.

Mrs MILLER: No, we did not, Minister for Health.

Mr Springborg: Yes, you did. You mentioned that before.

Mrs MILLER: You are fibbing on that. It does not matter what reports come to Queensland Health, we did not do any of that. So today you should rule out asking people about, firstly, their private health insurance and, secondly, asking people—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Members will direct their comments through the chair.

Mrs MILLER:—about credit cards. We have heard repeatedly about the Health payroll and the KPMG estimate of the total cost of the Queensland Health payroll system for the eight years between 2010-11 and the end of 2017-18. We need to look at this, and I tabled these documents last night. I think we need to table them again. So I table the answer to question on notice No. 6.

Tabled paper: Health and Community Services Committee 2013 estimates pre-hearing question on notice No. 6 [\[3178\]](#).

The important thing here is that yesterday we saw the charade of ministers saying, 'What could we do with \$1.2 billion?'—that they falsely claim is related to the Health payroll. That \$1 billion is about business as usual. That \$1 billion is about paying fortnightly our doctors, nurses, pharmacists—paying them all. The KPMG report states—

Business As Usual—the costs associated with ensuring Queensland Health employees are paid on a fortnightly basis and the system maintained (\$1,008.0m);

Basically, what these clowns opposite were talking about yesterday was ripping \$1.2 billion out—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member will withdraw those comments. They are unparliamentary.

Mrs MILLER: I withdraw. We see that they want to rip out this \$1.1 billion. If they get away with ripping that out, no doctors, nurses, social workers or radiographers will be paid. None of them will be paid because there will be no money to process their pays. They are the pure and simple facts. There will be no money there for any pays at all. So while you talk about—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members on my right will cease interjecting and the member will speak through the chair.

Mrs MILLER: You are talking about people being incorrectly paid because of the payroll debacle, and we accept that. We know it was a debacle. But the point is that you are suggesting that they work for nothing and that they do not get paid at all. That is what you are suggesting, and it is just absolutely unbelievable. So with this \$5 million that you wasted on this Chesterman inquiry—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The member will speak through the chair, and those on my right will cease interjecting.

Mrs MILLER: This \$5 million inquiry did not come up with what you wanted. You wanted our ministers' heads on platters like John the Baptist, and it did not happen. This \$5 million could have employed 100 graduate nurses; stopped Biala's services being closed; stopped the Barrett Centre's services being closed; and stopped the privatisation of the Sunshine, Gold Coast and Children's hospitals. But guess what? You should have an inquiry into what is happening at the Gold Coast Hospital, because when you see eminent surgeons and doctors up in arms, you know something is wrong—just like Bundaberg!

(Time expired)

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (11.21 am): Of course I rise to support the motion moved by my colleague the Minister for Health and oppose the motion moved by the member for Bundamba. When we look at Labor's failures in Health, they are legion. The Health payroll debacle is but the worst of them. In 2006, in the middle of an election campaign, there was a rushed decision by the former Premier Peter Beattie to establish a new children's hospital. There were no costings done for it whatsoever, but it was used to divert attention from the fact that his health system was falling down around his ears after the scandal that occurred in Bundaberg and his failure to address those matters.

Since then we have had the fake Tahitian prince who walked out the door with \$16 million and we have had a number of other events that have occurred: ambulance ramping, waiting lists blowing out and people being treated on gurneys in waiting rooms and aisles in hospitals. When it came to the health department, under Labor it was not delivering any of the things that the member for Bundamba was talking about. She said we wanted a good system with good doctors treating people. Under Labor it was not a good system; it was not treating people; and it was costing more and more. So the solution of the Labor Party was to throw more and more money at it, and the people of Queensland came to believe that under Labor the health system would never work. That was the reason they made the decision that they made on 24 March 2012, but the Labor remnants in this place still refuse to accept responsibility for the actions of their government. Three of those Labor members are sitting on their front bench here today.

This motion does note the failures of Labor ministers which were not only brought to light by the report provided by Mr Chesterman but also by the report of the Auditor-General into their activities. It found a failure of control, a lack of system strength and a lack of probity, and that was reinforced by Mr Chesterman in his report today. I would also point out that, as always with Labor, you have to check your facts. The amendment to the motion moved by the member for Bundamba has a glaring factual error: it claims the inquiry cost \$5 million. The inquiry came in at \$3.5 million, which is \$1.5 million under budget. So not only do we tell people how much it is going to cost, but we actually do better than we thought we were going to do. The member for Bundamba has been shown up yet again for not being able to represent the truth accurately in this place and for her scaremongering and fearmongering throughout the length and breadth of Queensland.

We have a report from a respected QC which is scathing of what it finds in relation to the activities undertaken by the ministers of the former Labor government, scathing in the activities undertaken by public servants and scathing in the activities undertaken by IBM. Therefore, it is right and proper that this House, as the commissioning agent of that report, has the opportunity to debate it and pass a motion on it, and that is what we are talking about today. When we look at what goes on, we also need to consider the role of IBM in this debacle. I do note that, according to former Premier Beattie's press release in relation to IBM moving here, he was hoping that the company would create as many as 1,000 jobs over the next 10 years. Over 800 jobs had to be created in Queensland Health—using taxpayers' money—just to keep the payroll system working because it could not function otherwise. Something which was meant to save Queenslanders money by using fewer people actually cost Queenslanders more because we had to employ so many more people just to ensure that people were paid day in and day out. It is entirely appropriate that those who are responsible at the highest level—whether it was the failed Director-General of Health, whether it was the officer from Queensland Treasury who was appointed to manage the contract negotiations, or whether it was in fact IBM itself—be held accountable, because in the private sector that is what would happen. That is what taxpayers expect because it is their money that is being spent. As a result of that there are fewer health services being provided. In just one year alone this government had to put an extra \$124 million into the system. In fact, thanks to the total mismanagement of the previous Labor government we are going to provide an extra \$385 million over four years to keep paying people, and that could have employed 4,000 nurses. This motion deserves to be supported.

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.26 am): I will be supporting the amendment moved by the shadow health minister and member for Bundamba, which calls on the Newman government to immediately address the recommendations of the \$5 million Chesterman inquiry and notes the Newman government's massive cuts to hospitals and health services.

Yesterday in this House we were addressing some of the issues in relation to the inquiry, and once again the health minister and the Deputy Premier wanted to see diaries and lobbyists' registers. At that stage I mentioned to them that Richard Chesterman had all of the powers of a royal commission to look at any document relevant to the \$5 million inquiry—which was paid for by

taxpayers—that this government had undertaken. At the time I did not have the Commissions of Inquiry Act on me, but today for the benefit of the cabinet ministers opposite I am more than happy to table the Commissions of Inquiry Act which sets out the powers of a royal commission. Let me read from it so that the health minister, Treasurer and all of the cabinet ministers—

An honourable member: And the Attorney-General!

Ms PALASZCZUK:—and the Attorney-General are very clear. The act states—

5. Power to summon witnesses and require production of books

...

(b) require any person to produce to the commission at a specified time and place such books, documents, writings and records or property or things of whatever description in the person's custody or control.

I table the Commissions of Inquiry Act so that all of the cabinet ministers can be very clear that Mr Chesterman had all of the powers of a royal commission to seek any relevant document that was needed for his inquiry.

Tabled paper: Commissions of Inquiry Act 1950, current as at 1 July 2013 [\[3179\]](#).

At lunchtime today there are going to be nurses marching on Parliament House who are concerned about what this government is doing. They are concerned about the massive cuts to hospitals and services—

Government member: If they never marched, then they would have been paid!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is not true! That is not true and you are misleading!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: They are going to present a petition stating that our hospitals are not for sale, and they are also going to be handing out something entitled *Hands off our Sunshine Coast University Hospital*. The Nurses Union and the people of Queensland are concerned about these savage cuts. This government wants to live in the past and continue to blame the former Labor government. Well, it is about time this health minister stood up—

Mr Springborg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The Minister for Health will cease interjecting.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is about time that this health minister stood up and took responsibility for his actions, his cuts and his closures.

When I move around the hospitals I have people say to me that, because of the cuts and closures, they are now having to do the jobs of two or three people. It is having a huge impact here in South-East Queensland, but it is having a much bigger impact in regional Queensland. When I travel across regional Queensland I find that people are disgusted that this government is sacking workers—sacking over 4½ thousand nurses and allied health professionals—and looking at privatising services. This is a government that cannot be trusted. This health minister and this Premier cannot be trusted.

I will move on to the recommendations of the inquiry and the substantive part of the shadow health minister's amendment. This week the government has not addressed the issue of how they will implement the recommendations of the Health payroll inquiry. They have not said how much money they will allocate to make sure the recommendations will be implemented. I am concerned that there are a number of recommendations of the Health payroll inquiry, commissioned by the government, to which they have not even bothered to respond. If they are serious and fair dinkum, they should be addressing these recommendations. The matter should have gone to cabinet and they should have said very clearly in this parliament this week how much money they are going to allocate to ensure every recommendation made in the Queensland Health Payroll System Commission of Inquiry report will be implemented on their watch. They have not said so. They are still living in the past. There are people out there who are suffering. Queenslanders will not forget. The health minister will be held responsible.

(Time expired)



Hon. IB WALKER (Mansfield—LNP) (Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts) (11.31 am): I rise to speak in support of the motion. In my former life I was a lawyer and I knew Commissioner Chesterman to be not only a great lawyer but also a great wordsmith. I will start by using his words because, as always, he has got to the nub of this matter in a very well-said way. He talks about the implementation of this project and the role of the state and the role of IBM. He states—

The implementation of—

this project—

brings discredit to them both: the State for its imprudent and uncontrolled expenditure of taxpayer funds and its failure to ensure public servants were paid and paid accurately; and IBM because it is in part responsible for a system which, on any measure (whether it be cost, customer management or simply its having implemented a system for a large customer which did not operate as it ought), was a failure.

Nothing says it more clearly than that. There are those who say that we did not get value for money from Commissioner Chesterman's inquiry. I beg to differ. We got great value for money because we got the truth of the matter.

The kind of failure that was exposed by Commissioner Chesterman—a gross failure of public administration—is typical of those opposite. Like their federal Labor counterparts, those opposite are full of grand visions that fail to deliver every single time—every single time.

What does this Health payroll debacle—potentially the worst failure of public administration in this country's history—actually mean to Queenslanders? It means that the former government presided over a debacle so large, a debacle so significant, that it is estimated to cost Queensland taxpayers about \$1.2 billion over the next eight years. How is it possible that a contract that was initially set to cost as little as \$6.194 million will end up costing Queensland taxpayers that amount? This is emblematic of the Labor Party and its inability to implement projects on time and on budget. To see this we need only look at Kevin Rudd and his federal Labor counterparts. They are all talk and no follow-through. I mention the pink batts, school halls and border protection. There is big talking and many taxpayers' dollars wasted.

For those who are still asking themselves, 'How is it possible that a \$6.194 million contract will end up costing Queenslanders \$1.2 billion?', I point to the commission of inquiry. Commissioner Chesterman found that the state was imprudent and engaged in uncontrolled expenditure of taxpayer funds. The former government presided over a system that made one disastrous decision after another.

Let us not forget the role of IBM in this debacle. As the prime contractor, IBM acted as a commercially motivated vendor that was not able to deliver a payroll system that was capable of paying Queensland Health employees—the state's nurses and doctors—with any kind of accuracy. In fact, IBM presided over such a botched payroll system that it still requires more than 800 government employees to ensure people are paid each fortnight. IBM was driven entirely by its commercial interests. It was great to hear the welcoming words of then Premier Beattie in 2005 when he welcomed IBM's Asia-Pacific office to the Smart State. Mr Beattie said—

IBM has a great deal of confidence in Queensland and in the potential for this office.

They certainly had great reason for that confidence, given what they drew out of the Queensland people over the course of this debacle. IBM's actions were unethical and they will not be tolerated by this government. As IT minister I can guarantee members here today that the Newman government will not deal with ICT vendors until they can demonstrate they have appropriate governance arrangements in place to ensure that the mistakes of the past are not repeated. In particular, IBM must be able to demonstrate that they have taken appropriate steps to remedy their past unethical dealings with the former Labor government.

I refer also to the supplemental agreement—the settlement agreement when IBM was let off the hook. Justice Chesterman thinks about calling the terms of that supplemental agreement improvident. Ms Bligh and Mr Lucas say, 'Don't use the word "improvident", Mr Chesterman. People don't know what it means; it is an opaque word.' Mr Chesterman cleverly says, 'Well, I won't use the word; I'll just let people read the report and they can come to their own conclusions.' I have come to my own conclusions: it was improvident. It will not happen again under the Newman government. We have an IT strategy in place. We will by the end of this month release our ICT implementation plan, and that plan will pick up on the recommendations of Commissioner Chesterman and we will be providing good government and good administration in the future in these ICT areas.

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—UAP) (11.36 am): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition. The motion moved by the health minister, the member for Southern Downs, on the back of the offensive actions yesterday on the part of the Leader of the House in shutting down a valid debate, is outrageous. This is more of the same outrageous politics-before-substance process that has gone on and on here ever since the election of the Campbell Newman government.

This motion is being debated here today without any letter being prepared to show members what will be sent out. We here in parliament are being treated with absolute contempt over a matter that is truly a shocking report on the failings of a government, its bureaucracy and the actions of some in the commercial world.

The motion demands that we members give the minister a blank canvass to do and say whatever he wishes. Does the minister not see that this is exactly what was going wrong when CorpTech and various others decided on a whole-of-government solution and implemented what was a failed program known as Paris, renamed Workbrain and implemented as a solution for long-suffering staff who work for Queensland Health? Does the minister also not see that this is no different from his embracing of NHS failed policies from the UK being forced on unsuspecting patients in Queensland public hospitals right now? Does the minister not realise that his own recklessness will imperil us all on a crazy decision to totally outsource the soon-to-be-constructed Sunshine Coast University Hospital? None of these decisions is any different from what was going wrong with the payroll project. How many mistakes or disasters is the minister wishing upon long-suffering Queenslanders? There is no justification for this demand via a motion for parliamentarians today because the actions of the Leader of the House yesterday demand a formal response of absolute derision.

I listened to the raving, ranting monotone of the member for Southern Downs today as he used personal attack to respond to valid concerns raised about patients, their safety and the conduct of officers—medical or otherwise—charged and paid to look after them. What did he say? He said that there is no evidence. I table the letter sent by Dr Steve Withers yesterday.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 7 August 2013, from Dr Stephen Withers to members of parliament regarding the Gold Coast Hospital [\[3180\]](#).

What does the minister want? Names? Dates of birth? Times? Does he not realise that in health we keep these things confidential? We do not use victims' suffering for our own base political beliefs, as I suggest the minister wants to do. He is saying, after listening to 612 4QR this morning, that he as health minister wishes to confront people suffering different kinds of illnesses and know exactly what they are. And he wants their names. I say to the health minister that there is a problem on the Gold Coast. How can 90 medical specialists be wrong? How can the AMA, as their representative body, be wrong? Why would they do this? Ask yourself that question and answer it honestly. The first step to a resolution is acknowledging the problem honestly. With regard to the Chesterman inquiry—

Mr Springborg: That's why we're having an investigation. That's why we're—

Dr DOUGLAS: Well, it has taken you a long time. Boy, you had to come kicking and screaming to it!

Mr Springborg interjected.

Dr DOUGLAS: No. No, you did not! You denied it, Minister!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The member for Gaven will speak through the chair.

Dr DOUGLAS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. With regard to the Chesterman inquiry, nothing beyond what was already known has been found. This is not former Justice Chesterman's fault. There are no prosecutions recommended, but there is nothing in this motion today that has added to the recommendations or comes from the recommendations. This motion seeks—in the absence of being able to have another inquiry and wasting even more money on inquiries and time wasters here—to vilify anyone that the health minister can throw mud at. Honestly, just get on with the job and stop wasting time! The public deserve an apology. Queensland Health staff deserve an apology. The former government's staff are condemned for failing in their roles as governing competently. I am not ignoring what was said by the IT minister, but that is the commercial world. We are talking about Health here. Get on and fix the problems in Health! That is your job, but to give the health minister a blank canvass to do so in the manner that he suggests is unacceptable and is insulting to all parliamentarians. There are many people whom one might give a blank canvass to in order to

apologise. The last person you would give it to is someone whose motive is blind revenge. Two wrongs do not justify a right. This motion cannot be supported because the health minister has demonstrated, by his own actions with regard to his time as health minister, that he has not earned the right from the parliament to have such a blanket authority. Your job can only be a poison chalice if you want it to be so, but get on and do the job of looking after—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (11.41 am): I rise to support the motion moved by the Minister for Health. Three years ago in this House I said that 14 March 2010 has gone down as a day of one of the worst government failures in Queensland's IT history and cast an undeserved cloud over it. And here we are, in August 2013, and the Hon. Richard Chesterman AO QC has tabled the Queensland Health payroll commission of inquiry report that found—

The replacement of the QH payroll system must take a place in the front rank of failures in public administration in this country. It may be the worst.

But we should not be surprised that Labor presided over such a massive fiasco, as the writing was on the wall and now is there for all to see in black and white. The Labor government had been unsuccessfully attempting to introduce a whole-of-government HR system since 2002. However, it is the scale of the Health payroll failure that really beggars belief, as does the misery and heartache it created for thousands upon thousands of dedicated Queensland Health workers. Yet those opposite, true to form, want to whitewash the whole sorry saga and the people who were so deeply affected.

For a bit of history here though, Minister Robert Swarten inherited a pup from Treasury on 1 July 2008, that is for sure, when his department was tasked with managing the contract to deliver the new Queensland Health payroll project. But that does not absolve him from responsibility—quite the opposite—nor his director-general, Mal Grierson, who has received a dishonourable mention in the recent Health payroll report as he had been in the position for over a decade. IBM had been in breach of the managed contract since August 2008—under Swarten's watch. There was an expectation that systems would be replaced by the end of the year, but nothing happened, with another missed deadline at the end of 2009.

On 17 September 2009 Minister Swarten told parliament that the proposed rollout in Queensland Health would cost \$20 million and that there was no extra money, but within three months Queensland Health admitted it would ditch the existing system and spend \$40 million to replace it—double the amount this incompetent minister claimed. Today's cost is estimated at \$1.2 billion. How on earth did it come to this? Mr Chesterman and the LNP have endeavoured to find out. On 7 December 2009 I criticised the Bligh government for six fruitless years of failure to deliver whole-of-government IT solutions and announcing yet another IT overhaul. I said at the time that Minister Swarten's solution to disguising uncompleted projects appears to be that when one plan fails he just announces another. Flip-flopping and changing directions without registering that it would cost money were typical of that government.

On 13 December 2009 I put out a release titled 'IT failures a sign of things to come', and how true that turned out to be! I predicted no pay for public servants and other issues after Queensland government offices were crippled by ongoing internet failures. Move to 21 December 2009 and the government's confused tender process posed serious questions about the impact it was having on the delivery of important projects and, beyond comprehension, it was only signed in 2008 yet generated 1,086 pages of requested contract changes. Each time a deadline approached, the government had to come up with more excuses to push back the go-live date and, once it did, with problems that are well documented now, there was no guarantee that the subsequent pay runs would run glitch free. This was an understatement of mammoth proportions and gave us a chilling glimpse of what was to come—all in all, 10 aborted attempts and 4,200 defects identified, many of those prior to go-live.

There were countless FOIs which unravelled a lot of cover-ups, ineptitude, incompetence and misleading comments. On 25 March Swarten said—

I am extremely proud of the outcome ...

this is 25 March after it had gone live—

of combined Queensland Health, IBM and Department of Public Works in delivering such a good outcome in a complicated environment.

He tried again to defend the ill-fated program on 14 April—

Nothing that has come to light has suggested a breakdown in the system.

It is no wonder that this minister will be remembered as the 'Minister for Public Waste'. His awful legacy will live on. He typifies Labor governments—big on promise but incapable of delivering no matter the cost to the taxpayer and incapable of an apology. Labor deserved the boot in 2012, just like Rudd deserves it on 7 September.

 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (11.46 am): I rise to speak to the motion. I will be supporting the amendment moved by the opposition. I will be doing that because I believe this is just another election stunt. Yesterday we saw the Newman government take the view that after spending over \$5 million on holding the Chesterman inquiry into the Queensland Health payroll system the government believed the commission did not ask the right questions and the parliament had to ask further questions. The records show that the Newman government did not want to hear the views of many non-government members yesterday. The *Hansard* record shows that the matter for debate yesterday was set to be able to be debated with no set time limit after Premier Newman told parliament on Tuesday that this week would be all about the Chesterman report. The government only allowed two non-government speakers to participate in the debate before the Leader of Government Business at 4.25 pm said—

As the mover of the motion I am now closing the debate.

The government did not want to hear the views of other non-government members. Today we see the continuation of the blame game being played out in the federal election campaign. But what is different today from yesterday is that the motion we are debating today is set for a specific time limit—one hour—with a set speaking list. Today the debate is about if parliament supports, amongst other things, a letter of apology being written to Queensland Health staff, but we have not even seen a draft letter. We know that we are in election mode—look at the records—given all of the comments that have been made from the government, opposition and crossbenches about who they want to support in the coming election, who they want to bat for.

I will not allow my name to be used to support the wording of a letter that I have not seen, and I think that is a reasonable comment. That is a reasonable comment. The mover of this motion could have walked into this chamber and in his opening address could have said, 'Here's a draft letter I intend to send.' We have seen nothing. This week we have heard a lot of comments made by members of parliament in support of their respective candidates or team and I believe this letter could simply be another technique to try to influence the outcome of the federal election scheduled for September. During the debate we have had no reason presented by the government why it needs the support of parliament for the proposed letter. When state parliament last supported an apology from Premier Newman, this is not what happened. When state parliament last supported an apology, the record shows that it happened totally differently. I say that today we are seeing just another stunt by the government to try to support its party in the upcoming federal election.

I take members to the amendment moved by the opposition. It calls on the Newman government to immediately address the recommendations of the \$5 million Chesterman inquiry and notes the Newman government's massive cuts to hospitals and health services. Yes, the second part is political. The first part is, I think, very reasonable. The amendment calls for the Newman government to immediately address the recommendations of the \$5 million Chesterman inquiry. I think that is what Queenslanders want us to do. I note that the motion moved by the government talks about the debacle of IBM and former members of parliament and public servants. Yes, I think everyone agrees that it is a jolly disgrace.

Before I resume my seat, I take members to the government's proposed model of the new Kawana hospital on the Sunshine Coast, which everyone thought was going to be a public hospital. I note what the minister has said about what the new hospital is going to do, but I think we are seeing a real debacle. The former government thought, 'Bigger is better. We're going to do something new that hasn't happened in Australia.' I understand that there was no working computer model in Australia that they were modelling the Health payroll system on. It was something new. I say to members that I genuinely believe that the government's proposed way they are going to operate the new Sunshine Coast Kawana hospital is just like that. I understand that there is no working hospital in Australia with the range of services and operations which are proposed to be operating from the new Kawana hospital on the Sunshine Coast. In effect, the new Sunshine Coast Kawana hospital is going to be a guinea pig. I know how the Nambour Hospital purchases services from the Noosa Hospital. But I also understand that there are some issues in relation to accountability and checking that the moneys that are paid are just and reasonable. I support the amendment moved by the opposition.

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (11.51 am): I rise to speak in support of the motion before the House and commend the Minister for Health for bringing the motion to the House today. The case has been well and truly made, not just in the debate about the motion this morning but certainly in this House during the week, that the actions that are set out in this motion are well and truly appropriate and that the people of Queensland deserve nothing less.

I certainly reject the amendment that has been put forward by the opposition. The first part of the opposition's amendment calls for something that the Premier has already committed to. He has already given the commitment to address the recommendations in the report.

Mr Springborg: And report back to parliament next week.

Mr SEENEY: Exactly. It goes so far as to bring it back to parliament next week. I think that indicates that the opposition is wasting the money that is allocated to it in terms of the resources that are made available to it. The opposition members do not keep up with what is going on in this House. They do not even understand the debate that is happening on this motion.

But their efforts are nothing compared to the poor, confused folk who sit on the crossbenches who participated in this debate today—the poor confused member for Nicklin who sits up there and raves and rants and mumbles and grumbles and who has no relevance to the debate at all. We have heard his contribution to the consideration of this motion today reinforce the view that he lives in a little world of his own. But, of course, the member for Gaven, would dearly love to be the health minister. Today, he stood up and gave a wonderful display of envy and jealousy. It was a rant about the current health minister that was based on envy and jealousy. But the member for Gaven cannot deny and the opposition cannot deny that the health system is a heck of a lot better now than it was when we came to government. It is the best health system in Australia and the data and the figures are there to support it. The member for Southern Downs, the Minister for Health, should be congratulated by every member of this House on that effort.

The motion before the House calls for a number of things. In seeking to amend that motion, the opposition members are expressing the view that they are not prepared to do these things. They are not prepared to note that the report names a number of former Labor government ministers. They are continuing the denial. They want to deny the black and white of the report. They want to deny that the report names a number of current and former public servants. They do not want to support the Public Service Commission in the taking of appropriate action to hold those responsible officers to account.

Is that not a continuation of what we saw from a Labor government here over a period of 14 years? It did not want to hold anybody accountable for anything. It did not want to hold ministers accountable. It did not want to hold public servants accountable. The opposition members do not want to join with us in censoring IBM. They do not want to acknowledge that IBM's actions were part of the debacle and were indefensible. The opposition wants to support IBM. It does not want to hold anyone responsible and it does not want to acknowledge the behaviour that went on.

Of course, the opposition members do not want to make any comment about the former Labor government's lack of judgement and accountability. They do not want to talk about Paul Lucas's judgement, or Robbie Schwarten's accountability, or the cabinet—the people who sat around the cabinet table with them. They do not want to do that. But most of all—and most despicably of all—they do not want to apologise to the people of Queensland for the \$1.6 billion that has been wasted. They do not want to apologise to the people of Queensland who will suffer the loss of that incredible amount of money for a long time to come—not just in Health but across the entire state budget. They do not want to apologise to the people of Queensland, who are the people who ultimately suffer because of the atrocious administration of the Labor government that led to the worst administrative debacle in the history of Queensland and, certainly, I think possibly of Australia.

The fact that the opposition members continue to deny is bad enough. That they refuse to apologise is worse still.

Mrs Scott: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr SEENEY: This motion should be supported by every member—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The Deputy Premier's time has expired.

Mrs Scott: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! What is your point of order, Deputy Premier?

Mr SEENEY: The opposition members are continually seeking the call from the Speaker before the time limit runs out for the previous speaker.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. The opposition—

Ms Trad interjected. This is a tactic to consume time.

Mr SEENEY: The opposition members cannot seek the call until such time as time has expired.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for South Brisbane, while I am listening to and considering a point of order, will not interrupt. I warn you under standing order 253A. The Deputy Premier has raised a point of order.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I would ask you to rule that the opposition members need to have some respect for this parliament, respect for the chair and respect for the rules of this parliament. No member of this House can seek the call of the chair when another member is speaking unless it is on a point of order. To stand and to seek that call before the member is speaking is out of order and all of the—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I take the point. The Deputy Premier, on calling that point of order, is correct. There were still seconds remaining on the clock and the call was taken too early, which was a matter that I intended to immediately address. However, the Deputy Premier correctly called a point of order. I would at this point simply say that all members are required to stick to the standing orders when it comes to the time allotted to their speaking and to not seek to take the call before it is their allotted time. I now call the member for Woodridge and there are two minutes.

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (11.57 am): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the shadow minister. Let us call this debate for what it is: nothing but a lame stunt. This government is desperately trying to live in the past to distract the people of Queensland from its own very public failings. This motion is not about needing to admit mistakes or having to force the offering of apologies. No-one on this side of the chamber believes that what happened to health workers was acceptable. Let me remind the House that this issue has been thoroughly dealt with in this chamber, in public debate, in the media and indeed throughout the Chesterman formal inquiry.

Apologies have already been offered, genuinely and freely given, years ago. Was the Minister for Health asleep at the time? Let me remind the House of the real apologies already provided. On 13 April 2010 in parliament, Paul Lucas said.

... can I start by reiterating my public comments and my previous discussions with Queensland Health employees and their representatives. This simply was not good enough. It should not have happened and I take the issue very seriously. Again, I reiterate my apology ...

He went on to make it very clear that the payroll change was not fair on employees and was simply not good enough. On 14 April 2010, he said—

It is not acceptable that there have been the delays. It is not acceptable that there have been people who have not been paid when it comes to our payroll.

On 13 April, the then premier, Anna Bligh, said—

It is totally unacceptable that there has been a problem in this system. I apologise to every employee of Queensland Health ...

The LNP government is treating this parliament with contempt with today's stunt.

(Time expired)

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

AYES, 12—Byrne, Douglas, Hopper, Judge, Katter, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Trad, Wellington. Tellers: Miller, Scott

NOES, 67—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Cripps, Crisafulli, Cunningham, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Holswich, Johnson, King, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McVeigh, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorenson, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trout, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young. Tellers: Kaye, Menkens

Resolved in the negative.

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

AYES, 67—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Cripps, Crisafulli, Cunningham, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Holswich, Johnson, King, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McVeigh, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorenson, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trout, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young. Tellers: Kaye, Menkens

NOES, 12—Byrne, Douglas, Hopper, Judge, Katter, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Trad, Wellington. Tellers: Miller, Scott

Resolved in the affirmative.

QUEENSLAND INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL BILL

Resumed from 6 August (see p. 2294).

Second Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.13 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.13 pm): I rise to speak to the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal Bill 2013. The opposition supports this bill, although there are a number of areas where we have concerns and we will seek clarification from the Attorney-General on those matters. As I said, the opposition is comfortable with what the government is doing, but we should never forget why this legislation has been introduced. It is not because of a decision of the previous Beattie government. It is not because of a decision of former Premier Bligh to give Queensland MPs a lower pay rise than their federal counterparts.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You will get the history. The real reason this legislation has been introduced is because the LNP cabinet gave themselves a staggering pay rise of 41.9 per cent, with the additional flow-on effects, and they copped enormous public backlash in return. At a time when many families are struggling with cost-of-living pressures, LNP ministers sat around the cabinet table and decided to grant themselves pay rises of tens of thousands of dollars. In fact, it was announced the very same day as Queenslanders were hit with a massive 22.6 per cent increase in their electricity bills. At a time when hardworking public servants cannot even get a 2.3 per cent pay rise from the government, LNP ministers gave themselves an increase almost 20 times higher.

For backbenchers the pay rise was \$57,000 a year—more than what many people earn in the entire year. For ministers the pay rise resulted in an extra \$93,000 a year and for the Deputy Premier about \$100,000 a year. But the really obscene figure is the pay rise reserved for the Premier—an extra \$118,000 a year—taking his salary to almost \$400,000 which is comparable to that of the President of the United States.

The public and the opposition condemn these pay rises but for more than a week the government tried to defend the indefensible. Finally, as the issue threatened to completely derail an already dysfunctional government, the LNP announced its intention to establish the tribunal that is the subject of this legislation.

From the outset, it must be pointed out that there should be no reason for this legislation to be rushed through the way it is—being debated two days after it was introduced. The Premier will have everyone believe that after his deputy botched the decision to lift MPs' pay by 41.9 per cent he arrived like a white knight to save the day with his alternative. Nothing could be further from the truth.

What the Premier and Deputy Premier conveniently forgot to tell the public is that the option of an independent remuneration tribunal was suggested to them in April 2012—just three weeks after they came into power. On 13 April 2012 the Clerk of the Parliament wrote to the Premier alerting him to the fact that the salaries of Queensland MPs were out of step with the legislative provisions of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. Why? Because at the height of the global financial crisis, then Premier Anna Bligh 'determined that the increases for federal members would not be passed on in full to Queensland members'. The letter went on to say that this situation was 'contrary to the relevant provision in the act'.

So the Premier was clearly aware of the legal situation regarding MPs' salaries some 16 months ago. The Clerk's letter outlined to the Premier four options for handling the issue. Option 4 was to establish a remuneration tribunal for members. I table that letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 April 2012, to the Premier, Hon. Campbell Newman, from the Clerk of the Parliament regarding the administration of salaries of members of the Legislative Assembly [\[3181\]](#).

So let us not be conned by the idea that the Premier came up with the idea as a way to defuse a hot issue. The truth is that he rejected this idea some 16 months ago and only reconsidered it when the public backlash to the LNP's 41.9 per cent pay rise became overwhelming. The Premier did not save the situation. The reality is that he contributed to it and he is just as much to blame as his deputy.

This is just one of the myths surrounding the issue that needs to be dispelled. There are several others so I thought I would start by providing a little background to a matter that engulfed the government for two weeks in early July 2013. Contrary to the Premier's assertions, the decision to link state MPs' pay to the salaries of their federal counterparts was not a decision of former Premiers Beattie or Bligh. This is a decision that had its genesis a quarter of a century ago when the conservative Ahern government was in power. The salaries of members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly have been linked to the pay rate of federal MPs since the Ahern government passed the Parliamentary Members' Salary Act 1988—25 years ago. Section 3 of this act stated that state MPs were to receive \$500 less than a member of the House of Representatives in the federal parliament. I table the extract of that act.

Tabled paper: Extract of Parliamentary Members' Salaries Act 1988 (Qld) [\[3182\]](#).

This provision was continued when the Beattie government consolidated several pieces of legislation regarding the operation of parliament through the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. The act was passed on 27 November 2001 and was not opposed by the Liberals and Nationals. In fact, there are several members of the current government who were sitting in this parliament at that time, including the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Health, the Chief Whip and the members for Warrego and Mirani. It seems they had no concerns about linking the salaries of Queensland MPs to federal members back then.

In the wake of the global financial crisis, former Premier Anna Bligh restricted salary increases for MPs several times, ensuring they rose at a moderate rate in keeping with the pay rises granted to public servants at the time. In March 2012 the federal Remuneration Tribunal granted federal MPs a salary increase of 31 per cent, as well as adjusting MP allowances, but this increase was not passed on to state MPs.

Of course, also in March 2012 something else happened. We had a state election and the LNP, led by Premier Newman, won the treasury bench in the Queensland parliament. Then on 13 April 2012—just three weeks after the LNP took power—the Clerk of the Parliament wrote his letter to the Premier. It should be noted that copies of this letter were also provided, I understand, to the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer at this time—so they were fully aware of this issue for more than one year. The Premier also received briefings from his department, writing on one that 'members pay and allowances will go up by the core wage outcome'. I table that briefing note.

Tabled paper: Premier's briefing note, dated 22 August 2012, regarding salary and allowances increase for members of the Queensland Parliament in 2012 [\[3183\]](#).

It is a shame that the Premier did not follow his own advice and implement this solution. He could have saved himself and his government an enormous amount of embarrassment.

The issue of MP salaries got interesting on Monday, 1 July 2013 when the Acting Premier, the member for Callide, Jeff Seeney, announced that he had instructed the Clerk of the Parliament to comply with the Parliament of Queensland Act, thereby increasing MPs' salaries by 41.9 per cent. This was such a great decision that he even put out a media statement about it. I table the media statement.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 1 July 2013, from the Acting Premier, the Hon. Jeff Seeney, titled 'Government will resist back pay claims' [\[3184\]](#).

Never mind that this was the same day that power bills for average families increased by 22.6 per cent—another broken promise by the LNP, who told Queenslanders before the 2012 election that they would lower household electricity bills.

The Acting Premier claimed he was responding urgently to crown law advice, received on 28 June 2013, that withholding the pay rise was illegal. This explanation fails to withstand scrutiny, as we now know that the government was aware of this issue back in April 2012. The only urgency was

rushing it through cabinet while the Premier was away in the vain hope that he would not be associated with this decision. The government's decision was then gazetted on 5 July 2013. This is where the government's explanation starts to unravel even further. The gazettal notice states—

The *Members' Entitlements Handbook* shall be amended to reflect the increase of 41.9% to salaries of Members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly and additional salaries and Expense of Office allowances payable to Office Holders of the Legislative Assembly, Ministers and Assistant Ministers ...

I table the gazettal notice.

Tabled paper: Page 795 of Queensland Government Gazette No. 53, 5 July 2013 [3185].

There, in black and white, is the evidence that the 41.9 per cent pay rise applied to all additional salaries paid to office-bearers and members of cabinet. This was confirmed by the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet at last month's estimates hearing. He advised the committee that he had fully briefed the Acting Premier about the flow-on impacts of the 41.9 per cent pay rise. Despite the growing public backlash to the decision, the government kept defending it. Clearly, this experience would have shaken the Premier's confidence in the capacity of the other 18 members to make responsible decisions in his absence.

One of the most extraordinary parts of this saga was the performance of the Deputy Premier. For nine days he steadfastly defended a decision that could not withstand even the barest of scrutiny. But Tuesday, 9 July 2013 stands out as a particular high point. In an interview with ABC Radio in the morning, the Deputy Premier stated—

... every time you talk about politicians pay rates, you get this understandable reaction. It's easy for people like you to feed off that reaction of ... that is always going to be there. I have been determined that this is not going to cost the Queensland taxpayer one extra dollar. And it won't. We have slashed \$12 million from the money that goes to our political parties, we have slashed our electorate allowances by 50%. That meant that on Tuesday I got \$23,000 less than I would have, than I personally would have otherwise got. I cut my own allowance by \$23,000 to make sure that we had a zero impact on the Queensland taxpayers, because we understand the financial situation, you are exactly right. It's in our complete focus for the last 15 months to address the terrible financial legacy of the former Government. So that's why I'm absolutely determined in responding to the Crown Law advice in fixing Anna Bligh's mistake because it was another one of Anna Bligh's stuff ups that led to this. In fixing that, we had not one extra dollar imposed on the Queensland taxpayer.

Once again this is the government blaming the former Labor government. I table a copy of that interview.

Tabled paper: Transcript of 612ABC Brisbane interview of 9 July 2013 at 8.34 am [3186].

On the same day he also told 4BC—

Well, the Parliament can legislate, and Parliament is the only place that this can be changed and that was the crux of the Crown Law advice. And that's what Anna Bligh either didn't know or didn't have the courage to do. And the Parliament as it stands now can legislate when it returns in August. But until then, the law has to be complied with, and that's made very clear to me by the Crown Law Advice. It is just not acceptable for anyone in my position or any position in Government to fundamentally ignore Crown Law advice, you know, that's just not a possibility.

I table that transcript.

Tabled paper: Transcript of 612ABC Brisbane interview of 9 July 2013 at 8.37 am [3187].

How extraordinary—the member for Callide trying to blame the former Premier for not increasing MPs' salaries. This is an indication of just how out of touch this government is. But then there was the Deputy Premier's conversion on the road to Damascus. That night on the news we saw a different position from the Deputy Premier. He said—

Everyone's very uncomfortable about those rates that have been published today ...

He also said—

It's a rather obscure linkage that I certainly wasn't aware of and not too many other people were aware of.

He also added—

I had no idea what the calculation would be. I had no idea what the sums would add up to.

I table that transcript.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Comments by Newman Government regarding MP pay rises, 9 July 2013, ABC' [3188].

The Deputy Prime Minister has done harm to his reputation. By all reports, the Premier's confidence in him has diminished substantially and it is easy to see why.

I would like to now deal with some of the more specific elements of the bill. Firstly, I want to comment about—

Mr Seeney interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Deputy Premier, you will have an opportunity to contribute to the debate. The interjections are not being taken and I would ask that for benefit of the House you make your contribution at the appropriate time. The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will talk about charter flights another time, Deputy Premier. Firstly, I want to talk about the process involved in appointing the inaugural members of the remuneration tribunal. In doing so, I want to make it clear that I am not referring to the calibre of the three members—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr Wellington interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Attorney, for the benefit of the House I would ask that you not engage in debates across the chamber with other members, please. The Leader of the Opposition has the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. In doing so, I want to make it clear that I am not referring to the calibre of the three members appointed by the Premier. However, I believe that for an issue of this nature the Premier should have sought input from the opposition into the nominees for the tribunal. If the Premier had adopted that approach, we would have had a truly bipartisan approach today to resolving this issue. Sadly, the Premier has instead tried to portray himself as something of a hero in this matter—even though, as I have previously stated, all the evidence shows that he was part of the problem, not part of the solution.

It should also be noted that clause 29 outlines the general principles that the tribunal must follow in making a determination. Interestingly, there is no reference to the state's financial position or even the state's fiscal strategy, yet these two factors are so important with regard to public sector wage determinations that the government amended the Industrial Relations Act last year to force the Industrial Relations Commission to take these matters into consideration. It appears that the Newman government is not willing to impose on itself the same requirements it places on the state's hardworking but dwindling public sector workforce. I do not think that the ranks of the LNP have dwindled, though they have gone from 78 to 74 in just 16 months and I will not be surprised to see another departure very soon—perhaps the member for Redlands. Let us wait and see.

The Newman government's decision to lift MP salaries by 41 per cent was widely condemned and rightly so, particularly after it was revealed that the 41.9 per cent increase would result in massive increases to cabinet members and proportional increases to other positions such as committee members, committee chairs and whips. The Premier's attempt to salvage some credibility by putting forward a five-point plan to deal with the pay issue is disingenuous given the background to the issue. The government knew about this issue on 13 April 2012, virtually as soon as it came to office. The government's poorly handled attempt to bring in this pay rise while the Premier was on leave is cynical in the extreme but does not absolve the Premier. He was briefed while he was absent and supported the decision.

The public record also contradicts the member for Callide's claim that he was not aware of the flow-on effects of the increase. The remuneration tribunal seems an acceptable response, but it comes after a massive public backlash. It should be noted that we have had a very short time to scrutinise this legislation. So I urge the government to make the following commitments: the government should ensure the tribunal calls for public submissions to its deliberations, and the government should ensure that the tribunal delivers a detailed public report so that the public can see exactly why the tribunal has made its determinations. I look forward to what I thought was going to be the Premier's response, but I look forward to the Attorney-General's response.

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (12.32 pm): I begin my contribution to the consideration of this legislation by putting on record my regret and sadness at the approach that has been taken by the opposition. Those of us who have been in this parliament for any length of time at all know that to try to play cheap politics with this sort of issue degrades us all. It degrades every member of the House and it degrades the parliament, and it has always been thus. Every time anybody in this parliament has tried to play cheap politics with allowances or remuneration or who gets what and why they get it, we all end up losing. There has been an acknowledgement of that over a period of time.

In the previous parliament I was the Leader of the Opposition for a long time—too long, I can tell you. In all of that time I never played cheap politics with these issues, even though I had a number of advisers who used to come to me and say, ‘This is an issue.’ My colleague who was the Leader of the Opposition would reinforce that. The member for Moggill would reinforce that. There are plenty of people who come to you and say, ‘You should get stuck into the government about their allowances or for doing something in their electorate office’, or whatever. We never, ever did it because it degrades everybody. It is the cheapest of cheap politics.

To hear the Leader of the Opposition and the sanctimonious rubbish that she went on with today, and which I am sure the member for South Brisbane will echo, is a clear indication of the political immaturity of the people who sit there. It is in stark contrast to the political maturity of the people who were in the former government who were part of the effort to set up the new committee system including the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. That was an important part of recognising that members had to have a forum to deal with these issues away from the cheap political point-scoring in the shallow end of the public media. We needed to deal with these issues in a bipartisan way in a forum where cheap politics was left out of it.

I want today, as I have done previously in this House, to pay tribute to people like Judy Spence, who was the Leader of the House at the time, Rob Schwarten and Evan Moorhead—people who had the political maturity to meet with me, Lawrence Springborg and Mike Horan to discuss issues that were important to every member of this parliament both then, now and in the future in a way that did not lend itself to the cheap politics that the Leader of the Opposition and the member for South Brisbane seek to play.

Unfortunately, those opposite do not have that level of maturity. I want to respond to some of the nonsense that the Leader of the Opposition has just contributed to the debate. I do so not with any great hope that it will change anything but to put it on the public record, as I have done a number of times. The conspiracy theory type nonsense that the opposition has gone on with that somehow or other the Clerk’s letter is significant and that the flow-on effect to allowances is significant is the greatest load of nonsense that I have ever heard put forward in any debate.

While the Leader of the Opposition put all of that forward, she made no attempt to make any point with it. It is a conspiracy theory that would make the people on the crossbenches proud. This issue, as I indicated at the estimates committee, became urgent when we received crown law advice on Friday, 28 June. We received crown law advice after we sought from Crown Law its opinion about a view that had been put to us by former Labor ministers on three different occasions. Two former Labor ministers spoke to me and one former Labor minister made an approach to another senior member of the government—three senior Labor ministers. They were cabinet ministers in the Bligh cabinet who individually said to us that there is a huge problem here. The government is acquiring a huge legal liability. They raised the issue of what options were open to them to pursue what they saw as their entitlements in the form of back pay and increased superannuation payments. They raised that with me—former ministers of the Bligh government. So the responsible thing to do was to seek from Crown Law advice on the veracity of those claims. Did those claims have any veracity at all? We all knew about the Clerk’s letter. We all knew that the former government had deviated from the legislation but nobody had ever sought until that point in time, to my knowledge, a clear outline of what the legal situation was.

It is very interesting that the Leader of the Opposition has never indicated whether the former cabinet sought such crown law advice. It is interesting that in the debate no member of the opposition has asked why the former cabinet never sought such crown law advice—never sought to clarify what the legal situation was. When as Acting Premier I received that legal advice, there was no choice but for me to act and act decisively. As I said to the estimates committee, the legal advice indicated that there was a huge liability accumulating, that former members were entitled to back pay and—to quote what I think is the most pertinent line from the crown law advice—that the former Premier had acted outside the scope of the power of the Premier and the executive. The former Premier and her cabinet had acted ‘outside the scope of the power of the Premier and the executive’. I tabled that advice. I tabled it at the estimates committee hearing as well.

Tabled paper: Memorandum, dated 28 June 2013, from the Acting Crown Solicitor to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Hon. Jarrod Bleijie, regarding advice in relation to salary rates for state members of the Legislative Assembly [3189].

It was very clear from that advice that whoever exercised the power of the office of the Premier did not have the authority to make those decisions. The only place those decisions could be made is here in this parliament by the 89 members who sit here. When the Leader of the Opposition says that our cabinet decided this or our cabinet decided something else, that is quite wrong. When the Leader

of the Opposition says that our government decided anything or that I as Acting Premier decided anything, that too is quite wrong. I took no decisions at all because the crown law advice was very clear that as Acting Premier I did not have the authority to take that decision nor did the cabinet have the authority to take that decision. It says that the previous Premier and her cabinet acted outside the power of their office. To suggest that I or the current cabinet should somehow repeat that mistake—

Mr Rickuss: Break the law because they broke it.

Mr SEENEY: Yes. To suggest that we should break the law because they broke the law is an absurdity. Of course, it is an absurdity that is lost in the nonsense of the public debate. I fully expected when I forwarded the advice to the Clerk that the media would do what the media did and that the opposition would do what the opposition did. Of course I knew that. Nothing was unexpected. What was unacceptable to me was the suggestion that I as Acting Premier or our cabinet should knowingly break the law that had been made by this parliament. If we did that once where would we stop? If we seek to ignore an act of this parliament once, why don't we do it a second time, and a third time and a fourth time and a fifth time? Where does it stop? You have to have respect for the law of the state and we as parliamentarians have to have the ultimate respect for the acts that are passed by this parliament. To do otherwise makes all of our roles not just lessened but almost irrelevant.

There was no question on that Friday when I received that crown law advice that there was only one course of action. There was only one course of action and that was to advise the Clerk of the crown law advice and point out to him the responsibility he had to ensure that the Parliament of Queensland Act was complied with. I did that. I did that on the Monday. I did it after I had advised cabinet I was going to do it. It was not a cabinet decision; it was my decision as Acting Premier. It was my decision to pass the crown law advice on to the Clerk of the Parliament. I advised the cabinet I was going to do it. I advised the Premier who was overseas that I was going to do exactly that. I advised them that that was the only course of action that was available to me or to anyone else who was in that position at that point in time.

Despite all of the nonsense that has been played out by the media who love to take the cheap shots and the opposition who love to play the cheap politics, there is, as we stand here today, absolutely no cogent argument that there was any other course of action possible. As a number of people have said in interjections to the Leader of the Opposition, what we had to do was clean up a mess that was left by the former government. This was just another mistake that was made by the former government. It was a mistake that I would love to know the inside story to. I would love to know the inside machinations: No. 1, that led to the then Premier taking a decision that was outside the power of her office to take; No. 2, whether or not she was advised of that either by Crown Law or by anybody else; and, No. 3, how senior ministers in that cabinet so objected to that decision and yet the decision was taken by the Premier even though she did not have the power to take it. I actually said to those ministers when they approached me, 'Why didn't you fix it in cabinet?' Their response was, 'The Premier just did it.' There are a lot of explanations that the current Leader of the Opposition could have given to the parliament today about why one of the acts of this parliament was treated so callously and was so comprehensively ignored and the extent to which the Premier knew that. They chose to completely ignore the Parliament of Queensland Act, the very central act of this parliament.

The cheap politics that has played out since that time clearly indicates that this is an issue that should be removed from politicians themselves. That is the solution that the Premier has put in place. That is the solution that is proposed by this bill before the House today. Never again do any irresponsible members of parliament get an opportunity to play cheap politics with this issue. It is something that is decided completely independently by an independent tribunal. That is the solution that is put in place. I hope that that will ensure that we do not get into the same position again.

There was some sort of a suggestion from the Leader of the Opposition that there should have been some bipartisanship about this issue. The current opposition members had an opportunity to exercise that bipartisanship in the CLA, the forum that was set up to allow these types of issues to be dealt with in a bipartisan way. They completely rejected that opportunity in favour of the cheap political shots that we saw from the Leader of the Opposition and the member for South Brisbane in claiming that there was some sort of great conspiracy, in claiming that I knew something that I should not have known or I should have known something that I did not know. It is a complete and utter nonsense. When I took the decision to pass the crown law advice on, there is no way that I could have sat down then and made some sort of a calculation as to how much I was going to get paid or how much the Premier was going to get paid or, indeed, how much the Leader of the Opposition was going to get paid, and to base a decision on that. To do that would have been repeating the mistake.

It would have been making the exact same error that the previous Premier did. The law had to be obeyed until such time as this parliament exercised its right to change it. It is a matter for this parliament as to whether or not it seeks to change it.

Mr Rickuss: There are no shades of grey.

Mr SEENEY: There are no shades of grey. To suggest that somehow or other I did not do the calculation or I did the calculation and I based my decision on that not only is a nonsense but indicates that the members who make those claims do not understand the basic issue that was at the centre of the crown law advice. The crown law advice said that I did not have the authority to make those decisions—not just me personally but whoever exercised the power of the Premier's office. It was outside the power of the office to make those decisions. To suggest that either I should have done it or I did do it, depending on which version of the nonsense you listen to, indicates that those opposite still do not fundamentally understand the issues at hand. I reject and cannot follow the nonsensical arguments that they try to weave and have done so again here in the parliament today. I do not know what it is they are trying to claim.

The facts of the matter are very clear to anybody who wants to understand them. We were made aware that former ministers in the Bligh government were contemplating taking legal action against our government. We sought advice from Crown Law as to the legal position the government was in. That crown law advice was clear and unequivocal and we passed that crown law advice to the Clerk of the Parliament, who acted in accordance with that crown law advice.

I never made any decisions as Acting Premier with regard to parliamentary salaries. The cabinet never made any decisions in regard to parliamentary salaries. The conspiracy theories, the nonsense that the Leader of the Opposition and the member for South Brisbane seek to put forward, are sheer and abject nonsense and do not recognise the fundamental mistake that the former Premier made and do not recognise, I believe, the division that existed within the former cabinet. If the Leader of the Opposition was fair dinkum about it, she would have come in here and provided not the Clerk's letter, which we have all received and have known about, but the advice that was given to the former Premier, the advice that was given to the former cabinet, the advice that was given to her as a minister about this issue. But of course she did not and I suspect we will never know what that advice was.

I am gratified that we will now get a resolution to this issue which will stand in good stead every member who sits in this House for years to come, irrespective of where they sit, where they come from and whom they represent. Every member in this place will have an independent tribunal who will decide, who will make an independent, fair evaluation of the remuneration that they deserve, and they will be remunerated accordingly. That process will be free from the sort of cheap politics that plagues this issue every time it comes up for discussion. That will be a good outcome not for me, not for you, but for everybody who sits in this parliament, everyone who is elected to this parliament, everyone who considers running for this parliament for years to come. That will be a good outcome. For that, I am immensely gratified. I urge all members of the parliament to support the bill before the House knowing that and knowing that is an outcome that has been worth the journey.

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (12.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal Bill. I start by addressing a couple of the points that the Deputy Premier has just raised in his contribution. The Deputy Premier likes to talk about cheap politics. Obviously he is after a more expensive existence; we know that now. But let us talk about context.

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. That comment is juvenile in the extreme. It is offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Ms TRAD: I withdraw. The opposition likes to talk about context. The reason this decision was so obscene, the reason this decision was so wrong, was based on a number of very real issues to very many Queenslanders, starting with the 22 per cent hike in electricity prices that occurred on the day this pay rise was announced. Let us also place into context the fact that 17,000 public servants have been sacked.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. Madam Deputy Speaker, I ask for your ruling on relevance. The member is not sticking to the bill and I ask that she be ruled out of order on relevance.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! I would ask the member to be relevant to the bill before the House.

Ms TRAD: Thank you. I am being relevant; I am talking about the context of the outrage around the pay rise. The Deputy Premier has said that we played cheap political politics. We listened while he made his argument around cheap politics. I am actually talking about political context here.

Mr Bleijie: That is not in the bill.

Ms TRAD: Neither is cheap politics. Thousands of public servants were sacked.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. The bill does not contain electricity prices and it does not contain public servants. The member is irrelevant to the bill and I ask you to rule on that.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I have asked you to be relevant to the bill. I am aware that this debate will perhaps be fraught with a lot of emotion. I am going to give you some leniency. However, if you do not remain relevant to the bill, I will ask you to sit down. I have given you two warnings.

Ms TRAD: There are so many disgraceful aspects to the Queensland polliwog pay rise debacle, but the most disturbing, the most appalling, is that those arrogant members occupying the government benches—chief among them the Premier—think Queenslanders are fools and would have them believe that they are a band of innocents. Despite the Premier being advised by the Clerk of the Parliament mere days after he was elected, despite various options being given to the Premier for his consideration in relation to how the discrepancy between how Queensland politicians' pays and the federal remuneration system was working, despite various options as to how to address it—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms TRAD: No—despite correspondence being sent in and out of the Premier's office with some of them actually being signed by the Premier himself, despite briefing notes with the Premier's express preference for wages and allowance increases to be done in line with core public sector wage increases—despite all of that and despite all of the media attention, the Premier, the Deputy Premier and those opposite want Queenslanders to believe that after the Premier went on leave on 27 June when the Deputy Premier became the Acting Premier and then conveniently received the crown law advice the next day that he claims compelled him to give himself and all Queensland parliamentary representatives a 42 per cent pay increase—

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. I made it very clear in the contribution just a moment ago that no such decision was taken. I find the member's comments so dishonest and offensive, and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The Deputy Premier has asked you to withdraw words that he has found offensive. I ask you to withdraw.

Ms TRAD: I withdraw whatever he finds offensive.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for South Brisbane, I ask that you make an unqualified withdrawal.

Ms TRAD: I withdraw. I go back to the points that the Deputy Premier raised in his contribution in which he claimed—and he has claimed earnestly—that it was the crown law advice that he was adhering to which was the catalyst for politicians in this House receiving a 42 per cent pay rise. So he wants Queenslanders to believe that this alone triggered what actually happened. After everything that I have detailed, after all of the media attention, after all of the briefing notes, after all of the options compiled by the Clerk of the Parliament and furnished to the Premier, after all of the commitments given by the Premier to people in writing that he wants to see wages and allowances increase in line with core public sector wage increases—despite all of that—this one piece of advice was enough to overturn all of that. I am not buying that and Queenslanders did not buy it. They think it is absurd.

Ms BATES: I rise to a point of order. Madam Deputy Speaker, I ask you to rule under standing order No. 115. The member for South Brisbane is hypothesising yet again.

Ms TRAD: They really don't like it, do they?

Mr Johnson interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Gregory, there is no need to have conversations across the chamber while I am seeking advice. Member for Mudgeeraba, standing order 115 refers to questions and we are currently in a debate. So I rule that point of order out of order. The member for South Brisbane has the call.

Ms TRAD: I find this proposition absurd because the alternative, quite frankly, is just too scary. My question—

A government member: Scary?

Ms TRAD: Yes. I think it is scary to think that the Deputy Premier was acting as a lone ranger on this. It is absolutely frightening to many Queenslanders to think that he was acting as a lone ranger on this. My question—and we will raise it during the consideration in detail—is when exactly was this legal advice commissioned? The Premier knew from 12 April 2012 that this was an issue. He got advice from the Clerk of the Parliament. He got options from the Clerk of the Parliament, but the crown law advice appeared over 12 months later. What was the delay in commissioning the advice?

Throughout this whole debacle of the government granting itself this obscene pay hike and then feigning indignation and disbelief at what had been in front of them in black and white all along, two things have become very, very clear.

Debate, on motion of Ms Trad, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

IDENTIFICATION LAWS AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (2.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Oaths Act 1867, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the State Buildings Protective Security Act 1983 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes, and I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Identification Laws Amendment Bill 2013 [\[3190\]](#).

Tabled paper: Identification Laws Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes [\[3196\]](#).

This bill aims to provide that in circumstances where a police officer, a corrective services or similar officer, a lawyer, a justice of the peace or a commissioner for declarations needs to identify a person, they can lawfully demand that the person remove any face coverings so that the person's face can be seen.

Although I have had the bill drafted in response to events in New South Wales where a burqa-wearing woman, Carnita Matthews, had a charge of making a false statement dismissed because there was no proof that it had been her inside the burqa, I emphasise that this bill is not directed against the wearing of burqas generally—like the controversial law in France. It is not even specifically directed at burqa-wearing women, though the need for it was demonstrated by one such person who played tricks with the law. It could equally apply to a person wearing a Darth Vader mask or anything that covers their face.

I believe that people should have to reveal their face to persons in the legal system who need to know who they are. The case of Ms Matthews illustrates the absurdity that can arise when people can hide their faces—that is, their identity—from police and court officers. Someone who was alleged to be Ms Matthews was stopped by the police for not displaying her P plates while driving. She later alleged—on television and in a statutory declaration to police—that the officer who stopped her had attempted to tear the burqa off of her face. When the police video recording showed that this was not true, she was charged and convicted with making a false statement. She then appealed to the District Court and successfully argued that there was no proof that she was the person in the burqa who made the statement. This is a ridiculous sequence of events.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I have had the Speaker peruse my speech, and I seek leave to have the balance of my speech incorporated into Hansard.

Leave granted.

I even wonder how the District Court judge knew that she was the person who had been convicted in the Magistrate's Court or the person who lodged the appeal in his Court? There could, for all we know, have been a different person under the black burqa each time! Where people are interacting with the legal system it is important that they should be made to show their face, even if briefly, so that people in the legal system can be sure who they are dealing with. New South Wales has now enacted a law similar to this Bill. We should do it before we have a similar case here in Queensland.

Although the Bill amends five Acts, it applies in three main situations. One is whenever a police officer's power to demand to see photo identification or a person's name or address is triggered. In those cases, the officer can also demand to see the person's face. Another is when a person makes a declaration or affidavit—then the person taking the declaration or affidavit will be obliged to see the first person's face. The third situation is when a person is entering a secure building—a court complex, a corrective services facility or a youth detention centre. I will discuss each of these in more detail below.

But first, the common feature in all Parts of the Bill. "Face" is defined throughout to mean the face from the top of the forehead to the bottom of the chin and between, but not including, the ears. Most Muslim women, Sikh men wearing turbans and Catholic nuns already display this much of themselves to the world, so the law will only impose an extra obligation on people masking more of their face than those three groups. Another common feature is that in Parts 2, 4, 5 and 6 an exemption from the requirement to show the face is provided for those who have a special justification, such as being bandaged after an operation.

To take the group relating to secure buildings first, Parts 2, 5 and 6 of the Bill add similar sets of provisions to the Corrective Services Act 2006, the State Buildings Protective Security Act 1983 and the Youth Justice Act 1992. In each case an officer may demand that someone in or about to enter the building remove a face covering to show their face for identification purposes. There are requirements that the person must be allowed to do this in as private a way as possible, and that if the person requests it, his or her face will be shown only to a person of the same sex. In case a child under 12 turns up at one of these facilities with a masked face, the three Parts provide that while the face is viewed the child must be accompanied by an adult and may request to be viewed by a female officer. In fact, this is unlikely to apply to Muslim girls because they have their heads uncovered until puberty anyway; it may be more likely to apply to children wearing Zorro or Darth Vader masks. Consequential amendments are made to existing provisions in the three Acts providing for penalties or compulsory removal from premises, to ensure that they apply to breaches of the new provisions. The provisions are not entirely consistent between the three Acts, but the drafters and I did not think it was our business to generally amend these Acts to make them more consistent.

The provisions amending the Oaths Act are simpler: they provide that a person taking a declaration or affidavit must see the face of the person signing the document. There is a penalty for noncompliance, but a failure to comply does not of itself invalidate the declaration or affidavit. It may in practice be open for another party to challenge an affidavit when tendered in evidence on the ground that there is no proof it was made by the supposed deponent—as Ms Matthews appears to have first made a declaration and to have challenged its authenticity!

The amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 are different again. The power to see a person's face will apply only when existing powers to demand to see photo identification or to be given a person's name and address have been triggered—see existing sections 40-43A, 55 and 58 in particular. Then, if the person's face is covered, the officer may also demand to see the face; there is not much point, after all, in seeing a driver licence if the photo on the licence cannot be checked against the face of the driver. No specific penalty is provided for noncompliance because failure to comply with a direction or requirement of a police officer is already an offence under s 791. No provisions are included for viewing of the face by a person of the same sex, because it may be impractical where, for example, a lone motorcycle officer pulls a driver over for an alleged infringement. It is still provided that the viewing of the face must be conducted in a way that gives the person reasonable privacy and as quickly as possible. A new section 41B is added to provide that the CMC must monitor the use of the section and report after one year.

I believe these provisions strike a reasonable balance between the need for law enforcement officers and similar persons to know who they are dealing with, and the religious or personal sensitivities of persons who believe they should not boldly display their faces to the world.

I commend the Bill to the House.

First Reading

Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (2.33 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

John Eales Rugby Scholarship



Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.34 pm): It is an honour for me to inform the House of the launch of the inaugural John Eales Rugby Scholarship at Bond University last week. This is a unique scholarship worth approximately \$55,000 per year for one of the most prestigious and world recognised tertiary facilities in Australia. Vice-Chancellor Professor Tim Brailsford announced this

innovative award at a special function at Bond University which I attended as the local member for Mermaid Beach. It was also attended by the great man himself, Mr John Eales, along with many other rugby luminaries. It was covered nationally by Fox Sports Television Group. For those non-rugby informed members of this House, John Eales is one of this nation's most celebrated leaders in the world of rugby. His outstanding leadership qualities earned him the nickname 'Nobody', because nobody's perfect.

This is a wonderful opportunity for a rugby-playing student to enjoy the benefits of an outstanding university education whilst savouring the personal leadership mentoring skills of one of the greats of the game that they play in heaven: rugby union. John Eales has given his significant endorsement to the program and is utilising his sporting, business and public leadership skills to further the interests and careers of young up-and-coming rugby players from anywhere in the world.

This fantastic opportunity has been made possible by the philanthropic benevolence of long-time rugby tragic—and, I am told, fifth grade Gregory Terrace rugby legend—and good personal friend of mine, Mr Terry Jackman. Terry has been instrumental in the launch of the Premier Rugby Competition team the Gold Coast Breakers, and he has been a long-term supporter of Australian rugby union. He is a successful Gold Coast businessman who is associated with Village Roadshow Cinemas and Sea World and a former chairman of Tourism Queensland. Terry has generously provided funding, along with Bond University, to make this amazing sporting scholarship become a reality. I cannot wait to see the first young winners of this scholarship flourish under the incomparable mentoring of the great John Eales.

I offer my sincere and appreciative congratulations to Vice-Chancellor Tim Brailsford, rugby tragic Mr Terry Jackman and the legend himself, Mr John Eales, for collaborating on this unique and groundbreaking educational and sporting trophy of excellence, and I wish all the future beneficiaries of this visionary project every success in their careers.

Dennis, Mr J; Byrne, Mr A; Cooly Rocks On; Surf Lifesaving



Hon. JA STUCKEY (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.36 pm): I wish to place on the record my condolences to the family of 17-year-old Jerry Dennis from Tugun, who suddenly lost his life last Thursday, 1 August, while at surf-lifesaving training. The loss of such a young life is immensely saddening and difficult to comprehend. On behalf of the Currumbin community may I pass on our heartfelt sympathies to Jerry's parents, Greg and Christine, and their family and friends.

More sad news is that Allan Byrne, a founder of the Byrning Spears surf brand based in Currumbin, passed away today after a tragic accident in Bali last Friday. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

On a brighter note, it gives me great pleasure to rise and inform the House about two terrific activities that epitomise what makes the beautiful electorate of Currumbin really tick. The annual Cooly Rocks On festival saw locals, along with domestic, national and international visitors, rocking on through the streets of Coolangatta between 31 May and 10 June. Promoted as a nostalgic and rock-and-roll car festival, it incorporates so much more. This year it injected a record-breaking \$33.3 million into the local economy, which is almost \$4 million up on last year. The southern Gold Coast remains the primary location to benefit from the festival and received 77 per cent of the total expenditure with an estimated 95,000 people attending this year, providing a huge economic boost to local shops, business and accommodation houses.

Currumbin is home to a host of surf-lifesaving clubs within the Point Danger branch and is comprised of 11 surf clubs in total; eight of which lie within the boundaries of my electorate. Their recently released 2012-13 annual report necessitates praise, and it would be remiss of me not to share some of their stellar efforts with the House. Perhaps most importantly, it marks another season with no lives being lost between the flags. Given the huge volume of visitors to our shores, this is a remarkable and commendable achievement. During the season these local clubs excelled themselves with 215 rescues, 847 preventative actions, over 10,000 warnings, 30 searches and 1,200 first aid treatments.

Every year for the last eight years I have donated a rescue board to the patrol club of the year, and I wish to acknowledge that the Currumbin Vikings SLSC were successful this year. They were recognised for their overall outstanding commitment in all aspects involved in getting a patrol on the beach. Surf-lifesavers are the unsung heroes of our community, and on behalf of the people of

Currumbin I extend our appreciation for their invaluable assistance and the sacrifices that they make year after year to keep our visitors and locals safe. May I also congratulate the organisers for a fantastic effort hosting the Aussies National Surf Life Saving championships at North Kirra earlier this year.

Cleveland Electorate, Transport

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (2.39 pm): I rise to commend the LNP government for delivering when it comes to transport in Cleveland. Whether road, rail, bus, ferry or bike, the Newman government is delivering on transport for Cleveland residents.

Cyclists and pedestrians in Cleveland will soon benefit, with more than \$470,000 in funding allocated to upgrade the Moreton Bay Cycleway, including a new pedestrian and cyclist bridge over Ross Canal. The 1.2 kilometres of three-metre-wide shared path along Shore Street, between Masthead Drive and Wharf Street, and a new 30-metre-long, 2½-metre-wide bridge over Ross Canal will greatly improve the bicycle travel experience and safety of residents and visitors who use their bikes to get around the Redlands. The new facilities will improve the connectivity of the Moreton Bay Cycleway and increase safety for cyclists and pedestrians travelling to the Cleveland rail station, bus interchange and other nearby facilities. These local works are part of the \$6.3 million dedicated to projects that are identified as being part of the Connect To initiative.

The recent declaration of Toondah Harbour as a priority development area paves the way for the building of a first-class ferry transport facility in Cleveland that will greatly improve the quality of the journey to and from North Stradbroke Island for residents and locals. The ferry operators, Stradbroke Flyer and Transit Systems, will have better facilities and better amenities to work with. I welcome the streamlined planning around the project that cuts red tape and green tape and fast-tracks the proposal.

With respect to state roads in the Cleveland electorate, I note that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has initiated a state-wide review of speed limits on local roads. This is a fantastic opportunity for locals, who often know their roads well, to nominate roads to be reviewed. I will personally be using this opportunity to convey existing concerns with the speed limit on Shore Street West. This will be a part of my continued campaigning to improve safety and accessibility along Shore Street West.

The Cleveland Railway Station upgrade and repair is close to being completed. The building contractors are in the middle of the construction work and it is expected to be finished within the next two months or so. The station has received improvements to facilities all around, and the new stop-block system only further adds to safety.

One final area I continue to promote is the identified need for more frequent services at peak hour between Cleveland station and the city. Thousands of people travel to and from the city via these stations every day. The addition of peak-hour services would certainly be a most welcome thing in the community. The Newman government continues to deliver practical transport solutions for the people of Cleveland.

Balmoral State High School

 **Mr DILLAWAY** (Bulimba—LNP) (2.42 pm): I take this opportunity to congratulate the members of my community who worked with me to ensure that the Balmoral State High School oval was retained as green space. I would also like to set the record straight, once and for all, about how I represented the community views in a clear, logical and constructive way to ensure this outcome was achieved by directly lobbying the Premier and Minister for Education. This is in stark contrast to the campaign of negativity undertaken by the local councillor and her close buddy, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

When the announcement was made there were immediate concerns expressed by the local community. I wrote to every school principal and P&C president in my electorate stating that I was working for the oval to be maintained for recreational use. Over the months that followed I received a number of emails and letters from constituents and spoke with many during my local community corners. Many were past students of Balmoral or parents of students at Balmoral or local primary schools, and others were simply concerned members of the community.

However, Kevin 2.0 and Councillor Sutton have attacked me for not attending the two community rallies they held in conjunction with the Balmoral oval action group, including a protest that was held outside my office. On both occasions I advised the organiser of the action group that I would be unable to attend due to prior commitments and invited representatives to meet with me at another suitable time. So during July I met with representatives from Balmoral oval action group, members of the P&C of Balmoral High, environmental groups and other concerned constituents. I am proud to say that it was as a result of these representations that as a community we have been able to see this oval retained as green space for the long-term use of the community.

I worked hard behind the scenes—unlike my local and federal government counterparts, who, with the exception of one letter to the Premier back in April, never pursued a constructive path to seek a resolution to this issue, instead preferring to construct a scare campaign propelled by their usual media circus. Kevin 2.0 used this issue to create the misconception that he still cared about Griffith and our community. Not once did either of them make direct contact with me or my office. Not once did they request a meeting with me, the Premier or the minister on this issue.

In fact, when Kevin 2.0 did have a meeting with the Premier a day before the rally outside my office, he did not even mention the issue. If it had been so important to him, as he would have us believe, surely he would have jumped at the chance, but no. He did not want a positive outcome. Kevin 2.0 wanted to capitalise on this issue for pure political purposes. It is just like the approach he has taken in negotiating on Gonski. If Kevin 2.0 really cared about Queensland schoolkids, why did he give Victorian kids a better offer?

I thank the Premier and the Minister for Education for listening to the voices in the Bulimba electorate and making the well-informed decision to pass this parcel of land on to the Brisbane City Council. This win is as a result of the community, not Councillor Sutton and certainly not Kevin 2.0.

Rudd, Mr K



Mr MINNIKIN (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.45 pm): I rise in the chamber this afternoon to respond to an assertion that was made by the current Prime Minister in federal parliament on 17 June. At the time the Prime Minister was the backbench member for Griffith and still plotting his leadership comeback. In his adjournment speech to the House of Representatives Mr Rudd spoke about the public meeting he had recently attended at the Whites Hill State College in relation to the potential sale of the adjacent school sporting ovals. I was present at this meeting, alongside my colleague the member for Greenslopes. In his 17 June speech to the House of Representatives Mr Rudd accused us both of making a backflip and asserted that we had had a 'road to Damascus' conversion up close. I find it perplexing that the federal member for Griffith made this verbose assertion given that he arrived late to the meeting. We simply told residents present that evening that we would, firstly, listen to their concerns and, secondly, represent their views to the government. I put it to this chamber: is that not the role of your local member of parliament?

It is interesting for Mr Rudd to accuse me and one of my parliamentary colleagues of backflipping. I would like to pick up on this notion of backflipping. Prior to the 2007 federal election Mr Rudd proudly promoted his economic conservative values. I do not know anyone who describes themselves as an economic conservative and ends up borrowing \$100 million every single day. This debt has now reached in excess of \$254 billion, and Labor is starting to push to increase our debt ceiling to over \$300 billion. Love that money tree!

Let us briefly take a closer look at Mr Rudd—behind the Twittersphere. What do you see up close, behind the facade? Superimposed, pasteurised and homogenised, with 33 per cent more sparkle—Mr Rudd 2.0 is more interested in style than substance. How about we look at Mr Rudd's policy marvels? This is the Prime Minister who wasted up to \$8 billion on school hall rip-offs and was the architect of the pink batts disaster, which saw a budget blow-out of more than \$1 billion. Again, this was policy on the run. This is the Prime Minister who removed temporary protection visas and closed offshore-processing centres on Nauru and Manus Island. This demonstrable policy failure has led to more than 700 unauthorised boats carrying more than 50,000 people entering our sovereign nation. FuelWatch, Grocery Watch, the alcopops tax, changes to fringe benefits tax recording, the carbon tax, the mining tax, NBN cost blow-outs and Machiavellian, predatory behaviour—the list goes on and on.

Mr Rudd is very happy to cherry-pick the local issues. Then he becomes a community champion for the electorate of Griffith. People are sick and tired of being used by the Prime Minister as a photo opportunity, because that is the only time they see him in between trips to strut the world stage, which he pines for as his real constituency. I would like to end with an apt quote from great poet TS Eliot, who wrote—

Half the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important. They don't mean to do harm; but the harm does not interest them. Or they do not see it, or they justify it because they are absorbed in the endless struggle to think well of themselves.

Electricity Prices

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (2.48 pm): There has been much said by the Newman government and the LNP about electricity pricing but so very little done. This financial year Queenslanders have experienced an increase of 22.6 per cent on average on their electricity bill. This is the biggest increase on record and follows an average increase of 11 per cent last financial year. It means that electricity bills are rising on average by more than \$400 a household in the first two years of the LNP in government. This was after the Premier promised at the election to lower electricity bills by \$120 a year on average. The cost of actually delivering this commitment to 1.8 million tariff 11 households would have been approximately \$1.17 billion over the first two years. The Premier and Treasurer simply do not have a clue as to how to cost policy, and they got their numbers wrong. They were not even close. They were way out of the ballpark.

Again, we need to make sure that we talk about what has happened with electricity price rises. I will spell it out again for those government members who continue to blame the carbon tax or any initiatives designed to help the environment for this government's failures.

In reality, if there were no other factors contributing to electricity price rises other than green initiatives, the average increase would be just three per cent, not a record 22.6 per cent. While this LNP government has monumentally mishandled the management of electricity pricing in Queensland, there is price relief ahead despite the LNP. As set out in the budget papers, the rooftop solar capacity the Premier hates with such vehemence has added 500 megawatts of capacity to the electricity grid which has deferred the need for investment in a new power station in Queensland.

The LNP has also quietly accepted the recommendations of the second Somerville review undertaken by the previous government in December 2011. This review identified \$1.5 billion in savings to the electricity network which will flow through to lower prices over the coming years. Not surprisingly, the LNP's record hike for electricity prices is forecast by the Australian Energy Market Operator in its latest report to lead to lower energy consumption this financial year. This means that Queenslanders will be turning off their lights and going without a hot cup of tea to survive the LNP's electricity price hikes.

Interestingly, the Australian Energy Market Operator also forecast that residential and commercial energy consumption per person will continue to fall. In 2011-12 residential and commercial energy consumption per person was 8,272 kilowatts in Queensland. Over the next four years, residential and commercial energy consumption is forecast to fall to 7,740 kilowatts per person. This will lead to continued lower demand for investment in the electricity network. It is a fall in consumption from the grid that in part reflects increased uptake of solar and energy efficient building standards. I think it is important to place on the public record all of this information as the LNP will no doubt continue with its dishonesty on electricity pricing over coming years. It will try to claim credit for lower consumption per person flowing through to lower prices—claim credit for the uptake of solar that it simultaneously criticises and to claim credit for the savings initiatives implemented by the former Labor government.

Morayfield Electorate, Queensland Plan

 **Mr GRIMWADE** (Morayfield—LNP) (2.51 pm): Today I rise to update the House on the progress of the Queensland Plan engagement process happening in the Morayfield electorate. It is with much pride that I start my speech by indicating to the House that I am advised through the engagement team that the Morayfield electorate has the most responses to the Queensland Plan to date—something that we should all be very proud of in the Morayfield electorate in terms of having our say in shaping Queensland's future for the next 30 years.

Just to update the House, our local community has done a number of engagement activities. These include a community-wide electorate survey which surveyed every house and gave people a chance to send their responses reply paid. We also had an engagement planning session with the chamber of commerce in Caboolture. I went to the Neighbourhood Watch and gave a presentation with regard to megatrends and what we were looking for in the Queensland Plan. There was a session at the Minimbah State School with the principal. There have been a number of Facebook and website social media engagement tools and on Sunday, the 25th—right before the engagement process closes—I will be holding a session at the Caboolture Sports Club with the member for Pumicestone, Lisa France.

I want to thank Jenny Butler, Sean Bennett and Craig Hewlett, the three representatives who joined me at the Mackay summit and who will join me again at the Brisbane summit to close the whole process at the end of the year. These three people have been extraordinary in their efforts of joining me and taking it upon themselves to get out in the community to help organise some of these functions of engagement. I put on the record my appreciation for the work that they have done.

Before I wrap up, one of the great things we have done that I have not mentioned as part of the engagement process is we teamed up with our neighbouring electorates—Seath Holswich from Pine Rivers, 'Big Trev' from Kallangur and Reg Gulley of course from Murrumba—and ran a student leaders forum. This was attended by Zak McLean, Matthew Walk, Elle Malone, Trisha Prasad, Bethany English, Michael Pule, Ellyse Burrows, Jenna Nappy, Nia Qaranivalu, Zoey Saunders and Hamish Swinfield-Hutchins. They were accompanied by Deputy Principal Simon Done. That was also attended by Keirra Salt from the Narangba Valley State High School who was accompanied by Adam Colley. To those girls and boys, thank you so much for your involvement. It is great to see young people out there actually having their say on Queensland's future. As Deputy Principal Simon Done would say, you cannot have your say if you do not show up. My appreciation goes out to them. They are a school that certainly takes an active role in our community in having their say. I thank them on the record for what they have done.

Will Kits; Resumes



Dr DOUGLAS (Gaven—UAP) (2.54 pm): When it comes to making our will—and it is probably the most important legal document many of us will make—more and more people are being tempted to use will kits that are available in newsagents and online these days. People need to tread cautiously because, according to the latest journal of the Gold Coast District Law Association, will kits, if not completed correctly, can lead to all sorts of problems.

Often people ask why they should pay a lawyer to do their will when they can do it themselves. Often if the wills are not completed correctly, it can lead to court costs of many tens of thousands of dollars to have the court resolve the issue, as only a court can determine whether a document is the deceased's last valid will. This process involves significant time in investigating, conducting witness interviews, sourcing expert evidence such as handwriting experts, analysing the evidence in the context of the law, drawing the court documents and appearances in court. This cost is all borne by the estate—and it is very significant—depriving beneficiaries of what otherwise would go to them. People need to understand that over 50 per cent of people currently in Queensland are dying without a will. The solicitors here would probably know these statistics, but possibly many of us do not.

Last year the Supreme Court of Queensland had to consider a matter in the case of two home-made wills drawn up by football legend Arthur Beetson. Both were written using kits on the same day in similar terms. Both were validly completed but, as they were both made on the same day, it could not be identified which was the last in time on that day. This required the parties to make an application to the court for a determination as to which document was the last valid will. The court ordered the documents be probated as one.

There was also a recent case in the Northern Territory Supreme Court where a will kit document and a handwritten note were found together. The note set out directives regarding the deceased's property and, although it was signed, it was not witnessed, did not nominate an executor and was not dated. In the end, the court resolved that the documents be read together to form the deceased's last valid will. These are part of the reasons why, for a small investment in legal advice, it can be more economical to consult a lawyer than to have a court determine the issues after your death, thus sparing your family the stress of court proceedings immediately after your death. I thank Christine Smyth of Robbins Watson Solicitors for her most useful information.

I also ask members to consider the issue of people writing false resumes. Unfortunately, this is a very common practice at the present time. There is an article in the latest *Club Insight* put out by Clubs Queensland and I note that it headlined a story that almost 80 per cent of job applicants were loose with the truth or simply lied about information in their resumes. I can personally vouch for this myself when a job applicant stated in her resume that she had completed an internship with me, which was news to both myself and a potential employer who had phoned my office for a reference. I would ask people to be very careful about this at the moment. It is a very common problem as unemployment and underemployment rise significantly.

Cairns Electorate, Homes with Books Project

 **Mr KING** (Cairns—LNP) (2.57 pm): Today I rise to talk about a fairly inspirational story in Cairns that reminds me of the great Paul Kelly song *From Little Things Big Things Grow*. Late last year I was in conversation with teachers from Balaclava State School—a great little school in the heart of my electorate—which has a very difficult student demographic in a low socioeconomic part of the community. Late last year in conversation with the teachers it was remarked to me that they spent all day trying to teach the kids to read. They put in a huge effort with those kids during the day, but unfortunately those same kids, when they leave the school gates after three o'clock, go home to a house without a single book in the home. They do not get any shared reading with their parents, so the teachers felt that a lot of their efforts during the day were not amounting to much.

I went home shortly after that and had a look in my kids' bedroom, where there were dozens and dozens of books that had been read once or twice and left on the shelf to gather dust. I went back to the school a week later and said, 'Let's launch a campaign called Homes with Books.' The idea was that, like our family, there are hundreds, if not thousands, of good-quality children's books sitting in boxes and cartons and shelves right across Cairns. We launched a media campaign—a community campaign—and on Friday just gone we got to mark a significant milestone in the Homes with Books project. We had received over 250 kids' books, from Harry Potter right through to Captain Underpants.

It was quite incredible to be at Balaclava State School on Friday morning with the hundreds of books laid out. The kids were able to come up and choose a book as a reward for improved attendance. In fact, I offer huge congratulations to Principal Craig Law and his team of teachers. In term 1 this year compared to last year the school has had an extra 1,200 days of schooling with increased attendance.

I can say to members that, with the highs and lows of what we all know is a difficult job that we all do, to sit there and see the looks on these kids' faces as they got to choose, take home and keep their very own book as a reward for improved attendance was probably the No. 1 highlight of the 15 or so months that I have been in the job. This is a fantastic project. I thank the community. I thank the Balaclava State School and I look forward to rolling out this project to other schools in the Cairns electorate.

Noosa Hospital

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier) (3.00 pm): Recently, I had the pleasure of attending a function organised by the Noosa Hospital at which its staff were recognised for their professionalism and commitment to a quality workplace. I was pleased to accept an invitation from the hospital CEO, Oli Steele, to help judge its employee of the year award. Noosa Hospital is run by Ramsay Health Care, but it also provides public services under a contract with the state government. The quality care that is provided by the hospital is underpinned by the professionalism of its 400 staff.

My fellow panel members and I had the tough job of choosing one employee of the year from the 12 monthly winners. Courtney Lambert is an outpatient receptionist who was recognised for her beautiful and courteous treatment of patients and for her calm and professional manner. Ros Cavanough, an enrolled nurse, was chosen for her willingness to happily help others. Apparently, she is always singing and is often dancing. Ingrid Candaele is a registered nurse in the intensive care unit who is reliable, responsible, willing to help when needed and always goes the extra mile.

The hospital's quality manager, Jenny Freeland, was nominated for her support and willingness to help. The unit that nominated Jenny said that nothing is ever a problem for her. Jean Kelly, a registered nurse in the day procedure unit, was recognised for her bright, sparkling nature,

approachability and helpfulness. Theatre clerk, Melissa Rayner, was a finalist because she works tirelessly, maintains her composure under trying circumstances and goes out of her way to provide support. Claude Glemarec, a registered nurse in the renal department and his team were nominated by a patient because they were always on time, very warm and friendly and offered numerous personal suggestions. Donna Stevens, a clerk in the oncology unit, was nominated by her peers for her all-round awesomeness, for always going above and beyond the call of duty and for being helpful, reliable and dependable.

Endoscopy unit registered nurse, Louise Nevett, was nominated for a hugely successful education event that she organised on behalf of the staff. Alison Taylor, a clinical nurse, was recognised for being such a great role model, a great teacher and as a person for whom nothing is ever too much trouble. Joy Tomlin was recognised for her infectious smile. Her nomination said that she enjoys her work, and it shows, and that nothing is too much trouble.

Any of those 11 monthly winners would have been a worthy employee of the year. But that honour went to emergency department registered nurse Henni Doeland. Henni was recognised because she always goes above and beyond what is required of her. Henni shows great integrity towards her work and all her peers have a high respect for her.

Noosa Hospital is the largest single employer in Noosa. I commend the CEO, Oli Steele, and his management team for the strong corporate ethos that they have instilled in their staff. The beneficiaries are people who receive care at the hospital.

Charlton State School; Wyreema State School; Toowoomba South State School



Hon. JJ McVEIGH (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (3.03 pm): This afternoon, I wish to provide the House with an update on three primary schools in my electorate and in my region that are subject to the current consideration of viability. In doing so, I would like to explain my liaison with those schools and certainly the significant consultation that I have had with the office of the Minister for Education, my colleague John-Paul Langbroek, and the very difficult task that he needs to do to work through and consider, as he will be doing, the results of ongoing assessments of these particular schools.

Minister Langbroek has a challenge, as do all ministers in the Newman government, given the financial mess that we inherited upon coming into government 15 months ago. I acknowledge the challenges, but most particularly the significant work that he has been achieving right across the education sphere. As we all know, the minister is considering the viability of eight schools right across the state. I make the point that this consideration is in contrast to the 89 schools that were closed during the Beattie-Bligh era. That is in the order of seven schools per year.

I refer firstly to Charlton State School, which is located in the electorate of Condamine. The Premier asked me to keep an eye on that school on behalf of the LNP, given the defection of the current member from our party late last year. On the day of the announcement I contacted that school and spoke to principal Cathy Lavelle. I met with that school as recently as Wednesday, 17 July, when I met again with Cathy and the president of the school's P&C, Mr Alan Calvert, in terms of their submission, which I am supporting, and a submission that I am following up in my own consultations with the minister's office.

On 8 May, I met with Wyreema State School, which is also located in the Condamine electorate, at a community consultation meeting with the school's principal, Sandy Tezlaff, and the president of the school's P&C, Alex Charlesworth, together with, I note, the member for Condamine. On Saturday, 13 July I met again with both Sandy Tezlaff and Alex Charlesworth to work with them on their submissions.

Similarly throughout the month of May I have met with the Toowoomba South State School. I note that, unfortunately, the president of the P&C of Toowoomba South State School was unwilling to allow me to meet with the P&C. Nonetheless I respect her right to do that. Therefore, I have met with various agencies around the city in that regard.

These are important schools. I support the minister in whatever decision will be made ultimately. Regardless of the outcome, I recognise that these schools will continue to receive his support, as they certainly will from me as the local member in the area.

Queensland Plan; McCulloch, Mr B

 **Mr CAVALLUCCI** (Brisbane Central—LNP) (3.06 pm): I rise to speak about the great opportunity that Queenslanders have to contribute to the future of our great state through the Queensland Plan. On 4 August I held a joint Brisbane Central and Mount Coot-tha Queensland Plan forum with my colleague the member for Mount Coot-tha, Saxon Rice, at Ithaca Creek State School. This forum provided an opportunity for over 140 residents and community group representatives to come together and have their say and help formulate a 30-year plan and vision for our great state. In both electorates, the member for Mount Coot-tha and I have set up Queensland Plan reference groups made up of community groups, business owners and volunteers to work with us throughout the planning process. Our reference group members each brought along 10 community members from their local networks to contribute to the forum last Sunday.

The Queensland Plan is about Queenslanders working with the government to form a 30-year vision for our great state and last Sunday that is exactly what occurred. Queensland's Chief Scientist, Dr Geoff Garrett, did a great job in speaking about where we are heading and, particularly, the well-known megatrends. He opened our minds to a raft of possibilities and issues that our generation and the ones to follow us will face, such as an ageing population, sustainability and the degradation of habitats, the digital age, supercomputers and more.

On behalf of the member for Mount Coot-tha, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Queensland's Chief Scientist, Dr Geoff Garrett, Ms Nikki Accornero and Angela Moody from Livable Communities who both gave up their Sunday to voluntarily act as facilitators on the day of the forum and, importantly, the members who comprise both of our reference groups, including Robin Maini, from the Fortitude Valley Chamber of Commerce; Paul Martin, the CEO of the Queensland Association of Healthy Communities; Stephen O'Kane, the Principal of Windsor State School; Paul Zernike, the Principal of Milton State School; and Andrew Craig, the former Queensland director of the Australian Industry Group. Additionally, I would like to thank the hundreds of locals, community organisations and representatives and leaders who were involved in the process as well as those who came to our drop-in centres across the electorates to contribute to the plan.

In the remainder of the time available to me, I would like to pay my respects to the great Bill McCulloch, who passed away suddenly last week. Bill was a much-loved teacher, house dean, coach and mentor who had influenced the lives of thousands of young men, including me, at St Joseph's College, Gregory Terrace, for the last 30 years. He was a gentleman who was devoted to his staff, students and family and represented everything that is the Terrace spirit and tradition. To Bill's children, Elizabeth, Katherine and Christopher, their families and the extended Terrace family, I offer my deepest sympathies. Today in this House I wear the Terrace school tie and cufflinks in his memory. Bill will be sorely missed, but never forgotten.

Nurses

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.09 pm): Campbell Newman's LNP government has declared war on nurses in Queensland. This LNP government has continued to attack the nursing profession right across the length and breadth of this state, and not just members of the Queensland Nurses Union. Nearly 1,000 nurses have been sacked, along with thousands of other health workers and public servants who provided essential front-line services. When nurses stand up for our free public hospital system, they are vilified by this Minister for Health. When nurses stand up for our free public health services, like the STD clinic at Biala, they are vilified by the Minister for Health. When nurses stand up for Eventide and the older people, they are vilified. When the nurses and the teachers stand up for the Barrett Adolescent Centre, they are vilified. When we join with nurses at Mackay and at the Prince Charles Hospital, they are vilified as are nurses right across the state.

Today, on behalf of the Queensland Nurses Union and nurses right across the state, I table this petition in relation to what is happening in our Queensland public hospitals. It states—

Dear federal and state leaders ...

There are undeniable indications the Queensland state government intends to privatise public hospitals and health services.

This will be a disaster for all Queenslanders.

I am deeply concerned that federal Opposition Leader Tony Abbott appears to support the privatisation push.

I call on each of you to give a public commitment not to privatise public hospitals and public health services. Health should be delivered on the basis of clinical need, not capacity to pay.

This is our public health system. It is our lives and the lives of our loved ones you are playing with when you privatise public health services.

There are thousands and thousands of signatures on this petition.

Tabled paper: Non-conforming petition in relation to privatisation of public hospitals [3191].

I also table the *Hands off our public health services!* document, which is very important. It outlines the cuts and closures right across the state in relation to all the health service districts.

Tabled paper: Queensland Nurses Union booklet titled 'Hands off our public health services!' [3192].

I also table the document titled, *The Newman Government supports privatising our public hospitals*. That is what they are all about.

Tabled paper: Queensland Nurses Union booklet titled 'The Newman Government supports privatising our public hospitals' [3193].

Let me tell members that that is why Peter Beattie is running in the seat of Forde. Peter Beattie is running in Forde and he will win, because he and Kevin Rudd stand up for Queenslanders. Congratulations to them.

Albert Electorate, Schools



Mr BOOTHMAN (Albert—LNP) (3.12 pm): Today I rise to inform the House of some wonderful initiatives and events that have taken place in the electorate of Albert. We may not have the Breaka Burleigh Surf Pro, but we sure do have the glamour of internationally acclaimed theme parks and the northern gateway to the Gold Coast hinterland. Today I am not here to talk about the natural and the business wonders of the great electorate of Albert. I am here to talk about some truly wonderful work by our local schools.

Recently, I attended the Queensland Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools, which gives Queensland state schools the chance to shine and the opportunity to share in more than \$370,000 worth of development grants. Firstly, I thank all the Albert electorate schools that participated in those fantastic awards. I was certainly cheering on each and every school that participated.

I am proud to inform the House that the Pimpama State School won the Village Roadshow Theme Park Showcase Award for Excellence in Inclusive Education for its multi-tier model. This is a fantastic achievement for a small to medium-sized school. To principal Marius Marx, his school staff, the students and the parents, I say well done on your achievement in winning this prestigious regional award. To give a brief overview, the multi-tier model ensures that focused teaching is provided in every class for every student in response to the student's achievement data and individual learning goals and provides additional opportunities for support or enrichment for students with diverse learning needs. It also ensures that our teachers are supported through the development of skills and the provision of resources to achieve this shared vision for each learner.

I attended the Norfolk Village State School fete, which was a great event that the whole community came out to participate in. In schools, for each and every great event you need a great P&C. The Norfolk Village State School has a great P&C. Under the leadership of P&C president Annette Noon, vice president Karen Buchanan, secretary Katy Mills, treasurer Sam Treble and principal Chris Capra, thousands of people were attracted to this extremely successful event.

Lastly, I thank my local Norfolk Village police beat officers for the fantastic work that they undertake in our community. The residents are greatly appreciative of their hard work in keeping our streets safer.

Nanango Electorate



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (3.15 pm): Today I would like to talk about the wonderful electorate of Nanango, which encompasses some 13,000 square kilometres from the Somerset region in the south to the northern areas of Toowoomba's rural areas, the eastern section of the Western Downs and the southern half of the South Burnett. Today, two fine young people from the South Burnett are in the House. Emma Cramp is representing the South Burnett as a show girl for the Royal Queensland Show. This afternoon, Lindsay Blanche, the rural ambassador for the South Burnett, will also be here. Both of those fine young people represent the Nanango Show Society. They are great and fine examples of the wonderful people from my electorate.

I wish to touch on some of the work that has been achieved in the South Burnett area since the Newman government was elected. At the outset I would like to say that I am very proud of these achievements because at every opportunity I am working hard for our regional communities to encourage economic growth and develop the South Burnett into a region that is prosperous and a place where people want to continue to live and raise their families.

In regards to health services, a new ambulance station has been built in Kingaroy at a value of \$3.5 million. Currently, works are underway at the Kingaroy Hospital, with upgrades worth \$2 million being undertaken at the old building. We now have a full-time rural generalist surgeon who offers full surgery so people do not have to travel outside our region. We have doubled the patient health subsidy for people who do have to travel outside our region.

In education, we have provided \$2.79 million to the Kingaroy State High School for new grade 7 classrooms. We have also provided 92 etablets for our special education students and thousands have been injected into refurbishment programs for our schools though maintenance funds.

We have spent nearly \$115 million on the South Burnett road network. This year, \$1 million will be invested in installing traffic lights in both Nanango and Kingaroy. In agriculture, a new crop protection officer is based in Kingaroy. A commitment of \$400 million has been invested in this industry across the state and outcomes are already being seen, such as the new mung bean variety, which could deliver growers in our region up to \$100 extra per hectare compared to the current variety. We have helped the South Burnett Regional Council overcome the natural disasters of 2013, as it will receive some \$32 million through an assistance package to help our roads and local infrastructure.

There are too many initiatives to announce here today that the Newman government has undertaken for the South Burnett region. It is a wonderful region. I look forward to supporting it for a long time into the future.

Lockyer Electorate, Roads

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.18 pm): I rise to make a few comments about some issues that have been raised in the House. I know the member for Nanango will be pleased about the installation of traffic lights in Nanango. I am sure she will be lobbying for red-light cameras as well, to ensure that those lights are obeyed.

I mention some of the ridiculous statements made by the member for Bundamba when she was in the chamber. They continue to raise some ridiculous statements. She sat in here with the previous Labor member for Mount Isa, who had a person sacked for sending her a private email from Mount Isa Mines criticising the Labor government. That is the sort of stuff that this mob seems to brush over. They have a vindictive, attacking and puerile attitude to the whole thing. I do not want to totally waste my three minutes highlighting the incompetence of those opposite. I will speak about—

Mr Dillaway: It will take a lot longer than that.

Mr RICKUSS: That is right, it would. I will highlight the amount of roadwork that is being done at present in the Lockyer area but also I am sure in the Toowoomba, Somerset and other areas. Some people are critical of the fact that this roadwork is being done. It needs to be done. These roads need to be upgraded.

Mr Watts: Getting on with the job.

Mr RICKUSS: That is right. Within 12 to 18 months there will be a great improvement in the traffic flow in our local areas. Some of these roads were terribly damaged as a result of the floods over the last four years so these upgrades are very much required. The roads will be much improved when the work is complete.

I call on the travelling public to ensure that they drive to the road conditions and that they take note of what is going on at these work sites. Unfortunately, there have been a few accidents at some of these work sites. Most of them are due to driver incompetence—people not paying attention and being too impatient. The extra five minutes it would take people to get from Toowoomba to Brisbane or from Nanango to Brisbane or wherever at the moment is nothing. It is worthwhile being patient and driving steadily. I see Madam Deputy Speaker nodding. I am sure there is roadwork going on in her electorate as well. I ask people to drive carefully, drive slowly and drive to the conditions.

Townsville Electorate, Health and Fitness

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (3.21 pm): I rise this afternoon to raise an issue that is quite embarrassing for me to talk about, but something that I think my city needs to address head on. Queensland Health's *Self-reported health status 2012* found that our city has the most number of obese people in the state. That is something I am not particularly proud of. We had over 10 per cent more than the state average. It is something we have to address. The report raised a number of pertinent points, including that it is particularly a problem in the lower socioeconomic group. It spoke about the economic cost. Diabetes Queensland spoke about the cost of treating people who are overweight. It focused particularly on children. That is where the real issue is. As someone who has more than a dozen schools in their electorate, I want to make a contribution and make a difference.

There is absolutely no reason Townsville should have this title. We have a great climate for exercising.

Mr Bleijie: Not when you have Castle Hill.

Mr CRISAFULLI: As the Attorney-General just said, we have the magnificent Castle Hill. It is never too cold to exercise. We have wonderful exercise facilities such as the Strand, Riverway, the Murray sports complex and the beautiful paths along the Ross River which are absolutely stunning. We also have national sporting teams for our children to aspire to. These are things that to my mind can help make a contribution.

So what can we do as a government and what can we do as a community? First of all, I want to make sure we support those activities which focus on a healthy lifestyle. It was great to be able to make a contribution to the running festival. I acknowledge that the Minister for Tourism is in the House. As a result of that contribution, the number of competitors actually increased. They dipped down the year before but increased this year. The Townsville triathlon festival will go to the next level next year and become a world title event. We have the Townsville to Cairns bike ride. The other day I went and spoke to some kids who finished that.

From my point of view, I pledge to work with my council to support applications that come through local government grants and subsidies programs and other programs that have a strong health focus. This year I funded a contribution to expand the car park at the PCYC in order to get more people using that facility and a scoreboard and replay screen at the Tony Ireland Stadium.

I say to my council that if they have a good proposal in the area of health and fitness, the member for Thuringowa and I will back it. This is a title that we do not want to keep. There are many wonderful things about Townsville and we have many records that we are very proud of, including our wonderful way of life and our diverse economy, but this is one that we are embarrassed about. We will do all we can to shake it like a bad cold.

Coorparoo, Transit Oriented Development

 **Mr KAYE** (Greenslopes—LNP) (3.24 pm): I rise to tell the House about what is one of the biggest news stories to hit my electorate in a long time—the announcement that the Coorparoo transit oriented development will finally go ahead after almost seven years of languishing on the drawing board. The previous government teased the Coorparoo community for almost seven years with promises made and then broken. I am also pleased to say that the successful proponent is Honeycombes Property Group, a Queensland company.

When I was a child, the Myer building in Old Cleveland Road was an iconic hub for the inner south—its neon sign visible around many southside suburbs as well as from the north side. It was the second regional Myer in Queensland and people travelled from all over Brisbane and beyond to that store. Myer left that site and Megamart moved in. When Megamart left Harvey Norman took over the building. Shortly after the previous government announced the TOD and the Eastern Busway, Harvey Norman moved.

The previous government stalled the project and businesses surrounding Coorparoo junction have struggled to stay afloat ever since, while locals have deserted the area for other shopping precincts. The gradual decline over the past seven years has been a tragedy for the local community and people have suffered as a result. The building's forlorn facade has continued to stare out onto Old Cleveland Road, reminding the community of better times.

But since the announcement by the Deputy Premier last month of a successful tender to redevelop the site I have noticed new energy and anticipation from local businesses. This development is not just about a shiny new building on a busy road, even though that will be a welcome change from the dilapidated old Myer building, nor is it just about the buzz of a future transport hub, though that is badly needed: it is about the regathering of our community, giving the residents of Coorparoo a focal point—a place to meet and play. Locals will no longer need to travel to neighbouring suburbs to meet friends or to shop. They can walk to their own community hub.

This year we are developing the Queensland Plan—a plan that nurtures vibrant and connected communities with local gathering places that are the lifeblood of a large city like Brisbane. This development is indicative of such visionary planning. I applaud the Newman government for forging ahead with the Coorparoo TOD.

Building a resilient future for our great state is about fostering unique local communities. Since this announcement was made, many ideas for rebuilding our community have been floated, including clustering restaurants and meeting places around it, revitalising the surrounding shops along Cavendish Road and Old Cleveland Road and Holdsworth Street and finding creative ways to draw people back into the area such as a cinema.

I have also commenced negotiations with Myer to determine a way to save the iconic Myer sign so that part of the history of Coorparoo junction will continue on into the future. I would like to thank all those involved in helping to reignite this project, including the Premier, Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport along with all the hardworking public servants like Paul Schmidt from TMR. I have been passionate about this project since 2008 and I am proud to have played a part in seeing it come to fruition. This is just another example of the Newman government delivering for Queensland where others have failed.

Emergency Volunteers



Mr MALONE (Mirani—LNP) (3.26 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak about my role as Assistant Minister for Emergency Volunteers. I visit many parts of Queensland looking at the work that our volunteers do throughout their communities. Currently the rural fire brigades are doing their cool burns using the yellow trucks that we are supplying. This year 24 new trucks are coming in with the RFSQ badging on them. Our volunteers are fully equipped.

I have had the great pleasure of moving through many communities from Cairns to the Gold Coast. In Cairns I, along with a number of local members, handed over flood boats and surf boats. I have handed over QAS transport vehicles as well as first response vehicles in Atherton, Cooroy, Nambour, Caloundra, Caboolture, the Gold Coast, Rockhampton and Longreach. It has been a great pleasure for me to visit those local communities and meet the people who work within them. I attended a presentation to the southern group of Surf Life Saving Queensland on the Gold Coast.

I would like to put a plug in for our PCYC Emergency Services Cadet program. The PCYC Emergency Services Cadet program is delivered in partnership with the Police Citizens Youth Club and Emergency Management Queensland. The program is offered to youths between the age of 12 to 17 and operates out of State Emergency Service facilities. Cadets learn a diverse range of emergency services skills and are encouraged to explore a career pathway in emergency services and volunteering.

We have three cadet establishments currently in place—Pomona, Biggenden and Inglewood. Four others will open shortly—Hughenden, Mackay, Hervey Bay and Childers. We are actively working with groups in Ipswich, Mount Morgan and Yeppoon, Lowood, Childers, Mackay and Hervey Bay. Hopefully all of those will be delivered towards the end of the year with community support.

The emergency services cadet program is one of those great programs where we coordinate with the youth and the volunteers in the community to catch up with a lot of young people that sometimes fall through the cracks. This program will give them a direction in life. It will give them credits with QCEs, as well as the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is an excellent program. I am looking forward to visiting many of those centres to open the emergency services cadet program right throughout Queensland.

Lamb, Reverend A

 **Mr JOHNSON** (Gregory—LNP) (3.29 pm): It is with great sadness that I rise to speak this afternoon. I want to speak about a gentleman who brought so much love and care and understanding to the people of central-western Queensland, and I refer to the Reverend Alan Lamb, the late Anglican padre from Longreach who has suffered two years of ill health. The Reverend Alan Lamb was born in Durham, England, on 18 October 1936 and he passed away at Taigum, here in Brisbane, on 27 July.

I was fortunate to attend his requiem service at All Saints' Anglican Church on Wickham Terrace yesterday morning. What a beautiful service that was for a truly great Christian soldier, a man whose love and care and understanding of his fellow man touched everybody he came into contact with. There was larrikinism in him, there was love in him, there was care in him, there was comfort in him. He was just one of those people who had that particular way about him that everybody related to.

The service was conducted by Bishop Ron Stone, who was the former Anglican Bishop of the Rockhampton diocese. The Reverend Alan Lamb was the administrator of the Longreach parish, St Andrew's parish in Longreach, for some 17 years off and on. I cannot speak highly enough of the work he did. Yesterday Mrs Helen Marsh and Mrs Betsy Fysh, two ladies from Muttaborra, gave the eulogy. Mrs Marsh made reference to his life as a son of a coalminer from England and how that family migrated here. In later years he became an accountant and worked in Rockhampton. Then he found that he had a long and traditional faith and so he joined the Anglican priesthood and then great things happened from there. Mrs Fysh made reference to his work as a priest in the central west and the way he was welcomed into homes, the way he cared for children, the way he looked out for people who were less fortunate. As one of these ladies said yesterday, he could walk with kings but he never lost the common touch.

The late Alan Lamb will be remembered always as a soldier of Jesus Christ in the west, a man who brought love and care and understanding to many families. All I can say is may his soul rest in peace and that those he has left behind are comforted in their time of need. When they say, 'Oh Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world, grant them rest,' can I say may Alan Lamb be granted eternal rest. Amen.

Cameby Downs Mine

 **Mr HOPPER** (Condamine—KAP) (3.32 pm): I would like to bring to the attention of the House something that has been brought to my attention on a number of occasions by Mr David McCabe on behalf of the Cameby Concerned Citizens. They are faced with the Yancoal-Syntech-Mountfield Properties open-cut coalmine. They believe their properties are extremely devalued, their properties are very hard to sell other than to the mining companies and at times noise can be heard as far away as 10 kilometres. They believe water is being released from the mining company pit and wash plant area into the local creeks. If the property owners do not accept the valuation of their land, the mining companies will take the owners to the Land Court. They are very, very concerned about this.

They are very concerned that the company is putting property owners' lives on hold, which they have done for the previous nine years. They do not know whether they will be bought out by the company and, if so, whether they will be offered enough money to relocate. That is a very, very strong concern. They did not want the mine to land right beside them. The mining company does not communicate with the local community. They believe that the GasFields Commission and the enforcement unit have been out to the area. Property owners have discussed their concerns with staff, but unfortunately their concerns are not being addressed.

They believe that the GasFields Commission is on the side of the mining company. It has been advising them that the mining company is doing a good job and if anything goes wrong, the landowners will be compensated. Talk is cheap. I think it is time that we really started looking after people who, through no fault of their own, end up living beside major infrastructure like this. There is no doubt that it impacts upon their lives. They are a very, very concerned group of citizens and they wanted their plight brought to the attention of the House today.

Bowen Lions and Lions Ladies Club

 **Mrs MENKENS** (Burdekin—LNP) (3.35 pm): I would like to tell the House today about the absolutely magnificent efforts of the Bowen Lions and Lions Ladies Club because, in the last 12 months, working with the Bowen Hospital, they have raised nearly \$100,000, and \$80,000 of that has enabled the Bowen Hospital's Oncology and Day Procedure Unit to become a reality.

The Minister for Health, the Hon. Lawrence Springborg, recently visited Bowen in my electorate to officially open the oncology unit. The minister rightly described the efforts of the Bowen Lions and Lions Ladies to raise more than \$80,000 to enable this unit to become a reality as 'nothing short of fantastic'. I really do acknowledge their efforts and the efforts of the wider community of Bowen. It was a huge community effort. Now Bowen cancer patients are able to receive chemotherapy treatment at their local hospital instead of having to travel long distances, leaving the comfort of their family, friends and home town surroundings.

About 100 chemotherapy patients per year are expected to benefit from the service, along with others who have regular blood transfusions or immunological infusions. As Minister Springborg explained at the opening, the decision to offer low-risk chemotherapy was a natural extension of the telehealth links with the North Queensland Cancer Oncology Service at the Townsville Hospital. Services such as telehealth are crucial in regional areas like Bowen, which is why this LNP government has recently announced a commitment of \$30.9 million to telehealth—and congratulations also to the Minister for Health for his support of regional health services in Queensland.

At the opening, Minister Springborg also committed a further \$5,000, which was the shortfall that was needed for the hospital to purchase a cardiac stress machine, and there is also the extra money that the Lions have raised. The Chair of the Mackay Hospital and Health Service, Colin Meng, also pledged a further \$5,000, which will go towards purchasing an eye pressure testing machine. It is absolutely magnificent to have these machines available in the Bowen area.

What this means is that the patients who would normally have to travel 200 kilometres to receive their very unpleasant treatment—which it is; they experience side effects of nausea, vomiting and all of those things—now do not have to travel that extra 200 kilometres either way. They can now travel five minutes up the road to receive their treatment and be home within an hour and a half. Being able to offer this service in Bowen is not only more economical—as Queensland Health was also previously subsidising those patients for their eight or 10 chemo trips to Townsville—but the real cost saving comes with the social benefits for those people.

Moggill Electorate, Country Women's Association

 **Dr FLEGG** (Moggill—LNP) (3.38 pm): I am delighted to stand here and have something that is truly positive to say today. Within the electorate of Moggill I have recently attended the two AGMs for my two fabulous CWA groups at Moggill and Brookfield. I want to go through the volunteers who hold the office positions in these groups because they are stalwarts of our community within Moggill and they also support country women throughout the state and internationally. They do a terrific job. For the Moggill CWA, the president is Mary Traise; the vice presidents are Mardi Doyle, Jeanette Norton and Jennifer Stonwell; the secretary is Anne Abbott; and the treasurer is Judy King. They have among their members stalwarts like Margaret Smith and Pru Wells.

The president of the Brookfield CWA is Susan Colvran, the vice-president is Kay Sommerfield, the secretary is Evelyn McCloud and Raema McCoy is the treasurer. I have a special connection to the Brookfield CWA, apart from obviously living in Brookfield. I never win anything. I certainly never win anything in the *Courier-Mail*—

Mr Costigan: You won the seat of Moggill.

Dr FLEGG: I accept that interjection. At the recent Brookfield show I won a patchwork tapestry quilt that was made by the ladies from the Brookfield CWA, in particular Helen St John. I donated this to my electorate office and placed it in the waiting room with a suitable plaque. I am so proud of the work that these groups do. They are at the heart of everything that happens locally. They were there when the floods occurred. They are at the Brookfield show. They are at community events. They hold a wonderful range of functions. They raise money and goods to support those in need around the state and around the world.

The CWA was founded on 11 August 1922. This weekend it will be 91 years old. I would not upset the ladies at Brookfield and Moggill by saying that that is the average age, but they would love to see some of the younger ladies from our community join in to help with some of the wonderful things they do. The CWA, as you know, have provided coastal accommodation and still operate many of those facilities. They do a lot of activities. We have a choral group called the Moggill singers who do a soiree regularly that is fabulous. We have a drama group and a quilting group.

(Time expired)

Men of League

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (3.41 pm): I rise in the House this afternoon to congratulate the work of a great organisation called the Men of League. It is a wonderful organisation that operates in many communities across Queensland and New South Wales including the Mackay-Whitsunday region. I was delighted to attend a fundraising dinner organised by the Mackay branch some months ago with home-grown hero and former Origin player Owen Cunningham as the branch chairman. I am very proud to be part of this branch. In fact, I am wearing the Men of League badge in the House this afternoon. It was a great night had by all. We had former Penrith grand final hero Scott Sattler in attendance, former test and Origin forward Wally Fullerton Smith telling some tales and Broncos chief executive Paul White, an old mate of mine who was able to reminisce with some of his old buddies from Mackay's back-to-back winning state league teams from 1993 and 1994.

In praising Men of League, I pay tribute to its pioneers—people like John Fahey AC and Ron Coote from Sydney and people in Queensland like Steve Calder and Bobby Hagan, my former CEO of the Bulldogs who is nowadays doing some great things on the Sunshine Coast. After all, that is what Men of League is all about—helping people in league who have been beset by hard times, perhaps with ill health or financially or even a bit of both. It does not have to be a past high-profile player who gives assistance. It could be a supernum working in the canteen or perhaps the old fellow who marks and mows the field every weekend who promotes junior league.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the recent passing of some great men in Rugby League and offer my condolences to their respective families. I will start with Greg Fatnowna, a great name at Norths in my electorate of Whitsunday. He is a man who battled lung cancer and had hundreds of people flock to a big fundraiser back in April thanks to good Rugby League men like Steve Jackson and Marshall Colwell. Sadly, Greg lost his battle last week. He was farewelled by a terrific turnout from the Rugby League community and the very tight-knit South Sea Islander community in Mackay.

I also acknowledge the recent passing of John Comerford, the former president of the Mackay Rugby League. He was in charge in 1984 when Mackay won its first Foley Shield in 25 years. John was also tied up with Rugby League in Townsville and served on the former Thuringowa City Council.

I also note the passing of the late Graham Murray, who was much loved in the north. He was a former Cowboys coach. He was the man who turned our team around. I acknowledge the tribute paid by the member for Lytton in the House earlier in the week. He will certainly be fondly remembered by many people from all walks of life in the greatest game of all.

Last but not least, vale Merv Mackenzie, a great stalwart of the Sarina club for 40 years. He was one of the three wise men. He spent a lot of his life putting in for the leagues club as well as the football club alongside his late wife Marcia. He went on to become treasurer and eventually the chairman of the Mackay Rugby League. Aside from that, poor old Merv happened to be my second dad and he, too, will be sorely missed.

Tertiary Education, Financial Assistance

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (3.44 pm): There were cheers, rapturous applause and tears of joy recently at Griffith University's Logan campus as Dr Craig Emerson, the minister for trade and higher education, announced that the federal government would clear the way for students who have come to Australia from New Zealand since February 2001 as dependent minors to access HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP and VET FEE-HELP for tertiary education and vocational training following 10 years of residency from 2015. This has been an announcement long awaited by thousands of families, educators and many organisations and centres of learning. To have the parents of a bright young Samoan student come to you early in the academic year to say they have had their heart set on becoming an engineer, a nurse or teacher, have a great OP but suddenly discover they require

\$12,000 or so before they commence their course and that is a financial impossibility is heartbreaking. I can tell the House that has been a common occurrence for me. It has been such a waste of talented young people with high aspirations. However, this is about to change and there is much celebration.

I want to pay tribute first of all to Dr Craig Emerson, who received a delegation to his office some 18 months ago and then as minister for higher education was able to see this through to fruition. Many have written letters, lobbied, held forums and seminars, met with ministers, Premiers and the Prime Minister, presented to the Productivity Commission, written to the Anti-Discrimination Commission and so much more. Griffith University's head of campus, Professor Lesley Chenoweth, Dr Judith Kearney and Glenda Stanley have very much led the campaign in the Logan area, engaging with Pacific Islander organisations, as well as principals and teachers, many of our churches and Pacifica organisations such as the Voice of Samoa. Others who have walked the journey are Ati Mamoe, Pasifika Pioneers, Sarai Tuuga from BoysTown, Bruce and Inez Manu Sione, Mary Bartlett-Johnson, Salome Swan from Spiritus, Vicki Va'a from Nerang Community Centre, Jo Aufai, Va'a Alofipo, Tracey Cook and John Norfolk, the principal of Woodridge High.

Vicki Va'a and others travelled to Canberra to present to the Productivity Commission. QUT and Griffith University put in a submission to the commission. This has been a constant issue for me. It is one of the reasons I decided to continue my work into this term. With letters to the Prime Minister, Premiers, ministers and attending so many meetings and seminars, it was a very emotional announcement for me. Our workforce has missed out on too many young gifted people for too long. Our communities and workplaces will be enhanced by our new young professionals.

(Time expired)

Batterby, Mr J and Mrs A

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (3.48 pm): I rise to speak about two very important people in my electorate of Ipswich. They are important not only because of their age, the length of their marriage, the trials and tribulations they have encountered but also because they are ordinary people who have made a positive and constructive contribution to their community and to this great state. Mr James and Mrs Annie Batterby have recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. What an achievement. I felt the need to ask Mr and Mrs Batterby the obvious question: how did they achieve such a milestone? Both almost in sync, but with Mrs Batterby considering and quietly conceding with due deference to her husband's oration, told me of their meeting at the tender age of 13 years. Mr Batterby left school at the age of 12 and obtained employment on a dairy farm of Mrs Batterby's father. They met, fell in love and the rest is history. As Mr Batterby is now 90 years of age and Mrs Batterby will achieve that age in November, they have a huge album of memories. I wish to share their story with members of the House.

With humility Mr James Batterby explained that he and Annie have the bond of their daughter, Joan, and through tough times they have stood together. They were surprised by their daughter organising a party in celebration of their 70th solemnised union. Together they have been through the Great Depression, World War II and rationing followed by post-war recessions. Having married during the war, Mr Batterby served in the Royal Australian Electrical Mechanical Engineers, 6th Division in 1944-45 and served in New Guinea in the Wewak campaign.

Mrs Batterby waited 17 months for her husband to return home. What a long wait! Mr James Batterby and his wife Annie at that stage in our conversation glanced at each other and I knew that they had had some personal trials in their extensive life journey. Solemnly Annie explained to me how she and her husband had suffered the loss of two sets of twins at six and half weeks and six and a half months. Surely a tragedy in their lives. My armchair conversation with Mr and Mrs Batterby allowed me a rare opportunity to share in the story of their life's journey. Without realising the passing of time, I spent over an hour talking with these two Queenslanders who had so much to share and whose lives and achievements should be recognised in this House. I thank James and Annie for sharing their story with me.

Stretton Electorate, Festivals

 **Mrs OSTAPOVITCH** (Stretton—LNP) (3.50 pm): I rise to speak about four festivals of which I am very proud that have been or will be hosted in my electorate of Stretton over August and September. I will firstly speak about the Multicap Festival at Eight Mile Plains opened by Minister Tracy Davis. It was a delight for me to witness the sheer joy that the Multicap Southside Singers

displayed while performing for the crowd. Around 30 years ago when, as a psychiatric nurse, I cared for people with mental disability unfortunately joy was not something I witnessed regularly. It was awesome to witness that these days people with a disability can feel so happy and fulfilled because of dedicated carers like those who work through places like MultiLink. It reminds me of a saying: happy is the heart that sings. I commend Minister Davis for the sincere friendliness she showed to the clients of Multicap. We indeed have a caring Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.

Last Saturday I opened the Calamvale College Carnival with Lord Mayor Graham Quirk and Councillor Owen-Taylor. It is an absolute tribute to the hardworking parents and teachers and it has to be one of the most successful fetes in Queensland, with around 50,000 people attending. I bravely single out Leesa Mason for her organisational skills and year of sacrifice. It was a pleasure working with you and your team, Leesa. The performance from *Australia's Got Talent* winner Samantha Jade was attended by well over 20,000 screaming fans. I had the privilege of sponsoring the fireworks afterwards and members of the community have let me know their appreciation.

On 6 September I will officially open the second Taiwan Festival on behalf of Minister Elmes as part of the government's Multicultural Week which will also be held at the Calamvale sports fields. I have been entrusted with the position of honorary ambassador for the second year now and it is a role that I take seriously. Indeed, the mayor of Yilan in Taiwan has accepted my invitation to attend the Taiwan Festival and he is bringing with him 20 outstanding professional performers. I look forward to showing him and his group the delights that Calamvale, Brisbane and the Gold Coast have to offer in return for the hospitality that he showed me when I was in Taiwan in July. The electorate of Stretton and indeed the whole Taiwanese community welcome you to join us for what I nickname the Friendly Festival on Friday night and from 10 until 10 on Saturday. Come and experience the fun, food and culture with nonstop entertainment, featuring Taiwanese Aboriginal and Chinese culture.

On 7 September I will again open a multicultural festival on behalf of Minister Elmes at Runcorn Heights State School. I have attended this wonderful Culture Fest in past years and credit must go to Principal Glen Thomas and his dedicated teachers and parents from dozens of cultures for a festival that aims to unite our diverse community in the Stretton electorate. May I state for the record that it does that beautifully. I think it is safe to say that we are putting Stretton on the map.

Police Service; Neighbourhood Watch



Ms MILLARD (Sandgate—LNP) (3.53 pm): Earlier this week I had the privilege of hosting a very well attended police recruitment information session and Neighbourhood Watch session. My special thanks to the Assistant Minister for Emergency Volunteers Ted Malone and the Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart. It was clear from the moment that the assistant minister made his opening speech that this is a government that is intent on tackling crime at several levels starting from the grassroots up. What is also clear is that this is a government that is not afraid to be tough on crime and, in turn, that our communities want us to strengthen both front-line services and community initiatives.

Community engagement and the idea that neighbours are best placed to act as both police informants and local guardians is at the heart of the Neighbourhood Watch network which has been in desperate need of invigoration. Since coming into office I have watched Neighbourhood Watch networks expand in my electorate. They now number close to 10. This includes the new affordable housing network of Fitzgibbon Chase which is expected to boast Brisbane's largest Neighbourhood Watch network once completed. However, we are not ignorant about the modern age and the busy lives that many of us find ourselves in. The Minister for Police and Community Safety Jack Dempsey launched a \$1 million e-initiative and the Neighbourhood Watch Queensland myPolice blog in December 2013. Thanks to Neighbourhood Watch going online, it is easier now for members of the community to log on to see what is happening in terms of crime in their area. They are also able to access police resources and reporting mechanisms. I am proud to say this government has also committed a further half a million per year in funding the Neighbourhood Watch street signs and householders kits for members so that costs that were borne by volunteers under the previous administration are now covered. This lifts the financial burden of participating in community safety networks.

The Police Commissioner Ian Stewart described a long and dedicated career in the Police Service as part of a professional family that he paid tribute to. I could not help but notice his sincerity when he said that the police are the community and the community are the police. Without a

commitment to the grassroots, a police force could only exist as a bureaucracy without meaning or purpose. Unfortunately under the last government some people started to think of the police force in precisely this way, a perception that our government is slowly repairing.

I thank both gentlemen for coming to the Sandgate electorate and talking to those young people about police recruitment and talking to the individuals who are concerned about safety in our neighbourhood and who want to get involved with the Neighbourhood Watch network. I also thank Sergeant Chris Lambert, the PCYC officer, who allowed us to hold the evening in his hall. We have an excellent gymnastics group that works out of that PCYC. Thank you very much. It is the police who make a big difference and make our communities a better and safer place to live. Thank you.

Homeless Persons Week

 **Mr GIBSON** (Gympie—LNP) (3.56 pm): It is with pleasure that I rise during Homeless Persons Week to speak about Gympie's sleepout last Friday night that kicked off Homeless Persons Week. It is estimated that each night in Gympie over 80 people are sleeping rough, either out on the streets, down at the Six Mile crossing area, couch surfing or staying with friends whilst they do not have permanent accommodation. On Friday night a broad range of people in the community and business leaders gathered together to sleep out to raise awareness about Homeless Persons Week and also to raise funds for our local Gympie Community Action Inc which provides a variety of services for those who face homelessness within the Gympie area. We had a great night. It is amazing that a small piece of cardboard can keep you warm when you do not have to sleep straight on the cement. But there was not much time for sleeping, I must say. We were fortunate that Community Action Inc were able to provide a great night where they informed us about not only the issues of homelessness and how prevalent it is in our community, but also solutions that can be put forward to address it.

I wish to commend the minister, Tim Mander, for his homelessness strategy that has been put forward as a very pragmatic way of dealing with this complicated issue. Often homelessness is more than just not having a roof over your head. People find themselves without accommodation for a range of factors. There is not a simple silver bullet solution. It is estimated that from the night over \$10,000 was raised from the Gympie community which will go directly back into our community with Community Action Inc providing services locally for homeless persons. We do not have a shelter within the Gympie area but we do have a community with big hearts, a community that reaches out. It was wonderful to see the funds raised. I wish to thank Victory Care and the Salvos for providing us with hot drinks and meals through the night and the Apex Club of Gympie for providing everybody who was there, and those who came along from other areas, with a hot breakfast that Saturday morning. None of us looked better for the experience, but we all came away understanding just a little bit more what the impacts of homelessness are. I do not pretend that from one night sleeping out we have any real insight into that issue, but we certainly raised awareness. Our community, which bands together in times of need, has shown once again that we are willing to support those in our community who do it tough.

QUEENSLAND INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2531, on motion of Mr Bleijie—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (3.59 pm), continuing: As I was saying prior to the break in proceedings, firstly, the pay fiasco, like almost everything else this government turns its hand to, was a typically low-rent performance staged in a highly cynical attempt to help a Premier who totally understands that Queenslanders are bitterly disillusioned with his short and appalling track record. Government members expected Queenslanders to believe that, throughout the whole performance that has been the pay rise scandal, they were caught totally by surprise, like rabbits in the headlights, by the fallout from their grotesque decision to grant themselves grotesque pay hikes the likes of which ordinary people will not see in a lifetime. Then they expect Queenslanders to swallow the shallow explanation that nobody had thought to do the figures.

Earlier in the debate the Deputy Premier outlined the reasons for that. The Deputy Premier said that he received the advice and he actioned it straight away; he gave it to the Clerk of the Parliament. He did not deliberate with his colleagues. He told his colleagues that that was what he had done. He

did not refer to previous advice that the Premier received on this matter in the Premier's office even though he was the Acting Premier at the time. He did not refer to that previous advice. He did not request that costs be formulated or modelled in relation to the pay increase. He did none of that. He got the legal advice and he actioned it straight away, presumably because he was desperately worried that thousands of Queenslanders would be lining up to lay charges against the government for not adhering to the law and hiking up their pay by 42 per cent. Public sector employees have to abide by the rules regarding their pay rises: the government has to do all the calculations; the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission must take into consideration the government's fiscal strategy. All of that needs to be done before public sector workers can get a single pay increase, but when it comes to politicians in this state, they can get a bit of crown law advice and away she goes.

Fundamentally, this government has failed in its charade and it has failed Queenslanders. It has failed because Queenslanders know that this performance was just that: a performance. It has left them more appalled than ever at the lack of character this Premier possesses and even more disenchanted by his increasingly transparent stunts, by his increasing arrogance, by the way in which he governs: there is one law for the LNP and one law for the rest of Queensland.

Let us recap. On 1 July the Deputy Premier announced that the government would be going ahead with a pay rise, desperately trying to gloss over the facts by attempting to lead the media off track with shiny diversionary tactics. He knew what was coming. He understood there would be a massive fallout, so he tactically ran the line that he would personally hunt down any former MP who came seeking back pay. The current lot of politicians had to abide by the law, but former politicians would be hunted down and legislation would be brought into this place to stop them from seeking any legal entitlement. This is hypocritical in the extreme. There is one rule for the LNP and there is another rule for everyone else. That line held for a little while. It was not persuasive, but it held for a little while.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Cunningham): Order! The member is not taking interjections. I call the member for South Brisbane.

Ms TRAD: But by the time public opinion had exploded all over the little charade, the Leader of the Opposition, Anastacia Palaszczuk, then exposed that this government had attempted to sneakily gazette the new pay rates under the cover of darkness. It all fell to pieces and the Deputy Premier was left mumbling and bumbling in front of thousands of Queenslanders watching the news that night. The reality is that this staggeringly greedy LNP cabinet had voted to give themselves a staggering pay rise of 42 per cent at a time when many families are struggling with cost-of-living pressures, at a time when hardworking public servants cannot even get a 2.3 per cent pay increase from this government and at a time when the cost of living is spiralling out of control.

As we well know, for backbenchers that pay rise was \$57,000 a year—more than what many people earn in an entire year. For ministers, the pay rise resulted in an extra \$93,000 a year. For the Deputy Premier, it was about \$100,000 a year more. As we have found out, courtesy of the Leader of the Opposition who exposed this because we cannot trust the government to be crystal clear and transparent in its dealings, the Premier himself had gotten a \$118,000 a year pay increase which, as the Leader of the Opposition has outlined, puts him within a whisker of the President of the United States and his package.

So how did this LNP government handle this wretched state of affairs? As we have learned from recent correspondence tabled in this place—correspondence from a recent complainant from Redlands—we have seen that there was ample opportunity for this mob to get their act together, there was ample opportunity for the charade to be strategised, there was ample opportunity because we know that at least a number of people in this place knew that a massive pay rise was going to occur, and they knew that in early June. As much as they like to protest that this all happened at the last minute, despite being advised in April last year, despite additional advice being received by the Premier in August last year, despite pieces of correspondence coming in and out of the Premier's office which he personally noted and signed—despite all of this—they want Queenslanders to believe that this all happened really quickly while the Premier was out of the country. What really happened was there was an agreement that was reached and then the strategy was hatched. If it all went pear shaped, which we know is likely when the Deputy Premier is in charge, then the Premier would stage manage a rescue upon his return. When that happened on 11 July and the Premier rode in on his carefully crafted white horse to announce the legislation we are debating today, the jig was up.

Why did those opposite think they were entitled to this obscene pay rise? That is what I want to know. Why did they think that they were entitled to a minimum of \$57,000 extra a year? Is it because they are very hard working? Is it because the member for Brisbane Central came into this place and stood up for his constituents who want this government to reinstate funding to Queensland healthy communities? No! Was it because he came into this place and argued for all of the same sex couples who live in his electorate and want him to stand up for civil unions? No! Was it because the member for Brisbane Central came into this place and advocated on behalf of Biala and the tens of thousands of people who use Biala's services annually? No!

Did the member for Mount Coot-tha earn her extra \$57,000 a year by standing up for people who want to see civil unions protected in this state? No! Was it because the member for Mount Coot-tha stood in this place and ardently advocated to keep in place the best vegetation management laws that Queensland has ever had, laws that have seen the curbing of destructive vegetation extraction from our state? No, she did not do that.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! Interjections are not being taken. The member for South Brisbane has the call.

Ms TRAD: No, the member for Mount Coot-tha did not come into this place and advocate for her constituents; she came in here and said she had been talking to farmers—and, as we know, there are hundreds of thousands of farmers in Mount Coot-tha, living in Paddington and attending Caxton Street regularly!

What has the Minister for Environment done for his extra 93,000 a year? Judging by his performance at estimates, not very much. What about the Minister for Transport? This is the biggest hoax of all. His pay rise should just be rolled into the Premier's pay rise; because it is quite clear that the Premier is making all of the decisions when it comes to senior appointments in his portfolio. He does not need his extra \$93,000 because it appears that he does not get to make the calls.

It appears that not only do those members opposite think that they can get away with this charade, but they actually do not like people outside talking about the fact that they have given themselves this obscene pay rise. It is hilarious. When I read the notice of industrial dispute that was filed last Friday, I could not help but chuckle at some of the subject matters of the dispute. One of the matters that was the subject of dispute was the fact that the Together union had circulated material that contained negative and highly inflammatory references to actions attributed to the government, including that they voted themselves an obscenely large pay increase. They are happy to give themselves a pay increase; they are not happy to publicly defend it; and they are certainly not happy for workers to be expressing dissent and saying that this is obscene and disgusting. They are very unhappy about that. In fact, they will file an order of dispute in the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission because they just cannot back up this obscene pay rise. There is no doubt that the legislation we are debating today is important, but what has led us to this important debate—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for South Brisbane, if you could just hold on for a moment. Members, if you would like to take your conversation outside the chamber, that would be helpful. The member is on her feet and has the call.

Ms TRAD: There is no doubt that the legislation we are debating today is important, but what has led us to this important debate is shameful. The Deputy Premier likes to talk about cheap political stunts, but he does not like to talk about context because he knows that when you put all of the facts on the table, this pay increase is indefensible. When you put all of the facts on the table, the proposition that the Premier knew nothing about the 42 per cent pay increase is just fanciful in the extreme. If it is to be believed, then all of Queensland needs to be shocked because what this means is that in the Premier's absence someone of the ilk of the Deputy Premier can make decisions of that magnitude, and that should leave all Queenslanders very afraid. This whole episode has been an exercise in shameful deceit and cynicism because this government tried yet again to trick Queenslanders. They have taken them for granted and arrogantly treated them with absolute contempt and then tried very, very unsuccessfully to spin their way out of the hell in which they found themselves.



Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.14 pm): This legislation that we have before the House today is a very important piece of legislation. I can tell you from long experience in these matters about what politicians are paid. It is a very, very painful subject. Politicians have long been subjected to insulting remarks and the low opinion of the community, and occasionally this has been as a result of their own behaviour or items appearing in the media which are designed to sell papers,

et cetera. The remuneration for politicians is a very, very difficult subject to handle. A lot of people out there in the community believe we should be paid nothing, and that is their view. There are other people who work more closely with politicians and understand that they are a very essential part of our society and our community. We need politicians because they do a lot of hard work for their communities, and that work is deserving of appropriate remuneration.

From my own experience and years in local government, I recall when the then Labor government forced a brand new council, the Gold Coast City Council, to set its own remuneration. That is somewhat analogous to the present situation. I approached Terry Mackenroth, who quite clearly said, 'No, you are on your own. You set your own remuneration, and you will then pay the penalty at the ballot box.' You can imagine what fodder it was for the media and some uninformed people who said, 'We should not be paying these local government politicians any money whatsoever.' It became the hottest topic for between 12 and 18 months in that particular council region, and there was a lot of pain and agony involved in delivering an outcome that was acceptable to the community. We even went to two different sets of professional people to come up with the appropriate remuneration—which was actually about 6 per cent different to the previous remuneration—and there was a lot of exaggerated whooping and hollering everywhere about the terrible overpayment of local politicians. Nothing has strayed here from that example, and the absolute corollary is what has happened here in the state government.

Some wise state politicians before us took the decision to tie the state politicians' wages to the federal government politicians' wages, recognising that they were a bigger and bolder brand in terms of federal politicians—big brothers and sisters, as they like to see themselves—but the work that they actually do is very, very similar to the work that we do in terms of hours, commitment and dedication to the job. In both Houses on both sides of politics there are people who do not deserve to be paid the full amount. Some of them do about 50 per cent of the work that they should be doing. We all know them; you all know them. They are on both sides of the House. Those matters will be determined by the voting public in the longer term. It does not last forever.

Quite clearly most state parliamentarians do their utmost to fulfil the expectations of their communities. Premier Campbell Newman and this LNP government work as diligently to deliver outcomes for our constituents in Queensland as do our federal counterparts. Has there been an outcry about the salary of federal politicians? No, there has not. I have not had one complaint about what the three federal members from the Gold Coast are collecting by way of remuneration. What happened with this particular sorry saga is the great politicisation of a very delicate situation which led to an easy cheap shot, as they say in the footy game. I take the member for Whitsunday's gesture over there. It is like lifting your elbow as you run through the maul and clipping some guy when he is not expecting it. That is always easy to do because the media love pulling down politicians. It sells papers, it is part of their job, and they will say that they are reflecting the community's opinion of politicians. The reality is that their opinion of politicians has been created by the repetitive printing of stories about the worthlessness of politicians. 'Politics is show business for ugly people,' as they say about politicians.

A government member: Wrap it up.

Mr STEVENS: I am really enjoying it now.

Mr Bleijie: You called me ugly!

Mr STEVENS: No. This wonderful piece of legislation sets in place a process whereby we will not have to revisit this very unseemly matter of setting one's own wages. We will not have to repeat the process that I referred to earlier which existed in local government and which the state government changed by having the board setting remuneration. We should not be setting our pay; it should be done by professionals.

I refer to the three members of the tribunal. I know of one of them—not personally that well, but I do know of his very exalted position as Vice-Chancellor of Bond University in the electorate of Mermaid Beach on the fabulous Gold Coast, represented by a local member who works hard for his constituents. I am sure that the three members will make a just determination of what politicians should be paid. The board in itself is a wonderful instrument to deliver an outcome that should put to bed the politicking from both sides of the House when that final determination comes through to this House.

There is one important matter addressed in this bill that has not been heavily debated. I am very pleased to see the matter raise its head in this legislation. I refer to the fact that the title of 'Manager of Government Business' will be returned to the exalted title of 'Leader of the House'. I

congratulate all of the perpetrators of this legislation on returning that title and taking individual personalities out of the matter. I hope there will not be further debate from the opposition on the matter. I am very pleased to see the official title 'Leader of the House' returned, as opposed to 'Manager of Government Business'. The direction of the House will be fairly and squarely the responsibility of the person who is supposed to guide government business through this parliament.

Ms Palaszczuk: Is this relevant to the bill?

Mr STEVENS: It is in the bill. Thank you very much, Leader of the Opposition. From my perspective, this piece of legislation is very welcome. I look forward to a great outcome from the remuneration board when it makes its determination. I do hope it puts to bed, once and for all, the cheap political debate over these matters in this House by people who do not have actual causes or genuine matters to follow up to get a little cheap shot.

 **Mr JUDGE** (Yeerongpilly—UAP) (4.23 pm): The principle that every person and every organisation, including the government, is subject to the rule of law is well established in our society. It is without doubt that, above all, the government must uphold this principle. It is now a matter of public record that since April 2012, just two weeks after the LNP government was elected, the Premier has been aware of an ongoing omission to uphold the law providing the legislative formula for MPs' salaries. Despite the situation being inherited from the former Labor government, it is unacceptable that the Premier prolonged the omission and failed to address it sooner. Furthermore, it is absurd to claim that the Newman government needed to obtain crown law advice to confirm that the former government acted unlawfully in freezing MPs' salaries.

Frankly, interpreting the existing law for determining MPs' salaries, including the flow-on of extra moneys to office-bearers, is not a complicated task. If members are incapable of this task they simply should not be representing their communities in this place. It seems inconceivable that the Deputy Premier, whilst Acting Premier, had no idea what the calculation for MPs' salary would be or what the sums would add up to—that is, in terms of the flow-on to the Premier, Deputy Premier and ministers—as he claimed in the media.

The public has every right to be concerned about how the Acting Premier and cabinet could have possibly overlooked the massive pay rise, especially with the intellect of the Attorney-General available to provide legal advice and expert opinion. Basically, we are being asked to accept that the then Acting Premier, elected over 15 years ago, and the Attorney-General, also known as Queensland's first law officer, had either never read or completely forgotten about the *Members entitlements handbook* and the Parliament of Queensland Act. If this is so, it is very concerning for all electors and the public at large.

Among other things, the *Members entitlements handbook* sets out that members of the Legislative Assembly are to be paid a salary pursuant to the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. At present, section 109 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 plainly states that a member of the Legislative Assembly is entitled to \$500 less than the annual salary of a member of the House of Representatives of the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia. Furthermore, section 115, which deals with the variation of members' additional salary as applicable to the Premier, Deputy Premier and ministers, currently confirms that their additional salaries are to be varied at the same percentage as is applicable to base salaries. That is approximately 42 per cent in this case.

While it is accepted that it would have been absurd to ignore crown law advice on this issue in terms of continuing to not comply with existing laws for MPs' salaries, it is even more absurd that the Newman government did not act sooner to address the situation, including by complying with the high-level advice given back in April 2012—that is, to sever ties to federal MPs' wages—a relatively simple amendment for a government equipped with all the resources of the state.

Overall, the decision to establish an independent tribunal to set MPs' salaries is welcomed, but it is asserted that the terms of reference should be extended to allow it to also determine public funding for political parties as well as laws governing political donations and voting laws. Queenslanders have every right to be disillusioned by the ongoing decline of democracy in our state brought about by both of the major parties—that is, the LNP and the ALP—unfairly rigging the system to their own benefit while in government. We witnessed this with the ALP's efforts to create an unfair advantage in the polls at the 2012 election, and the LNP has recently demonstrated enthusiasm to do the same. Despite failing in the required commitment to strengthen democracy in Queensland, I look forward to the establishment of the independent tribunal and a fairer process for determining MPs' salaries. For this reason I will commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HOPPER** (Condamine—KAP) (4.27 pm): I listened with interest to the speech made by the Leader of the House. We all saw what happened in federal parliament about four years ago. They certainly did get off very lightly when you look at the backlash that occurred after the Deputy Premier's recent announcement. The feds took that pay rise four years ago. It was always set that Queensland state politicians would get \$500 less than their federal colleagues. However, then Premier Anna Bligh decided to freeze all pay rises.

Some politicians do work very hard. There is no doubt about that. I do agree with what the Leader of the House said. Members spend a lot of time away from home and do a lot of travelling. It is a very big job for the members representing some electorates. I have often heard people say that if you pay peanuts you get monkeys. I remember that at one time Wally Lewis was going to stand for parliament but when he found out what the remuneration was he decided that football was a much better option.

I do agree with the Premier handing this matter to an independent tribunal. However, once that level of remuneration is set we would like to see that any future pay rises are granted in line with those awarded to the firies, the ambos and the police. If they get a two per cent pay rise, we should be willing to take a two per cent pay rise. We must align politicians' pay in order to be fair with what is going on in the community. Some 14,000 public servants have just lost their jobs and we saw the rallies in front of Parliament House. A huge number of people are very upset with what has happened. I hope that this independent tribunal comes up with the right decision, but we have to be very careful whom we appoint to this tribunal. My colleague the member for Mount Isa will move amendments during the consideration in detail stage and I would ask this House to seriously consider them because they are very good amendments. Before the Premier announced he was setting up an independent tribunal, the member for Dalrymple announced that he would be introducing a private member's bill to address this situation. I congratulate the member for Dalrymple for that; however, it looks like this issue will be addressed with this legislation.

I note that once again this bill takes our staff away. This has reinforced once again that the government cannot possibly let Katter's Australian Party have any staff. Once again we see the absolute hypocrisy of this government, because when Bob Quinn, Joan Sheldon and David Watson were in this chamber they were given five staff and the resources that they needed—the Liberal Party of Queensland. There is now a Liberal government in Queensland—there is no National Party whatsoever—and it will possibly be back to three members at the next election if it keeps running Queensland how it is. I wonder if it then will scream out for staff. No doubt it will. If the Labor government is in power, it will give it the staff, because that is the deal. It is either/or—either the Liberal Party or the Labor Party. I warn members that there are a few things just around the corner that we have up our sleeve.

Government members interjected.

Mr HOPPER: You may laugh, but you are all gone—all oncers over there gone, gone, goners. Probably 25 of you will go at the next election without any doubt whatsoever—at least that number. You are just being used—absolutely used—so enjoy the trip.

Mr Cox interjected.

Mr HOPPER: You will be one too, member for Thuringowa—quite easily—so enjoy your time here because there is no doubt you will be gone. So enjoy your pay rise because you will not get another job like you have now. Enjoy the pay rise and speak on this bill. We have not heard you speak on this bill, because you probably need a pay rise—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! I ask the member to address his comments through the chair.

Mr HOPPER: Thank you, but the interjections get my attention all the time and I have to react to the interjections.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am happy for you to take the interjections. You will address your reply through the chair.

Mr HOPPER: Thank you. The independent tribunal is going to come up with the answers and we will see how far it goes. Our amendments will be moved by the member for Mount Isa—that is, to equate any further pay rises to that of ambos, firies and police officers. That way we will stop this sort of rot ever happening again in Queensland.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.32 pm), in reply: On behalf of the Premier, I thank all honourable members for their contributions to the second reading debate of the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal Bill. As the Premier has outlined, the government is of the view that it is no longer tenable for the salaries of members of the Queensland Legislative Assembly to be legislatively linked to the salaries of members of the Commonwealth parliament and indeed that it is no longer tenable for members to set their own salaries, entitlements or allowances. That is why the government is acting to resolve this situation once and for all to place in the hands of an independent tribunal the unfettered ability in an independent, fair and transparent manner to determine the remuneration that will apply to members and former members of this House.

The bill implements the Premier's five-point plan to reform Queensland parliament's entitlements system. The bill breaks the nexus between the salaries of Queensland and Commonwealth members; formally establishes the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal under legislation; provides that the determinations of the tribunal are independent, binding and are not subject to change by members; legislates to ensure that the back pay for current and former members is only applicable from 1 July 2013; and provides that the tribunal must ensure that any allowances are to reflect the amount of reasonable expenses incurred by a member in servicing their electorate and that the allowances are not a substitute for other remuneration. The passage of the bill is urgent so that these matters can be implemented as soon as possible. Apart from breaking the salary nexus with Canberra, the bill rescinds the salary increases which took effect for members on 1 July 2013 in accordance with the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 and returns the salary rates of members to those that applied on 30 June 2013, pending the tribunal's first determination. Once a determination is made with effect from 1 July 2013, the Clerk of the Parliament will assess if any overpayments have been made to members and, if so, will then begin to recover the money through their fortnightly salary.

While the tribunal and its members have already been administratively appointed and established by the Premier, urgent passage of the bill will enable the tribunal's members to be formally appointed under the legislation as soon as possible and the tribunal can be conferred with the necessary legislative powers. The tribunal has a lot of work ahead of it to resolve and determine all these matters by 15 October 2013 and it is necessary that it has these legislative powers as soon as possible. This whole issue for members' salaries goes back to 2009, as the Deputy Premier said, when the former government first chose to act without regard to the provisions of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001. To ensure that no member, current or retired, will get a salary or superannuation increase that they might claim they were entitled to, the bill retrospectively confirms and validates the salaries that any member received from 1 September 2009 to 30 June 2013.

The bill also allows the tribunal, should it wish, to vary its determinations from 1 July 2013 in such a way that takes into consideration the different superannuation arrangements that apply to members and former members. The salary increase received by members on 1 July 2013 also has an effect on the salaries of local government councillors given the nexus between the salaries of members and councillors provided for in the Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government Regulation 2012. Urgent passage of the bill will enable that nexus to be broken and for the remuneration of councillors to continue to remain at the same level as existed prior to 1 July 2013. The bill also goes one step further and reforms the way in which councillor salaries will be determined moving forward. Instead of councillor salaries being set once every four years, the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal will meet every year to set salary levels for each category of local government. Local governments will either then accept those salary levels or set a new salary level which is lower than that fixed by the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal. The bill is yet another way in which the government is delivering more empowered and autonomous local governments in Queensland.

Without going to the points raised by the Deputy Premier, because he covered the issues quite well in his contribution, I want to make two points. The first is with respect to why the Premier did not act on the advice of the Clerk some 12 months ago a few days after becoming Premier. The simple reality is that it was not a priority for government and it was not a priority for the Premier. When it became abundantly clear that the legislative scheme in Queensland was illegal and no-one, including the Premier, the Deputy Premier or the cabinet, had the executive power—the head of power—to do anything other than what the legislation says, we acted on it. But it was not a matter of priority for the government. That is why the Premier, rightfully so, did not act on it. The member for South Brisbane said that it was so obscene and so wrong, yet for three days they remained silent. For three days they

remained silent. After the Deputy Premier did the first press conference, for three days the Labor Party in Queensland remained silent—until Alex Scott from the Together union opened his mouth and then the calls were made to the Labor Party, ‘This is what you’ve got to do.’ So it was so obscene and so wrong that the Labor Party did not speak about it for three days after such wrong. As the Deputy Premier said, we are righting the wrong, and this government will never stick up for any former Premier that acted outside his or her lawful entitlement in that role and functions of that office. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10—

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (4.39 pm): The opposition is not opposed to this clause but, once again, I want to reiterate the point I made in my speech earlier and that is in relation to the three people on the tribunal who are appointed by the Governor in Council. I said before and I will say it again that, as I noted in the second reading debate, it would have been nice for the government to have consulted with the opposition in relation to the composition of the tribunal.

Clause 10, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 11 to 29, as read, agreed to.

Clause 30—

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (4.40 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 30 (Requirements for making determination)

Page 18, after line 8—

insert—

- (aa) ensure that the financial position of the State and the State’s fiscal strategy are taken into account; and

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal Bill 2013, explanatory notes to Ms Palaszcuk’s amendments [3194].

This amendment amends clause 30 to ensure that, when the tribunal is making a determination in relation to the salaries of members, it has to take into account the financial position of the state and the state’s fiscal strategy.

Last year when the government introduced the Industrial Relations (Fair Work Act Harmonisation) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, it made sure that, when the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission is considering any proposed wage increase for Queenslanders, if the employee is a public servant it must take into account the financial position of the state, of the relevant public sector entity and also the state’s fiscal strategy. For other employees, the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission must take into account the employer’s financial position.

We were opposed to that provision, because wages should be fair in relation to the work done. Unfortunately, we lost that ideological battle. But the government must have taken on our concerns, because now they no longer think that the state’s financial position and fiscal strategy should be taken into account. We do not agree with that. If it is going to apply to every other Queenslanders, it is only fair that it apply to members of this House. As my grandmother would say, what is good for the goose is good for the gander.

The hypocrisy of this takes my breath away. I cannot wait to hear the bleating from the government as it realises it just cannot justify any argument in opposition to this amendment. The people of Queensland are not fools. They know when something is fair and they know when something is not fair. I just want to let the members opposite know that if they oppose this amendment it will be noted in all of their electorates. We will be letting everybody in their electorates know the hypocrisy if they vote against this amendment.

Mr BLEIJIE: The government will be opposing the amendment proposed by the opposition leader for the simple fact that clause 28, which is two clauses before the one the opposition leader is moving an amendment to now, says—

Procedures for making determination

In making a determination, the tribunal—

- (a) may inquire into, and inform itself, of anything in the way it considers.

A government member: Yes, pretty broad.

Mr BLEIJIE: Pretty broad. So we are not going to accept the amendment because the opposition leader, in fact, just supported that clause. We are not going to delve into the politics that the opposition leader is still trying to play with this issue despite supporting the bill. We are opposed to the amendment, because we believe that an independent tribunal should be as less prescriptive as possible and, therefore, can take into consideration whatever it thinks necessary.

Ms TRAD: What is quite clear from the Attorney-General's contribution just then is that workers must abide by a determination by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission where they are compelled. It is not a 'may' proposition; it is a 'shall' proposition. The QIRC must take into consideration the fiscal strategy and the financial circumstances of the state government. But when it comes to Queensland politicians, that is a 'maybe' suggestion. That is a 'may'—you may consider anything you like. It may be the government's fiscal strategy, it may be the government's financial status—it might be a whole range of things—but you do not have to if you do not want to. But when it comes to the workers in this state, that is a different law. That is a different proposition. They have to abide by a determination that has to be based on this government's political and economic strategy, on this government's analysis of the budget. That is one rule for the arrogant LNP and another rule for Queenslanders.

That is not what the Labor Party believes in. We absolutely oppose that these people opposite will put themselves above the workers in this state—above the hardworking Queenslanders who look after sick people in hospitals, who put out fires, who rescue people in emergency situations. It is outrageous that they should be cutting themselves so much more cloth on this issue than they do for the people who serve other Queenslanders in this state. It is a disgrace.

Mr WELLINGTON: I have been listening to the contribution of the speakers to this bill and I listened to the Attorney-General's explanation as to why he could not support the amendment. Quite frankly, I think that is bunkum. As far as I am concerned, I see nothing inconsistent—

Mr Bleijie: The populist clown. You only do the populist thing you think the people vote for. You're a shame, a disgrace.

Mr WELLINGTON: I am not taking interjections from the Attorney-General. He is the chief law officer. He should show some courtesy to other members.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! If the member for Nicklin could take his seat for a moment. Attorney-General, you need to withdraw the statement about being a clown. It is unparliamentary.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mr WELLINGTON: And it is noted he withdrew with a smile on his face. This is our chief law officer of the state. Mr Deputy Speaker, he has repeatedly been interjecting all day. He is not taking notice of your rulings.

Quite frankly, Queenslanders do not trust the opinion of the Attorney-General. It was not that long ago when he said that we could not make retrospective laws and now he is saying we can. In relation to the argument that the amendment is inconsistent with clause 28, I just simply say that I do not agree. Queenslanders do not agree. I will be supporting the amendment. I think it is fair and it is reasonable.

Mr Bleijie: Because you support everything the Labor Party does. You are the best Labor Party member there is.

Mr WELLINGTON: I rise to a point of order. The Attorney-General has made comments that are offensive and untrue. I ask that they be withdrawn unconditionally.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Attorney-General is asked to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: Withdraw.

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

AYES, 13—Byrne, Cunningham, Douglas, Hopper, Judge, Katter, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Trad, Wellington. Tellers: Miller, Scott

NOES, 64—Barton, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Cripps, Crisafulli, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Holswich, Johnson, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McVeigh, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Walker, Watts, Woodforth. Tellers: Kaye, Menkens

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Ms Palaszczuk) negated.

Mr KATTER: I move the following amendments—

1 Clause 30 (Requirements for making determination)

Page 18, line 8, 'In'—

omit, insert—

(1) In

2 Clause 30 (Requirements for making determination)

Page 18, after line 18—

insert—

(2) A determination must not increase the salary of a member of the Assembly for a year by more than the greatest of the following—

(a) the percentage increase for an ambulance officer's wage or salary for that year;

(b) the percentage increase for a fire service officer's wage or salary for that year;

(c) the percentage increase for a police officer's wage or salary for that year.

(3) In this section—

ambulance officer means a person appointed as an ambulance officer under the *Ambulance Service Act 1991*, section 13.

fire service officer means a person appointed as a fire service officer under the *Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990*.

percentage increase, for a wage or salary, means the percentage by which the wage or salary increases under a certified agreement under the *Industrial Relations Act 1999*.

Basically, we are offering a cap on the increases so that we do not have this sort of occurrence again. I do not think anyone can definitively say what is a fair wage for a politician. I know that a lot of people in this House, including myself, took pay cuts to come in here because we wanted to make a change. Certainly, it is not about the money. We are here to do a job for Queensland, which means making responsible decisions and doing things in line with what we think is in the best interests of the state. Some increases may be due, but I would say that the timing is appalling for such a large increase to apply. We want to ensure that this sort of thing does not happen again. The amendments effectively act as a cap and I think that is the right thing to do. It will mean an equitable result for everyone.

I heard a lot of comments earlier about making populist remarks. I do not know what you call it, but certainly I feel comfortable with the amount of money we are getting. If there are small incremental increases, so be it. However, I think it is unacceptable to whack in such a big increase at once, at a time in Queensland when so many small businesses and public sector employees are taking a hit. It sends a terrible signal to the public. Therefore, I will not support it. I believe that it is a good move to keep a cap in the future.

Mr HOPPER: I congratulate the member for Mount Isa for his initiative with these amendments. If you look carefully at them, they are very good. Once the right people have been appointed to the tribunal and the tribunal comes to a decision on what Queensland politicians should be paid, that pay should only go up in rises aligned with the pay rises of ambulance men, fires and police officers. That is what the member for Mount Isa is trying to achieve. That will stop massive 49 per cent or 20 per cent pay rises being given to politicians, which is what we have seen happen in the past month or so. That is what Katter's Australian Party is putting forward with these amendments. I ask all members to look carefully at them. They are sensible amendments and I ask members to agree with them.

Mr WELLINGTON: I note that the Attorney-General does not want to respond to the amendments moved by Katter's Australian Party. Earlier this week, many Queenslanders were outside parliament wanting to speak with politicians and wanting to speak with our Premier. As I looked around the gathering, in one corner I saw the Katter party. Guess what? They had a sausage sizzle. People should never say that some members are not in touch with the community. They were there, they were rubbing shoulders with many Queenslanders who had travelled to be outside parliament to speak to members of parliament, but there were not many members who wanted to speak with them. By crickey, when there is a state election on, we will kiss babies, we will knock on doors, we will walk kilometres. However, when the election is over and the next one is a long way away, some say, 'Sorry, we're all too busy'. We had another rally out there today, but everyone was too busy. I will be supporting the amendments, because I think this is fair and reasonable and I think it is in line with what Queenslanders think is fair and reasonable.

A government member: Speak for yourself.

Mr WELLINGTON: I am speaking for myself. I would like the member who just interjected to speak as well. In light of the fact that the Attorney-General is choosing not to speak to the amendment I can only assume that he is going to rely on his statements he made in relation to the last amendment. I see no inconsistency between the wording of clause 28 which says in terms of procedures for making determinations, 'In making a determination, the tribunal ... may'. That is discretionary. I take members to the amendment which says that in making a determination the tribunal 'must'. We have 'must' in one case and 'may' in the other.

My understanding is that when there is an inconsistency 'must' overrides 'may'. In this circumstance I think the Katter party has certainly put some effort into trying to come up with a compromise. They have flagged that we should let the tribunal make the decision and set those future increases to something that they feel is reasonable. I will be supporting the amendment because I think it is fair and reasonable.

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

AYES, 6—Cunningham, Douglas, Judge, Wellington. Tellers: Hopper, Katter

NOES, 71—Barton, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Byrne, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Cripps, Crisafulli, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Holswich, Johnson, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McVeigh, Millard, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mulherin, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Scott, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trad, Walker, Watts, Woodforth. Tellers: Kaye, Menkens

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Katter) negatived.

Clause 30, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 31 to 41, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Ms PALASZCZUK (5.11 pm): I move the following amendment—

2 After clause 41

Page 23, after line 4—

insert—

41A Limitation on annual salary

- (1) A determination can not, in relation to any 1 year, increase the annual salary of a member by more than the relevant amount for the member.
- (2) A determination that contravenes subsection (1) is of no force or effect.
- (3) For subsection (1), the annual salary of a member before the first determination is the 30 June salary for the member.
- (4) In this section—

30 June salary, for a member, means the annual base salary for the member stated in schedule A of the Members' Entitlements Handbook as in effect at 30 June 2013.

certified agreement means a certified agreement under the *Industrial Relations Act 1999* that applies to departmental employees.

departmental employee means a public service employee who is employed to work in the administrative stream in the department.

Members' Entitlements Handbook see section 62.

public service increase, for a year, means the percentage increase, under a certified agreement, by which the salary or wage of a departmental employee is increased in the year.

relevant amount, for a member for a year, means an amount worked out by multiplying the member's annual salary for the year by the public service increase for the year.

This essentially proposes to insert new clause 41A. The clause is very simple. It limits any increase in the salary of members of parliament to the increase in the salary that will be given to public sector employees under their certified agreement—simple. If government members are confident that public sector employees will receive a salary increase that is fair in all circumstances, I cannot see how any member of this House could oppose the same percentage increase being applied to them. Again, public sector employees will be looking very keenly at the voting attitudes in relation to this amendment.

Mr BLEIJIE: The government will be opposing the amendment.

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

AYES, 13—Byrne, Cunningham, Douglas, Hopper, Judge, Katter, Mulherin, Palaszczyk, Pitt, Trad, Wellington. Tellers: Miller, Scott

NOES, 62—Barton, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crisafulli, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Holswich, Johnson, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McVeigh, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Walker, Watts, Woodforth. Tellers: Kaye, Menkens

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Ms Palaszczyk) negatived.

Clauses 42 to 112, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (5.20 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (5.20 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of a Committee and the House by a Minister



Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 29 July 2013 the Minister for Transport and Main Roads wrote to me regarding a report in the media that the Leader of the Opposition was intending to write to me about a matter of privilege in which the minister would be named. On 31 July 2013 correspondence was subsequently received from the Leader of the Opposition alleging that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads deliberately misled the House in a statement made during the estimates hearing on 25 July 2013 and in the Legislative Assembly on 30 October 2012. I table the correspondence in this matter for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Correspondence regarding an alleged deliberate misleading of the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee and the House by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads [3195].

The minister confirmed in statements that he knew a departmental liaison officer in a personal capacity. The Leader of the Opposition alleges that the minister's statements are not accurate with regard to the extent that he knew a departmental liaison officer. Having reviewed the correspondence before me, I am not convinced that there is sufficient evidence of any elements of the alleged contempt. In my view the minister's answer to the relevant question at the estimates examination in 2012 was not at odds with the answers to questions in 2013. The answers in 2013 simply provided more detail as the questions themselves were more detailed and focused. Accordingly, I will not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee



Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 26 June 2013 the member for Bundamba wrote to me alleging that the member for Mudgeeraba deliberately misled the House by way of four statements made between March and June 2013 regarding her status as a registered nurse. The member's complaint was that the member for Mudgeeraba deliberately misled the House during the various proceedings when she referred to herself with the protected title of 'registered nurse', notwithstanding that her registration had lapsed in July of the previous year. The member for Mudgeeraba has provided correspondence in relation to this, including correspondence from the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency which indicates that they are satisfied that the member did not intend to mislead the public. However, this advice is irrelevant to the matter in question which is in relation to an allegation of misleading the House.

When it is alleged that a member has committed the contempt of deliberately misleading the House, there are three elements that must be established. Firstly, the statement must be misleading. Secondly, it must be established that the member making the statement knew at the time the statement was made that it was incorrect. Thirdly, in making it the member must have intended to mislead the House. On the material presented to me, the first element has been established and there is some evidence to support both the second and third elements. Accordingly, I have decided to refer the matter to the Ethics Committee. In doing so I wish to emphasise that referral is not a determination of guilt but that the threshold for referral has been met under criteria set out in standing orders. I remind members that standing order 271 now applies and members should not refer to this matter in the House.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (5.25 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 20 August 2013.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (5.25 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Park2Park; Greater Springfield Run for Life



Mrs MILLER (Bundamba—ALP) (5.25 pm): The Ipswich Hospital Foundation's Park2Park was run again this year on 28 July in Ipswich raising much needed funds and helping to promote a healthy lifestyle for Ipswich residents. It was another outstanding success with record numbers of runners. The tough first race was won by an international runner followed closely by the second placegetter—who started a couple of minutes late! The five-kilometre women's run was also a record, with a 12-year-old youngster beating them home. It is a great example of the community coming together to help raise funds for a great Labor cause and is a credit to the Ipswich Hospital Foundation staff and volunteers. It brings together local schools to help run the water stops, the Queensland Ambulance

Service to provide medical help, the Queensland Police for public safety, the SES to help with their exceptional skill, Ipswich Hospital Foundation volunteers, including local Labor Party legends Wayne MacDonald and Steve Axe who got up bright and early to be ready to take photos from 6 am till the finish of all the races. It was a great effort from Tom Yates, his staff and board. It was also supported by local businesses and community groups and was a fantastic all-round community effort. The Ipswich Hospital Foundation is a great asset to our local community, providing healthy activities for residents of Ipswich, running health promotions and assisting with health research with the West Moreton Health District.

The Greater Springfield Run for Life is the next opportunity for Ipswich residents to lace on their joggers and get out in our great weather. Held on 7 September, participants can register via their website www.runforlife.org.au, with funds raised going to Westside Community Care and Chaplaincy Services in the district. There is a range of prizes available to those who raise funds for this great cause. Starting at 7 am there is a 10-kilometre and a five-kilometre course and as well there is a two-kilometre dog walk. Ellie and I might be included in that walk. Apart from the fun run, the day will also have stalls and food and beverage outlets and entertainment from the band Iron and Clay as well as local musicians and acts, dancers and fitness groups. There will also be rides for the kids with jumping castles and other free activities.

It is an event for the serious runner, the occasional social runner or someone who just wants to get out and have fun in our community. It is a great event organised by local pastor Phil Cutliffe and his team of volunteers. If you are a local business and wish to help out they would surely be very grateful for your support. More details can be found at their website or on their Facebook page, which you will find a link to on my Facebook page, or by phoning Pastor Phil Cutliffe for race details or, for stall information, Vicki from Just Sports N Fitness in our local community. I wish them all well for this particular event.

Bastille Day; Buy Locally Saturday

 **Mrs RICE** (Mount Coot-tha—LNP) (5.27 pm): Over the last few weeks businesses in the electorate of Mount Coot-tha have been extremely active. Today I would like to share two instances where I have witnessed the power of local businesses working together. The first was on Sunday, 14 July for Bastille Day. As I am sure members would be aware, Milton is home to our very own Eiffel Tower. The Eiffel Tower is positioned proudly at La Dolce Vita, which I understand was Brisbane's first restaurant to have outdoor dining. The idea to celebrate Bastille Day at Park Road this year was largely spearheaded by Savoir Faire on Park Road, which has invested over \$60,000 to renovate the Eiffel Tower and its lights. Bastille Day was a perfect opportunity to officially switch on the lights at Park Road's iconic Eiffel Tower. Leading up to the event and on the day many of the Park Road businesses and surrounding community organisations worked together to make the Bastille Day celebrations a reality. What a celebration it was! It made Park Road feel like we were in Paris itself. There were cooking demonstrations, pop-up sidewalk markets, art exhibitions, crepes, snail tasting and much more. The event had something for everyone and I would like to congratulate all involved. These events take much planning, preparation and people power. The Lord Mayor of Brisbane was tasked with officially switching on the lights, together with former Lord Mayor Sallyanne Atkinson who was there for the launch of the original Eiffel Tower on Park Road for Expo 88. Now the Eiffel Tower in Milton glitters like the real one every night on the hour.

I would like to congratulate everyone involved in Bastille Day and Buy Locally Saturday and thank the residents of Mount Coot-tha for continuing to shop locally. Without our continued and loyal support of these small businesses we would not have the diverse and eclectic array of products, produce and services.

Gaven Electorate

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—UAP) (5.30 pm): In response to the Queensland Plan, I recently hosted a community forum in Nerang to discuss the long-term future of the Gaven area. I was pleased that, overwhelmingly, the residents expressed optimism for the long-term future of our area. There were, however, many grassroots issues that dominated our forum. Concerns were expressed about poor parenting and life education skills for children and their parents, whilst others were concerned about the lack of employment opportunities on the Gold Coast and the need for the state government to decentralise departments including the tourism department. There were also concerns about the compulsory retirement age for police and it was suggested that it be increased to 65 so we can retain experienced mentors for those coming into the QPS. There were also concerns that the

state government was Brisbane-centric and forgets about those living in regional and rural areas. One resident criticised the government's lack of support for technology and innovation, saying that while developers were congratulated on their innovation, they were then told, 'Sorry, we can't do anything for you.' Another criticism was the lack of community consultation on planning projects in the community and links to those plans set by the council.

I would like to congratulate a long-term resident of Nerang, Billy Birmingham, whom I recently presented with a 50-year certificate for serving the community as a justice of the peace. The Birmingham name is well known in Nerang with Billy's parents, Billy Sr and Ursula, having a park named after them. I would also like to acknowledge the work of a much loved police dog on the Gold Coast, Bosun, who has retired after lengthy service to our community. Bosun and his handler Senior Constable Wayne Algie have been a formidable duo in curbing crime. Bosun played an important role in tracking down the alleged killers of Senior Constable Damian Leeding at Pacific Pines in 2011.

In recent weeks on the Gold Coast two taxidriviers have been charged with sexual assault against passengers. This led to the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence campaigning for female only pink taxis, similar to those that operate in London and other international cities, which are driven by females for women and children passengers. Recently I met with Di Macleod, whom the member for Mermaid Beach knows well, from the Centre Against Sexual Violence. She says that the majority of male taxidriviers are completely safe, however, women would feel less vulnerable with a female driver. Whilst I was happy to speak with Ms Macleod, it appears the transport minister was not interested and was unavailable to meet with her at all, leaving Ms Macleod to plead with Gold Coast MPs to take this issue forward.

Ms Macleod has proposed initial consideration of pink taxis but understands that there are very few female drivers willing to drive taxis after hours at night. There obviously is a problem because the centre is seeing many who do not make reports but do need assistance. So there is a significant problem and it needs a solution. Interestingly, when offenders have been reported and prosecuted, it does seem that on far too many occasions the different customs of these male drivers seems to make them think that the women are willing victims.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Pacific Pines State High School's rugby union team, which has won the state-wide Ballymore Cup with a win over Ignatius Park College from Townsville of 30-27. The cup is contested by non-GPS teams—

(Time expired)

USS *George Washington*; Rochedale Rovers

 **Mr GRANT** (Springwood—LNP) (5.33 pm): This evening I would like to speak about the visit to Brisbane of the USS *George Washington* and about the Rochedale Rovers. News of the arrival of the USS *George Washington*, the aircraft carrier with 5,500 people on board, reached me about two weeks ago. I found out a day or two before that their football team was to play against the Rochedale Rovers. I thought to myself, 'This is a pretty big occasion. I had better do something about it.' So I called my trophy man. He said, 'As it would happen, I have my graphic artist working this afternoon.' I decided that I would buy a cup nearly half a metre tall to present to the winning team. I was able to get that made, which was very good. I thought, 'I had better find out where this ship's home base is to work out a name for the cup.' I found out that it is based in Japan. Along with my son, Cameron, we came up with the name Pacific Alliance Football Champions Cup.

The day arrived very quickly. The team took four hours to disembark from the ship. Then they jumped on a bus and went straight down to the field and were warming up before our team even got out on the field. I called them together and spoke with them. I said, 'Here is the cup that you can win. The winner takes all. So you have to play your hearts out. If you do, you will be sailing away with this cup, but I want to tell you that I want it to stay here. I am going to go straight into the change rooms and gee up my team to defeat you.' Then I said, 'I want to ask you this. Whether you win or lose, will you come back and play them again next time you are in port?' I want to try to make it a regular affair. They said, 'Yes, certainly. We will come back no matter what happens.'

We had quite a good crowd there that particular night. The place was buzzing. I am very pleased to say that on this occasion I have many people to thank and to congratulate from the Rochedale Rovers team. Even though the sailors from this aircraft carrier were champions in the northern Pacific, on this occasion Rochedale Rovers did themselves proud and won the game 13-0. I decided not to put that in the local newspapers until they had departed. I want to congratulate Coach Kieran Cooper, Assistant Coach Kenny Armstrong, Manager Kenny Russell and Captain Terry

Hughes. I also congratulate team members: Sam Taplin, Andy Thompson, John Thompson, Darren Gray, Soo Myeong Lee, Chris Burley, Keenan Duimpies, Toyota Nakaoka, Rhys Hastings, Shy Karauchi, David Butler, Jonnie Stirling, Greg Cheshire, Robbie Armstrong, Josh Byrne, Ricky Balea, Grant Sweet, Josh Falco and Tom Patterson. I say: well done, team, and congratulations.

Ipswich West Electorate

 **Mr CHOAT** (Ipswich West—LNP) (5.36 pm): What a great day it is today, 8 August. My lovely daughter, Charlotte, is 16 today. We are very proud of her and I am very pleased to have the whole Choat tribe up in the gallery.

Members will know how much I love my electorate. As important as coming down to Brisbane is, I always like to bring a little bit with me. The Attorney-General could be forgiven for getting excited thinking I am wearing pocket squares today but, unfortunately for him, I am not.

Honourable members will see that I am proudly wearing my Somerset Regional Council tie. The Premier and the local government minister also have these fabulous looking ties. This week I was also very privileged and pleased to give the transport minister an Ipswich City tie simply because I feel that he has given a lot to that part of my electorate recently.

Quite seriously, I will return to these little things I have in my pocket. Recently I was at the North Ipswich Girl Guides for their annual awards day. They are very proud of me, they tell me. They spied me cleaning up early in the morning on Clean Up Australia Day this year. They gave me this little bravo patch, which of course was lovely. There was a little cheer dance that went with it, so I was very pleased. Afterwards a little girl by the name of Louisa came up to me. She is only about eight or nine. She said, 'Mr Choat, I have plenty of these Clean Up Australia Day patches at home. I want you to have this one.' What a lovely little girl Louisa is. I know her mum Shireen, who is the president of the North Ipswich Girl Guides, is very proud as is the entire troupe out there. They do a lot of good work in the electorate and certainly in North Ipswich.

Recently I was very privileged to participate in the 42nd annual soap box derby in Ipswich representing the North Ipswich Scouts. I must say that I was all geared up to win and then they decided to talk my lovely wife, Nicky, into participating in the race. It took them 15 minutes and she certainly got in there and went down the hill—and I add screaming all the way—and she beat me. She won the heat and I got a lousy third. She beat me and she reckons she is going to beat me again next year. It is a great community that I live in. There are lots of things to do. If any members and particularly ministers have nothing to do on the last Sunday in July next year, they can come out and represent any of my great scout groups in Ipswich West.

I am very pleased today to be able to mention my lovely daughter on her 16th birthday. I know we will have a lovely night in the Strangers Dining Room. I always thank our Parliamentary Catering Service staff for the special attention they give my family when they come to Parliament House. I say thank you.

Burrum Coalfest

 **Mrs MADDERN** (Maryborough—LNP) (5.39 pm): On Saturday, 20 July I was delighted to open the Burrum Coalfest, a wonderful event which was a celebration of the discovery in 1863 of coal on the banks of the Burrum River in an area now known as Howard. I wonder if the Miller brothers, who discovered the coal, understood just what significant changes their find would bring to this area. As today, so 150 years ago the commencement of coalmining brought with it changes to the community in terms of population increases, employment and infrastructure. As today, so there was a ripple effect as the local supply of coal as an energy source opened up opportunities for Maryborough's heavy manufacturing industry as well as supplying energy to local timber mills to make use of the quality timber in the area.

Infrastructure in the form of rail and steamships developed, and agriculture expanded off the back of this infrastructure and the need to supply the growing population with food. As most of us know, gold mining at Gympie was credited with bringing prosperity to Queensland, but that mining industry relied on the coal from the Burrum fields to such an extent that during the early 1900s, a strike on the Burrum field saw about 1,000 people on the Gympie gold fields put out of work. This just goes to show what a critical role the mining of coal played, both in this community and further afield.

This 150th anniversary was celebrated by residents and former residents of Howard and the surrounding communities with a street parade, displays, damper and billy tea at the museum, demonstrations from the Gympie 5th Light Horse, working sheepdog demonstrations, displays of lace working, woodworking, rope making and antique vintage motorcycles. There were stalls and food vendors. The Howard State School put on a fete and historical display, and local shops participated in the event with staff wearing period costume. Part of the festivities involved putting together materials which were placed in a time capsule that will be taken out in 25 years. An estimated 4,000 people attended the event—a testament to the interest that the community has in its history, and also an opportunity to have a fun and interesting day out for the family. Many of those attending were direct descendants of those who worked in the Burrum coalfields. Other events which formed part of the overall coalfest included a dinner dance on Saturday evening and a well attended combined church service held in the community centre on Sunday morning.

Special thanks must go to the committee who spent so much time and effort in preparing for, and putting on, this very special event, which is a reminder to us all of the importance of our history as a basis for our future.

Gladstone Electorate



Mrs CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone—Ind) (5.42 pm): It is a privilege to represent such an amazing, diverse, visionary and vital community. We have had a number of activities in the last week or so that I wanted to put on the record: firstly, the Gladstone Multicultural Association Inc.'s week of activities culminated in the Gladstone Multicultural Festival. The chair of the committee, Craig Butler, Peter O'Dwyer and the team of the committee organised an amazing week of activities, including seminars and, as I said, culminating in the multicultural fair. It was probably the largest—they have been growing every year—and we had representation from our own Aboriginal community, Brazil, the Philippines, New Zealand, South Africa, China, Colombia, Thailand and France, just to name a few. We do have a lot of different ethnic and cultural groups represented in the electorate, partly because of the industrial development. It was a great day, good weather and everyone had a fine time.

The Calliope Catwalk Event is a fundraiser for the Calliope State School, but it is also an opportunity to recognise the design talent in the area. The awards are sponsored by various individuals and it is held at the state school hall. Linda Ninness and her team organised it. It is becoming an annual event. This is the second one that they have held. It is overwhelmingly attended by women, but there were a few brave fellows who turned up. It was on Saturday afternoon, and it is a good time, very friendly and very relaxed. It gives us an insight into the talent that we have in both millinery design and clothing design, including juniors. It was a really impressive day. Judges are brought in locally and from further afield to judge all of the fashions, including accessories.

Finally I would like to raise the event that was called Skate to the Finish. Michael Trafford rode a BMX bike and a skateboard—not together—at various times from Emerald to Gladstone to draw attention to retaining and achieving the millennium goals. Kerith Roby was the organiser of the event activities outside of Michael riding and skateboarding, and the Trinity College unicyclists acted as a guard of honour for Michael when he came into the PCYC area to be acknowledged. The eight goals for the millennium project were also acknowledged. It certainly was a worthwhile effort, and the energy that was required for Michael to do that ride and skate was an incredible achievement. To all of those who participated: congratulations, you are wonderful!

Mount Ommaney Electorate



Mrs SMITH (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (5.45 pm): It is all happening in the electorate of Mount Ommaney! I am always happy to update the House on the action in my electorate. From festivals to new shopping centres, residential developments and fetes—where to begin? The Centenary Rocks! Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary a couple of weeks ago, and what an extravaganza it was! For those of you who are not familiar with the two-day festival held in the electorate of Mount Ommaney, let me share with you what you missed out on so that you can make sure it is in your calendar for next year.

The festival was born out of the vision of Belinda Kerrigan, a resident of the Mount Ommaney electorate who wanted the community to come together and connect. Belinda and a number of like-minded committee members got together and built community connections, and the Centenary Rocks! Festival was born. Ten years on it is just going from strength to strength. Thousands of people attended this fabulous two-day event, which saw us rocking to Normie Rowe on Saturday afternoon. There was a great attendance at the combined Churches in the Park service on Sunday morning.

There was live entertainment throughout Sunday, including Aussie great Brian Cadd; stalls from local businesses, schools and community groups were on full display, and the vintage cars were a real treat. The absolutely suburb weather was a real bonus, and all of this contributed to that vibe. Mount Ommaney is a wonderful community to be a part of!

This was a perfect opportunity to speak with residents and festival goers about having their say on the Queensland Plan; Queenslanders having input into a 30-year vision for our state. The young and the more mature—in fact, people from all walks of life—gave their views. With my delegates from Mount Ommaney, we will be keenly awaiting the October summit. Special thanks must go to Minister Powell for taking time out from his busy schedule to attend Centenary Rocks! and reveal some key themes that are already emerging from Queenslanders throughout the state.

On another note, I would like to inform the House about the transformation of the suburb of Oxley. Recently I opened the new Oxley Station Woolworths, which has brought 70 new jobs into the area. That means 70 more local people will be employed, which will be a real boost to the economy. There was also the completion of stage 1 of the new Parkview Estate, and I believe it has sold out. That is 130 new residences. Next month I will have the pleasure of attending the official naming of the park. A wonderful place to be: Mount Ommaney!

Feral Cats

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (5.48 pm): I rise in the House to raise the issue of the feral cat bounty. It was an issue that was raised in question time the other day, and it is very relevant to my electorate. Around 2009, following a run of good seasons, feral cat numbers built up in the western areas and have since exploded. There is a lot of anecdotal evidence out there, but I think one of the best statistical examples is to be found in the records of councils who have had feral cat bounties. In 2010-11 the McKinlay Shire had a cat bounty of \$16 per tail, and in 12 months 880 tails had been taken in by the council. The same council two years later started the year with a bounty of \$5 per tail and within two months had 5,000 tails. They had to shut off the bounty. That demonstrates the explosion in the number of feral cats—an increase of some 570 per cent in just over two months.

There are countless stories and much evidence of the damage feral cats are doing. I saw in the paper last year that one grazier had got over 400 feral cats in two nights. They are hugging the bore drains and the waterholes, killing the wildlife and doing enormous damage. I mention the dunnart—a cute little furry animal around Julia Creek which is bordering on extinct. The feral cats would be just tearing holes in the numbers of dunnart. Even in the urban areas of Mount Isa and Cloncurry there have been numerous stories of people's chook yards being decimated. All of the lizards and so on that you usually see in town just are not there. Feral cats are a terrible problem.

There is an army of people out there—landholders and people who work on cattle stations—who are doing it tough at the moment. At \$15 a tail, if the state government could subsidise the councils that already put up money for a bounty—we are talking about only a few hundred thousand dollars—it would go a long way to addressing the problem. It would also represent some much needed pocket money for these landowners. It is a very affordable way for the government to eradicate this pest that is very damaging to the environment.

We already have the people out there. They will use their own fuel. It is almost recreational for some people. They could really use the money. One hundred cats a week at \$15 a tail represents good money for them. It would come in handy for a lot of people out there who are really struggling. There is an affordable way to address this problem and I would be grateful if the government would look into it.

Nutrition

 **Mr WOODFORTH** (Nudgee—LNP) (5.51 pm): I rise tonight to talk about a few of the many events I have attended or organised in my electorate over the past couple of months. The ones I will speak of tonight are all health and fitness related. There is no shock there, really. So why am I spending yet another three minutes speaking about health? It is because in my opinion nutrition can save Queensland and Australia in so many ways. I said in my maiden speech that 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 health care and that 90 per cent of all diseases in Queensland are preventable and diet related.

So nothing is more important in my eyes than the Health budget and the health of all Queenslanders and all Australians. Call me someone who cares, but this is what I did before being elected and now I am extending this to a wider audience in my role as MP. It was great to be at St Pius's Jump Rope for Heart competition. I commend the participants from prep through to year 3 for their efforts. I say congratulations and well done to them all.

It was also great to host a nutrition event—presented by Samantha Bachman, a clinical nutritionist—for almost 100 parents, who sat glued to Sam's every word. Eventually, we had to shut the evening down. That shows that parents are desperate and keen for information on real food and real nutrition that will make a difference to their child's health, behaviour and learning.

I backed this up with a healthy afternoon tea at Boondall State School attended by over 300 students, parents and teachers—chemical free, additive free, preservative free and all the nasties free. I constantly hear from principals how much time is spent on disease and behavioural problems in our schools. The time spent in addressing these issues is now at an all-time high and is consuming principals' valuable time. Bullying—not just student-on-student but also student-on-teacher—is at levels we have never seen before. A recent newspaper article outlined how many millions were being spent on combatting bullying alone. To my mind, our kids need not only proper nutrition but also proper nutrition education. They need to be educated, motivated and inspired. With it will come better results, better behaviour and less disease—or, as Sam says, 'dis-ease'.

And good nutrition can positively affect all of our ministers' portfolios—not just the health minister through, say, lower hospital admissions but also the police minister with lower crime such as assaults, the education minister with improved grades and less bullying, the Attorney-General with less burden on our courts and jails, and the Treasurer with less money spent on, for example, the big one: diabetes. And the list goes on.

I will continue to spread the word of real nutrition, because the health of Queenslanders and the health of our balance sheet depend on it. Eating real food is calming. I ask: what damage do people do when they are calm? That is my 180 seconds of food for thought.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.54 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, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Holswich, Hopper, Johnson, Judge, Katter, Kaye, Kempton, King, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mulherin, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Robinson, Ruthenberg, Scott, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trad, Trout, Walker, Watts, Wellington, Woodforth, Young