



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 18 March 2014

Subject	Page
ASSENT TO BILLS	557
REPORT	557
Auditor-General	557
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 14: 2013-14—	
Results of audit: Local government entities 2012-13.....	557
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	558
Ethics Committee and Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee, Confidentiality of Proceedings	558
Use of Broadcast of Proceedings in Political Advertising	558
REPORT	558
Overseas Visit	558
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Overseas Travel Report: Report on an overseas visit by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Fiona Simpson, the member for Woodridge, Mrs Desley Scott MP, and the member for Stretton, Mrs Freya Ostapovitch MP, to Guangdong Province and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, February 2014.....	558
PETITION	558
TABLED PAPERS	559
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	561
Member for Stafford, Personal Tragedy	561
Daniel Morcombe	561
United States, Trade Mission	562
Queensland Economy	562
Economic and Fiscal Challenges	563
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Treasury and Trade: Economic and Fiscal Challenges—Interim	
Results of Medium Term Modelling, March 2014.....	563
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts	564
National Disability Insurance Scheme	565
ETHICS COMMITTEE	565
Report No. 142, Motion to Take note	565

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 18 March 2014

REGIONAL PLANNING INTERESTS BILL; PROTECTION OF PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND AND OTHER LAND FROM COAL SEAM GAS MINING BILL	566
Cognate Debate; Order of Business	566
ABSENCE OF MINISTER	566
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	566
Office of the Information Commissioner, Report	566
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Office of the Information Commissioner: Report No. 5 of 2013-14: Follow-up of review recommendations—Department of Transport and Main Roads: Review of agency adoption of recommendations made under the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld).	566
NOTICE OF MOTION	567
Newman Government.....	567
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	567
School Group Tours.....	567
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	567
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts.....	567
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts.....	568
Jobs.....	568
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts.....	569
Labor Party, Economic Growth and Job Creation.....	570
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts.....	570
Queensland Economy.....	571
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts.....	572
Tourism Industry, Jobs.....	573
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts.....	573
Liquor Licensing	574
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts.....	575
Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order	575
Queensland Building and Construction Commission.....	575
Emergency Management and Fire Rescue Levy	576
Regional Queensland, Infrastructure	577
Minister for Health.....	578
Energy Industry, Jobs.....	578
MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST	579
Daniel Morcombe; Queensland Health, Employment Contracts	579
Foster and Kinship Carer Week.....	581
Electrical Trades Union.....	582
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media release, dated 10 January 2014, from the Electrical Trades Union titled, 'ETU plans High Court Challenge to extreme new laws that threaten honest livelihoods'	582
Sale of Public Assets	583
Road Safety; Crime Rates.....	584
Alcohol Fuelled Violence	585
Manufacturing.....	586
Newman Government.....	587
Gas Industry	587
Gold Coast University Hospital	588
Northern Gold Coast, Attractions.....	589
CONSTRUCTION AND TOURISM (RED TAPE REDUCTION) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	590
Introduction	590
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Construction and Tourism (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014.	591
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Construction and Tourism (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.	591
First Reading	593
Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee	594
YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	594
Second Reading	594
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 58—Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, government response.....	594
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from a report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, 'Appendix A—List of Submissions'	622
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from a report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, 'Appendix B—List of witnesses at Public Hearing'.....	622
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from a report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, 'Appendix C—List of Additional Submissions'	622
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Parliamentary Library research brief, dated 13 March 2104, titled 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) youth statistics'	628
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document titled 'Response to Proposed Reforms to Queensland Youth Justice'	628
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> , dated 17 March 2014, titled 'Kids crash stolen car into fuel tanker'	632

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 18 March 2014

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	632
Auditor-General’s Report, Referral to Portfolio Committee; Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	632
MOTION	633
Newman Government	633
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of correspondence from Hon. Mark McArdle, regarding the solar bonus scheme.....	636
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Hon. Mark McArdle’s motion to amend the private member’s motion on 18 March 2014.	639
Division: Question put—That the minister’s amendment be agreed to.....	643
Resolved in the affirmative.....	643
Division: Question put—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to.	643
Resolved in the affirmative.....	643
YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	643
Second Reading	643
DISTINGUISHED VISITOR	646
YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	646
Second Reading	646
Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a second time.	665
Resolved in the affirmative.....	665
Consideration in Detail	665
Clauses 1 to 40—.....	665
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes to Hon. Jarrod Bleijie’s amendments.	665
Clauses 1 to 40, as amended, agreed to.	674
Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.	674
Third Reading	674
Division: Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.	674
Resolved in the affirmative.....	674
Long Title	674
ADJOURNMENT	674
TJ Ryan Foundation	674
Mount Gravatt Environment Group, Pollinator Links	675
Mundingburra Electorate, Policing	675
Nambour, Car Park	676
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Copy of photographs of 23-29 and 33 Price Street, Nambour.	676
Thuringowa Electorate, Police Service	677
Algester Electorate, Cinema in the Suburbs; Forest Lake 50 Plus Club	677
Aurizon, Job Cuts	678
Mareeba, Community Forum	678
Indigenous People	679
Whitsunday Electorate, Schools	680
ATTENDANCE	680


TUESDAY, 18 MARCH 2014

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

For the sitting week, Madam Speaker acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land upon which this parliament is assembled.

ASSENT TO BILLS

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from Her Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills, the contents of which will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable F. Simpson MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of assent: 13 March 2014

“A Bill for An Act to amend the Disability Services Act 2006 and the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 for particular purposes”

“A Bill for An Act to amend the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 for particular purposes”

“A Bill for An Act to provide for a comprehensive biosecurity framework to manage the impacts of animal and plant diseases and pests in a timely and effective way and ensure the safety and quality of animal feed, fertilisers and other agricultural inputs, to repeal the Agricultural Standards Act 1994, the Apiaries Act 1982, the Diseases in Timber Act 1975, the Exotic Diseases in Animals Act 1981, the Plant Protection Act 1989 and the Stock Act 1915, to amend the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988, the Fisheries Act 1994 and the Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002, and to make minor and consequential amendments of the Acts mentioned in schedule 4”

“A Bill for An Act to provide for the powers of inspectors under legislation about fair trading, and to make consequential amendments, and other amendments for particular purposes, of this Act, the Funeral Benefit Business Act 1982, the Introduction Agents Act 2001, the Land Sales Act 1984, the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003, the Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002, the Retirement Villages Act 1999, the Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2003, the Security Providers Act 1993, the Tourism Services Act 2003 and the Travel Agents Act 1988”

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely


Governor

13 March 2014

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 March 2014, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to bills on 13 March 2014 [[4647](#)].

REPORT


Auditor-General

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report to parliament No. 14 of 2013-14 titled *Results of audit: local government financial statements for 2012-13*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 14: 2013-14—Results of audit: Local government entities 2012-13 [[4648](#)].


SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Ethics Committee and Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee, Confidentiality of Proceedings

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, following correspondence from the chair of the Ethics Committee, I have become aware of the need to remind members that the proceedings of the PCMC and the Ethics Committee are strictly confidential. This confidentiality exists until the committee's proceedings have been reported to the House or otherwise published by the committee in accordance with standing order 211A or another order of the House.

That standing order also provides that no member shall refer to any proceedings of those committees in the House until those committees have reported to the House or otherwise published those proceedings. Furthermore, any approach by a person, including a member of this House, to an individual member of the PCMC or the Ethics Committee seeking to elicit information about committee proceedings is highly inappropriate and could constitute contempt in accordance with section 37 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001.


Use of Broadcast of Proceedings in Political Advertising

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the Legislative Assembly is able to impose conditions on the publication of the parliamentary record in accordance with section 58 of the Parliament of Queensland Act. Under the same section, contravention of these conditions may form a contempt of parliament. The conditions of use agreed to by the Legislative Assembly are set out on the parliament's website. Those conditions of use make it clear that the broadcast is not to be used for political advertising and under section 58 this restriction applies whether from the parliament's website or from a television replay of the footage.

I have asked the Clerk to bring the provisions of section 58 and the conditions of use to the attention of all parties. I have also asked the Clerk to liaise with the Electoral Commission to explore methods to advise all candidates and others who authorise political advertising during elections of these matters.

REPORT

Overseas Visit

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I table a travel report from a recent visit to the Guangdong Province in the People's Republic of China and the special administrative region of Hong Kong. I acknowledge the member for Woodridge and the member for Stretton who formed part of this delegation.

During our visit the Vice-Governor of the Guangdong Provincial Government made the welcome announcement of their intention to open a trade office in Brisbane. This has no doubt arisen from the relationships built by all my parliamentary colleagues, particularly ministers and former Speakers, who have visited Guangdong and strengthened this valuable partnership. I thank the Treasurer, who was warmly remembered by officials from Guangdong, and also his departmental staff for their assistance.

Tabled paper: Overseas Travel Report: Report on an overseas visit by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Fiona Simpson, the member for Woodridge, Mrs Desley Scott MP, and the member for Stretton, Mrs Freya Ostapovitch MP, to Guangdong Province and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, February 2014 [\[4649\]](#).

PETITION

The Clerk presented the following e-petition, sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4)—

Daylight Saving

20,167 petitioners, requesting the House to address the issue of daylight saving in Queensland and to propose a plan that can be trialled and then implemented to adequately address the reasonable request of the majority of residents in SEQ to have daylight saving for their region [\[4650\]](#).

Petition received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

7 March 2014—

- [4614](#) Queensland Local Government Grants Commission—Annual Report 2012-13
- [4615](#) Response from the Minister for Health (Mr Springborg) to an ePetition (2204-13) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 8,007 petitioners, requesting the House to uphold Radiation Safety Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2012
- [4616](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie) to an ePetition (2198-13) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 3,202 petitioners, requesting the House to abolish the new VLAD laws, reinstate former criminal laws so that criminal offenders are charged according to the crime committed, not by association or affiliation
- [4617](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 40—Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 October 2013 and 19 November 2013
- [4618](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 41—Auditor-General's Report to Parliament No. 8 for 2013-14—Results of audit: Hospital and Health Services Entities 2012-13

10 March 2014—

- [4619](#) Office of the Adult Guardian—Annual Report 2012-2013

11 March 2014—

- [4620](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on an overseas visit by the Minister for Health (Mr Springborg) to Scandinavia, 29 January to 8 February 2014
- [4621](#) Commission for Children and young people and child protection: Deaths of children and young people Queensland—Annual Report 2012-13
- [4622](#) Queensland Child Death Case Review Committee—Annual Report 2012-13

12 March 2014—

- [4623](#) Response from the Minister Education, Training and Employment (Mr Langbroek) to an ePetition (2203-13) sponsored by Hon Cripps, from 711 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate mandatory reporting by Queensland child care centres and services, and their staff to become lawfully mandated notifiers, of suspected child abuse and or neglect to be known as Mason's Law
- [4624](#) Response from the Acting Premier (Mr Seeney) to an ePetition (2137-13) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 248 petitioners, requesting the House to conduct a referendum regarding the formation of a North Queensland State with the question to be asked of the people: "Should North Queensland become a separate State?"
- [4625](#) Response from the Acting Premier (Mr Seeney) to a paper petition (2215-14) and an ePetition (2199-13) sponsored by Mr Wellington, from 591 and 1,347 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to hold a referendum on the reintroduction of an Upper House in the Queensland Parliament with the make up being 59 members in the Lower House and 30 members in the Upper House, the boundaries of both Houses to be determined by the Electoral Commission of Queensland
- [4626](#) Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee: Report No. 37—Chicken Meat Industry Committee Amendment Bill 2014
- [4627](#) Response from the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (Mr Langbroek) to a paper petition (2212-14) presented by Mr Molhoek, from 138 petitioners, requesting the House to recommend that the Ridgeway Campus of TAFE be gifted to the City of Gold Coast
- [4628](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 42—Communities Legislation (Funding Red Tape Reduction) Amendment Bill 2014
- [4629](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 42—Communities Legislation (Funding Red Tape Reduction) Amendment Bill 2014—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [4630](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 57—Child Protection (Offender Reporting—Publication of Information) Amendment Bill 2013
- [4631](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 58—Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014

13 March 2014—

- [4632](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2213-14) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), from 163 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise the installation of school flashing lights at Mt Warren Park State School
- [4633](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to an ePetition (2161-13) sponsored by Ms Trad, from 196 petitioners, requesting the House to provide funds to upgrade the Graceville, Chelmer and Sherwood railway stations to give universal access
- [4634](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to an ePetition (2191-13) sponsored by Mr Hart, from 109 petitioners, requesting the House to install flashing speed limit signage around Caningeraba State School

- [4635](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to an ePetition (2192-13) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 271 petitioners, requesting the House to require companies producing and hauling coal to put covers over rail wagons and trucks carrying coal to port and back to the mines
- [4636](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to an ePetition (2189-13) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 170 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that Vines Creek Bridge on Harbour Road is upgraded to a standard necessary for access to Mackay Harbour and Slade Point
- [4637](#) Response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, (Mr Dempsey) to an ePetition (2202-13) sponsored by Mr Holswich, from 3,610 petitioners, requesting the House to replace "Driving an illegally modified vehicle", with "Driving an unsafe vehicle" in the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Motor Vehicle Impoundment) and Other Legislation Bill

14 March 2014—

- [4638](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2216-14) presented by Mr Crandon, from 328 petitioners, requesting the House to reconsider the decision and extend existing bus services in the Eagleby area
- [4639](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2217-14) and an ePetition (2186-13) sponsored by Hon Powell, from 207 and 37 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to prioritise the installation of school flashing lights at Wamuran State School
- [4640](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2218-14) and an ePetition (2187-13) sponsored by Hon Powell, from 692 and 19 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to prioritise the installation of school flashing lights at Elimbah State School
- [4641](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2219-14) and an ePetition (2200-13) sponsored by Hon Powell, from 34 and 38 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to prioritise the installation of school flashing lights at Maleny State School
- [4642](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to an ePetition (2188-13) sponsored by Hon Powell, from 54 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise the installation of school flashing lights at Woodford State School

17 March 2014—

- [4643](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 35—Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013
- [4644](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 35—Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [4645](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2221-14) presented by Hon Mander, from 175 petitioners, requesting the House to rezone Albany Creek Road, outside Albany Creek State School, to 40 km per hour and install flashing signage
- [4646](#) Response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services (Mr Dempsey) to a paper petition (2222-14) from Mrs Menkens, from 551 petitioners, requesting the House to strengthen the laws to ensure perpetrators such as break and enter offenders are adequately brought to justice and for more frontline police to be allocated to Ayr and Home Hill

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995—

- [4651](#) Coastal Protection and Management Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 21
- [4652](#) Coastal Protection and Management Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 21, explanatory notes

Public Service and Other Legislation (Civil Liability) Amendment Act 2014—

- [4653](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 22
- [4654](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 22, explanatory notes

Gaming Machine Act 1991—

- [4655](#) Gaming Machine Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 23
- [4656](#) Gaming Machine Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 23, explanatory notes
- [4657](#) Gaming Machine Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 24
- [4658](#) Gaming Machine Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 24, explanatory notes

Aboriginal Land Act 1991—

- [4659](#) Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 25
- [4660](#) Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 25, explanatory notes

MEMBER'S PAPER TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following member's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Hervey Bay (Mr Sorensen)—

- [4661](#) Non-conforming petition requesting a memorial be erected to acknowledge the historical and significant contribution of the HMNZ Hospital Ship Maheno

REPORT TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[4662](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any Bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by Her Excellency the Governor, viz—

Disability Services (Restrictive Practices) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

Disability Services (Restrictive Practices) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013

Insert—

Disability Services (Restrictive Practices) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014

Penalties and Sentences (Indexation) Amendment Bill 2013

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

Penalties and Sentences (Indexation) Amendment Act 2013

Insert—

Penalties and Sentences (Indexation) Amendment Act 2014

Biosecurity Bill 2013

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

Biosecurity Act 2013

Insert—

Biosecurity Act 2014

Fair Trading Inspectors Bill 2013

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—


Fair Trading Inspectors Act 2013

Insert—


Fair Trading Inspectors Act 2014

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Member for Stafford, Personal Tragedy

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.35 am): Madam Speaker, this morning I inform the House of the personal tragedy that has befallen the honourable member for Stafford, Chris Davis, Assistant Minister for Health. He and his wife, Kate, have seen their daughter Jessica die in a traffic accident in the last 48 hours as she was returning to the University of New England for her studies. This is a terrible tragedy. Our hearts go out to them. Our prayers are there for them and we are all there in solidarity for a very difficult time for their family—a most tragic and awful event.


Daniel Morcombe

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.36 am): Last week saw the conclusion of the trial of Daniel Morcombe's killer. The conviction and sentencing of the man responsible for Daniel's death brings to an end one of the most tragic events in Queensland's history and is something Queenslanders have been hoping to see happen for more than 10 years. I again want to thank everyone involved in the long and often arduous journey of getting justice for Daniel and his family—in particular, the police, SES volunteers, jurors and prosecutors. So many people have played an important part in bringing a killer to justice. But no-one has been more important in the long struggle for justice than the Morcombe family. Denise and Bruce have been an inspiration to all of us with their dignity, courage and unwavering determination to find Daniel and bring his killer to justice. Their efforts have moved us all and created important and lasting change in protecting our children.

The foundation that Bruce and Denise established in the wake of their son's disappearance—the Daniel Morcombe Foundation—is a wonderful legacy to Daniel's life and is making a real difference to child safety in our state and, indeed, in other Australian states. The foundation has had many achievements over the years. Just last July, for instance, the government was proud to launch the final phase of the Daniel Morcombe Child Safety Curriculum—a schools based education program which teaches children about personal safety and awareness. The four-year, \$1 million program included developing new materials and resources for children in prep to year 9, teaching them about personal safety and reporting suspected abuse.

Last October, and for the second year, my wife and I were privileged to attend the 'Walk for Daniel' on the Sunshine Coast. We witnessed firsthand the wonderful work of the foundation in raising awareness for child safety and in honouring Daniel's memory. Bruce and Denise have said the work of the foundation will continue. While they finally got some justice for Daniel, they will continue to help others and better protect our children. That is the type of people they are. I know I speak for many when I say their work is a wonderful legacy to Daniel and his life and a continuing inspiration for us all.

United States, Trade Mission

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.38 am): This government is serious about promoting Queensland overseas and getting new jobs, investment and economic growth into our state. The United States is the world's largest economy and is one of Queensland's largest major sources of overseas investment. We want to draw on this investment potential to drive new job opportunities for Queenslanders.


I spent last week travelling the United States of America with a senior Queensland business delegation. We had a clear message for our US trading partners: Queensland is Australia's engine room for economic growth and we are open for business. We want US businesses and governments to know for certain that we have a clear plan, a can-do attitude and a focus on growing the four pillars of our economy.

In the USA I met senior executives from the energy, infrastructure, tourism, agriculture and finance sectors, amongst others, and promoted business and investment opportunities in this great state. There were a number of highlights. They include announcing that government is getting behind a potential multimillion dollar quarter horse racing development in the Mary Valley. There is still a way to go, but this project has the potential to give the region new hope and to generate economic opportunities and up to 145 new full-time jobs.

I also met representatives of the National Football League in New York to talk about the potential for Queensland to host an NFL game. I had the privilege of opening the new Trade and Investment Queensland office in Houston, Texas and signing a sister state agreement with the Governor of Texas, Rick Perry. We have much in common with Texas in terms of our vast geographic sizes and our economic strengths, and there is potential for more partnerships in areas like mining and agriculture.

I am happy to report that this mission was a success, with Queensland very much on the radar of those decision makers in the USA. Labor had a woeful record in attracting real, tangible overseas interest in Queensland. Labor was more interested in creating mountains of red and green tape here at home which stymied projects and created uncertainty. In contrast, this trade mission is yet another example of this government's work to encourage growth and jobs by promoting Queensland business and investment on the world stage.

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.41 am): Our government promised to grow the state economy to create real jobs for the next generation of Queenslanders, and that is exactly what we have been doing. We knew the only way to address the terrible situation left by Labor was to stimulate economic growth in sectors like resources and construction—real jobs in the private sector. Our government is focused on creating genuine employment in sustainable industries and we will continue to support growth in industries that support Queenslanders now and for generations to come. Nowhere is that commitment more evident than in Queensland's mining and resource regions. In regions like the


Galilee Basin the next wave of construction and resource sector jobs are likely to be created. Some 28,000 construction and operational jobs could be created in the Galilee Basin—28,000 jobs for young Queenslanders today and in the future. These jobs in mining projects are estimated to generate \$28.4 billion worth of investment.

We are looking to a time when coal prices recover and some of the largest and richest coal reserves in Australia can be unlocked. Our Galilee Basin Development Strategy is laying the groundwork to ensure that the infrastructure needed to transport coal from pit to port is ready to roll when the world market needs the coal. We have declared a Galilee Basin State Development Area, and we are offering incentives to first movers to develop the infrastructure that others can use—companies which can show us they are serious about developing their mines and building the rail and port infrastructure that will serve Queensland for years to come.

It is obvious that some of the Galilee Basin coal companies are more serious and more credible than others. Clive Palmer, in particular, has made some extraordinary claims about our government's decisions relating to the Galilee Basin. For the second time, Clive Palmer's ridiculous claims were dismissed last week by the Queensland Supreme Court and he was ordered to pay all legal costs associated with the actions that he initiated. These two court decisions put it beyond doubt that the Queensland government has acted with the utmost integrity and impartiality when considering Mr Palmer and Waratah Coal projects.

The truth is that Mr Palmer wanted our government to give him full control of the Galilee Basin for what he saw as payback for his past support. All his absurd claims and accusations since then have been motivated by our refusal to accede to his demands. We will do everything possible to develop the resources of the Galilee Basin for the benefit of all Queenslanders, not just Clive Palmer. Our Galilee Basin strategy is part of our overall strategy to grow the economy to create more job security and more prosperity for Queenslanders. With better planning and better infrastructure, the can-do Newman government is delivering on its promise to get Queensland back on track for the future, and the Galilee Basin is an essential part of this future.

Economic and Fiscal Challenges

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (9.44 am): Since we last gathered in this House, Queenslanders have paid out another \$129 million in interest payments on the \$80 billion legacy of debt that the government inherited from those opposite. This is money we cannot direct to the job-creating infrastructure projects Queensland needs, nor can we put these funds into improving the services government provides. This government is focused on ensuring we can deliver the services and infrastructure Queensland needs not just today but in future years as our state grows.

As the final report of the Commission of Audit counselled, we need to prepare for the economic and fiscal challenges we will face in coming decades. We are on the cusp of strong economic growth, with the most recent state accounts showing annual growth of 4.1 per cent compared to 1.9 per cent for the rest of Australia. But our ageing population and the consequent effects on the demand for services, the make-up of Queensland's workforce and the capacity of government to raise revenue all present significant challenges. These challenges are clearly demonstrated in a report prepared by Queensland Treasury which outlines projections for Queensland's economic growth and the state budget for the period 2017-18 to 2022-23. I table a copy of *Economic and fiscal challenges* prepared by the independent officers of Queensland Treasury.


Tabled paper: Queensland Treasury and Trade: Economic and Fiscal Challenges—Interim Results of Medium Term Modelling, March 2014 [[4663](#)].

The projections in this report show Queensland's economy should continue to grow faster than the national average. However, they also highlight the impacts of those structural changes that I mentioned and that they will come with an ageing population. Growth in expenditure will substantially outpace revenue growth. The result is that even with careful financial management if we make no policy changes the Queensland budget would return to deficit possibly as early as 2017-18. The projections take into account spending to which the government has already committed such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the 2018 Commonwealth Games. With no change in our policy settings, Queenslanders could have a debt of \$121 billion or more than \$21,000 per person by 2022-23.

These medium-term projections show us yet again that we will have to make careful choices about the state's financial future. Economic growth alone, whilst important, will not provide the revenue government will need in order to meet the expectations of Queenslanders for facilities and services. I remain committed to an open dialogue with Queenslanders about the choices before us.

Next week I will be travelling to Townsville, Bundaberg and Gladstone to continue my discussions with community leaders. I will be writing to the leaders of trade unions in Queensland today inviting them to a round table discussion on 7 April about the choices they and we will need to make as we confront the debt and deficit issues that we face. I look forward to further constructive and productive discussions as all Queenslanders have their say on how we should tackle debt and secure our financial future.

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (9.47 am): Senior medical officers and visiting medical officers are the leaders of clinical care in our state hospital system. In the *Blueprint for better healthcare in Queensland*, the government talked of a health workforce that would be empowered to lead system reform and improve service delivery, and of a system of local hospital boards more directly involved in health decision making and more supportive of our local clinicians. The switch to individual contracts for our SMOs and VMOs is a key part of a simplified and more flexible health service. Over the past year, SMOs and VMOs have demonstrated their capacity for innovation. Their efforts to redesign our clinical systems have delivered the best-performing emergency departments in the nation and slashed hospital waiting lists. Now in consultation with SMOs and VMOs we are building a 21st century work environment to complement, properly reward and remunerate our senior doctors for the work they do and the leadership they provide.

Serious flaws in the former government's administration of private practice arrangements are being addressed but in ways that ensure the overall packages of remuneration and entitlement for doctors in Queensland remain attractive and competitive when viewed across Australia and internationally. In this environment, the department and doctors' representatives have been discussing key aspects of the contract arrangements prior to their implementation on 7 July. The key areas under discussion were the director-general's powers to alter contracts, which have either operated directly with the director-general or the Public Service Commissioner for the last 15 years; dismissal; rostering and fatigue; transfers; dispute arbitration; no disadvantage clause; key performance indicators; collective negotiations; and reversion to collective arrangement. In the course of these talks, the department of health has provided solutions to these issues. This will result in an addendum to the existing contract. Doctors will be able to consider the addendum along with the contract and make an informed choice.

For the benefit of honourable members, in brief, I make these points. To address concerns about the powers of the director-general, a ministerial directive will be issued to limit these powers under section 44 of the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011. This will ensure that only changes which do not disadvantage SMOs are permitted without prior agreement. To address concerns about dispute resolution and requirements in the event of termination, an SMO will be entitled to access the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission if they believe they have been terminated for an invalid reason, as defined by the Industrial Relations Act 1999.


In other cases involving dismissal, an SMO who claims it to be harsh, unjust or unreasonable can appeal the decision in a review process which is binding on the hospital and health service. This review process will escalate the issue to the director-general who will appoint a deputy president of the QIRC to independently review this decision. This process sits outside the QIRC. A similar escalation clause providing access to a deputy president of the QIRC is also now available in cases in which a contractual dispute requires binding arbitration.

In relation to concerns about rostering, a changed process will apply that will require HHSs to seek expressions of interests from SMOs to work the changed roster. A similar provision will now apply in the event of a proposed transfer. To address concerns about perceived disadvantage, under the new system, this new employment framework will be reviewed in an independent process after 12 months. This review will include consideration of any financial disadvantage experienced by SMOs as a result of the change. Key performance indicators will be established by agreement between HHSs and their senior medical officers. Tied remuneration, known as a tier 3 payment, will be guaranteed until July 2016 while systems to measure KPIs achieved are put in place.

After all these reassurances, there is a final point. SMOs need to consider and sign their contract by 30 April to ensure that we have time to check and confirm the payroll systems are in place for delivery on 7 July. But those who sign a contract can still choose to revert to their existing collective employment arrangement, albeit without private practice access, by giving just one month's notice within the first year of the contract, keeping in mind that MOCA 3 concludes at the end of June 2015.

Finally, I ask members to note that while these new arrangements have received positive comment from the AMA federal president, Steve Hambleton, and others, agreement can only be reached with each individual doctor. I, therefore, ask senior medical officers to look carefully at their proposed contract, to seek advice from their HHS and to support this change for the future of improved patient care in Queensland.

National Disability Insurance Scheme

 **Hon. TE DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services) (9.52 am): The Queensland government is committed to implementing the NDIS and giving Queenslanders with a disability choice and control over their specialist disability services. We have backed this commitment with an additional \$868 million over five years to grow Queensland's disability services in preparation for the scheme. We are now well on our journey to preparing Queensland for the NDIS. We are progressing in a calm, considered manner to ensure clients have unbroken continuity and are prepared to take advantage when the scheme is fully operational. This is an exciting time for the sector and we are actively working with them to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible.


Next week I will be opening the Queensland Disability Conference. The event has been sold out, with 550 delegates from across Queensland attending. The conference will hear from a range of speakers and host a multitude of sessions to benefit Queenslanders with a disability, their families and their carers, as well as assist service providers in the delivery of their products and services. One of the very exciting aspects of the NDIS is that we will need 13,000 more Queenslanders working in the sector to provide the increased level of care and support that will be accessed under the NDIS. As I have said in this House before, the disability sector is ready for a jobs explosion. With twice as many Queenslanders receiving specialist care under the NDIS, Queensland will need a workforce that is trained and ready to go for the full rollout in 2019. That means building the workforce must start now. For this reason, the Queensland Disability Conference will host a number of sessions aimed directly at preparing for a bigger and skilled workforce. Sessions will include building a quality workforce for people with a disability and building a business model based on a service's consumers.

The Newman government is already putting in the hard yards to get the workforce ready. The Sector Readiness and Workforce Capacity Initiative is a \$1.9 million commitment that will assist the non-government community services sector and its workers to prepare for the NDIS. The initiative is designed to allow current employees to upgrade their qualifications. The initiative is designed to encourage, where appropriate, organisations to collaborate to build capacity.

We will need to support Queenslanders with a disability, as well as their families and their carers, across the entire state. I encourage all members to spread the message that there will jobs available in the disability sector. These jobs will be in the south-east corner, regional centres as well as remote and discrete communities. This government is building a strong economy and stimulating job growth across all sectors. The disability sector is set for a jobs explosion and Queenslanders should consider a fulfilling career in this growing and vibrant sector.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Report No. 142, Motion to Take note

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.55 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

- (1) That this House notes Report No. 142 of the Ethics Committee tabled on 6 March 2014 and the recommendations of the committee; and

- (2) That, in accordance with those recommendations, the House instructs the Clerk of the Parliament to place a prominent notice in the Queensland Law Society journal reminding all members of the legal profession of the importance of the principles of law relating to the powers, rights and immunities of the parliament.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

REGIONAL PLANNING INTERESTS BILL

PROTECTION OF PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND AND OTHER LAND FROM COAL SEAM GAS MINING BILL

Cognate Debate; Order of Business

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.56 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

- (1) That, in accordance with standing order 172, the Regional Planning Interests Bill and the Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, as follows:
- second reading debate, but with separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
 - the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
 - separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.
- (2) That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders:
- debate of the bills shall be considered during government business;
 - the time limits and order for moving the second readings shall be: Deputy Premier, 60 minutes, followed by member for Condamine, 60 minutes; and
 - the time limits and order for reply to the second readings debate shall be: member for Condamine, 30 minutes, followed by Deputy Premier, 30 minutes.
- (3) That, notwithstanding anything contained in sessional orders, government business shall take precedence over general business this Wednesday evening from 7.30 pm.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.57 am): I wish to advise the House that the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines is absent from the House today. Minister Cripps is accompanying Her Excellency the Governor, Ms Penelope Wensley AC, during her visit to the electorate of Hinchinbrook.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Office of the Information Commissioner, Report

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (9.58 am): I lay upon the table of the House Report No. 5 of 2013-14 to the Queensland Legislative Assembly by the Office of the Information Commissioner titled *Follow-up of review recommendations—Department of Transport and Main Roads, Review of agency adoption of recommendations made under the Right to Information Act 2009 Queensland and the Information Privacy Act 2009 Queensland*.

Tabled paper: Office of the Information Commissioner: Report No. 5 of 2013-14: Follow-up of review recommendations—Department of Transport and Main Roads: Review of agency adoption of recommendations made under the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld) [[4664](#)].

The report is on the implementation of recommendations of an earlier report of the Information Commissioner, *Compliance Review—Department of Transport and Main Roads*. The report is not a report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. However, under the Right to Information Act 2009 I am required to table the report on the Information Commissioner's behalf. I commend the report to the House.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Newman Government

 **Hon. TS MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (9.59 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

- Notes the Newman LNP Government has failed Gold Coast residents by:
 - reneging on its 'Contract with the Gold Coast' commitment to cut the cost of electricity prices;
 - implementing a capital works freeze on major construction projects for the region;
 - reneging on its election commitments in relation to the proposed Boral quarry at Reedy Creek;
 - amending body corporate laws so that they disadvantage many unit owners;
 - forcing the council to bear the burden of beach restoration works ahead of the busy tourist season; and
- Calls on the coast's nine LNP MPs to stand up for their local communities instead of kow-towing to the Premier.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

Madam SPEAKER: I acknowledge schools visiting today: Buderim Mountain State School from the electorate of Buderim and the Ipswich Grammar School.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.00 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, I note that 138 days have passed since the opposition first voiced its concerns about individual contracts for medical specialists and I ask: why did the health minister take more than four months before he finally took an interest and made an eleventh hour intervention in a crisis that was of the minister's own making?

Mr SPRINGBORG: I thank the Hon. Leader of the Opposition for the question. It is somewhat interesting that the Labor Party are standing in this place and talking about a health crisis. I will just take them back over the last five or six years prior to the election of the Newman government in Queensland and go through some of the crises which existed then and juxtapose that with today.

Can anyone remember a famous little individual who found his way from somewhere in the middle of the Pacific Ocean all the way across to the Department of Health? That was the so-called fake Tahitian prince, who managed to wander off with \$17 million right out from under the noses of the former Premier and the former minister for transport! When it came to ministerial accountability, no-one was responsible for that! What happened when the payroll system in Queensland went 'kaput' and blew up and basically cost \$1.253 billion? Nowhere was the member for Inala; nowhere was the minister for health; nowhere was anyone on that particular side of the House!

What happened when we had the waiting list for the waiting list that was secretly tucked away; where was ministerial responsibility? Nowhere to be seen! What happened when we had ambulance bypass in Queensland and we saw people bumping around in the backs of ambulances for hours and hours on end? Some of them died in the backs of ambulances. There was no ministerial responsibility, but we took ministerial responsibility for that and banned ambulance bypass. We have basically fixed the emergency departments in Queensland; reduced waiting lists; banished the fake Tahitian prince; and put better systems in place. The only health care policy of the honourable members opposite is a 'patience for patients' policy because if you wait long enough, you might get an appointment. If you wait long enough, you might get an ambulance. They have no other choices and no other solutions.

Since 26 February last year we have quite clearly indicated that we would be moving doctors to individual contracts in Queensland. A lot of that was about fixing the dysfunctional private practice arrangements in Queensland which have cost the taxpayers so much and have not provided any benefit whatsoever to patients. It is inevitable that when you go to a new framework there is going to be a level of anxiety about it. From day one I have been completely consistent in what I have said. As

we move to individual contracts, there will be issues around policies and procedures which need to be able to be amended and dealt with. What we have now is an agreement on how we can deal with those things—

(Time expired)

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

Ms PALASZCZUK: My next question is to the Minister for Health—

Mr Johnson: Good on you!

Madam SPEAKER: I warn the member for Gregory under 253A. I ask members to listen to the questions. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Minister for Health. On 6 March the minister told ABC Radio—

'... there will not be a re-opening of formal negotiations.'

They were your words. Given that the minister has now re-opened negotiations, will he confirm that he has been forced to back down after not listening to doctors' concerns for so many months, and will he now table the addendum to the contract that he mentioned in his ministerial statement so the public can see what he is now negotiating with?

Mr SPRINGBORG: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for another question. It is amazing that we have an opposition which had been completely and absolutely disinterested in health care in Queensland as the system crumbled under their tired and sad administration for so many years. That was a situation which saw Queensland hospitals having the worst performing emergency departments in Australia; secret waiting lists to get on waiting lists; so many people waiting for lifesaving surgery; and hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders languishing on dental waiting lists for up to 13 years without any prospect whatsoever of receiving an appointment for routine oral health services. Yet they now have the gall and audacity to say that they have any answers to the health care system in this place.

Indeed, in the first full year of operation after private practice arrangements came into place in 2007-08, this mob opposite were advised that it had lost \$125 million in its first year and they did absolutely nothing about it. What we are doing is fixing those particular systems. I have consistently said that there would not be a re-opening of formal negotiations and that is something to which we stuck, but as a part of that we said that we would be happy to have discussions about how we can fix some of those emergent or outstanding issues which would obviously be of concern to doctors with regards to policies and procedures. The Leader of the Opposition needs to understand that when you are dealing with a changed environment of local area management through hospital and health boards, this is a relationship which will continually evolve between the hospital and health services. It is important that they have the opportunity to put their own procedures and processes in place to ensure that there is an alternative dispute resolution for local clinicians and that there are ways of addressing transfers, KPIs and those sorts of things. What we have sought to do is to say that of those half dozen issues, we will ensure consistency across the state. That is what we are doing, and they will be part of the addendum to the contract.

Again the Leader of the Opposition seems to be absolutely intellectually incapable of grasping a few basic points here. With regards to the addendum to the contract, they will embrace those six or seven issues on which we have had broad agreement. The doctors' representatives are sitting down with the Department of Health today going through the fine points, and they will be sent to doctors probably as early as tomorrow—

(Time expired)

Jobs

Mr KING: My question without notice is to the Premier. Premier, can you please provide to the House an update on the success of the government's plan to create jobs and how this is delivering for people in my electorate of Cairns and all Queenslanders.

Mr NEWMAN: That is a great question from the honourable member, and I am delighted to answer it. I say, as I always do, that there are two things that we are working on every single hour of every single day, one of which is the reform of government and the other is creating jobs for Queenslanders. That is what this government is all about. When the Labor Party were in office they

talked and talked about this but they really did not deliver, because Labor thinks that job creation is about the size of government; we believe that job creation is about a vibrant private sector that gets on and creates real jobs in the real economy. Labor recently announced a jobs and economic plan and it is this: be patient, do nothing and the jobs will come. That is the Labor plan!

In contrast, we have a clear plan to get the private sector going in the four economic pillars of tourism, agriculture, construction and resources. We are also focused on getting rid of red tape and creating the best business environment in the nation. The ABS jobs figures that were released last week demonstrate that our plan is working because we are seeing the strongest job creation of any Australian state. There were more jobs created in Queensland than in any other state in the last 12 months on both trend and seasonally adjusted measures. In February more than 30,000 jobs were created in Queensland. That is more than double New South Wales, the next best performing state. Since the election of this government two years ago, some 43,000 jobs have been created in Queensland. Companies are expanding their operations in Queensland due to this positive business environment that has been created by this LNP government. Cairns received great news yesterday, with Kmart announcing its first ever store in the city.

Mr Mulherin interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: A 4,200 square metre retail space will open later this year, creating 100 jobs for the region. One would think that the member for Mulgrave would be excited. It is his community as well, by the way. Future job growth will be strong as Queensland continues to outperform the rest of Australia. We have said that throughout this year already, and that is what we are seeing. What is on the horizon? We will also see jobs growth being driven by investment like the Aquis resort proposal at Yorkeys Knob. If approved—and it should be approved with obviously appropriate and sensible conditions to protect the public interest and the environment—we will see 9,300 jobs per year during construction and more than 10,000 jobs per year when opened. We will also see jobs growth being driven by investment in better infrastructure like the underground bus and train project here in Brisbane, which will create more than 18,000 jobs. We are totally committed to our four per cent unemployment target to be achieved over six years. We are going to have to do a whole lot more, but we will do more. Unlike the Labor Party, we will do more than just be patient and wait for those jobs to come.

(Time expired)

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

Mr MULHERIN: My question is to the Minister for Health. Of the 3,500 senior medical specialists in Queensland public hospitals, how many have received personally hand delivered contracts and how many have signed?

Mr SPRINGBORG: It is fantastic to see the honourable member for Mackay has risen from his slumber and is actually asking a question in this House about an important issue in the healthcare system. I am the very proud custodian of some \$13 billion which is being granted to me on behalf of taxpayers through the Treasurer to administer on their behalf to ensure that we get the best outcomes for the people of Queensland when it comes to our healthcare system. I am very pleased to say that, when it comes to all of those performance indicators, the Queensland health system is improving significantly. Indeed, a few minutes ago we heard the honourable member's leader rise in this place and talk about matters those opposite raised some 160 days ago. We are still waiting for a policy from the Labor Party in the healthcare area after 160 days, other than the patience for patients policy: if you wait long enough, it might just get better; if you wait long enough, you just might not want the ambulance; if you wait long enough, maybe the toothache will go away. One would have thought that 13 years would have been long enough for people waiting on the dental waiting list in Queensland. The simple reality is that doctors are receiving their individual contracts and, as I understand it, by the end of this week they will all be in receipt of those particular contracts.

Ms Palaszczuk: How many have signed?

Mr SPRINGBORG: Once again the enthusiasm which is being shown by the opposition was not evident prior to two years and certainly has not been evident prior to today when it comes to asking questions in this place. As I have said publicly, doctors have until 30 April to sign their contracts. Our advice to doctors is to wait until they get their contract and sit down with their local hospital and health service and talk through those issues. I say to the honourable member that it is not my intention to provide a running commentary on how many people may or may not have actually signed because the honourable member completely and absolutely misunderstands what this is all

about. The other day in the honourable member for Mackay's electorate people were running around—flapping around—saying, 'It's terrible! They have to sign by 24 March,' which was never actually true. We are saying, 'Please don't sign before 30 April because we want you to consider this particular matter.' So on the one hand they want people to sign up early and on the other hand they do not want people to sign up at all, so it is this rather all over the place approach from the Labor Party in Queensland. Our advice to doctors consistently has been this: 'You'll receive your contract. You'll now receive the addendum to it which will actually clearly explain for you what the policies and procedures are. Please sit down with your local clinical leaders and they will take you through the issues and you don't have to sign until 30 April.'

(Time expired)

Labor Party, Economic Growth and Job Creation

Mr GIBSON: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. In relation to his portfolio of State Development, is the Deputy Premier aware of any opposition policies that would drive economic growth and create jobs in the Queensland economy?

Mr SEENEY: I thank the member for Gympie for the question because, as I indicated in my ministerial statement, at the core of our government's strategy is driving economic growth and creating jobs for Queenslanders today and for generations to come. In contrast, the Labor Party in this place is interested in only a very small number of jobs. The only policy it has is to get the people who created the problem in Queensland jobs in this House again. That is the only job policy it has. Already Cameron Dick has indicated that he is too scared to run in his old seat against Ian Kaye and has opted to find a safe seat over in Woodridge. Stirling Hinchliffe has his hand up saying, 'I want a job. Any job'll do. Just give me a job.' Any seat will do for Stirling Hinchliffe, and those who knew him in this place know that that is completely in keeping with his performance here. Kerry Shine, Di Farmer and of course the infamous Kate Jones have also been out there suggesting that they want their jobs back. These are the people who created the problem. These are the people who created the problem that our government has to deal with.

It is also interesting to think about who else might be polishing off the old corflutes, who else might be dusting off the campaign truck. I saw my old mate Robbie Schwarten in the paper and Robbie was having an argument with some Labor powerbroker as to who of the members who sit in this House is Dopey, who is Sleepy, who is Grumpy. But he certainly agreed with that Labor powerbroker that they were all intellectual dwarfs, and coming from Robbie Schwarten, can I tell you, that is fairly significant! Coming from Robbie Schwarten, that is fairly significant! The Premier has just given me a copy of the *Courier-Mail* article just in case anybody missed it. But for Robbie Schwarten to suggest that they are intellectual dwarfs in this place says something fairly significant about the lack of policies that they have. But I reckon Robbie Schwarten is probably lining up to run against Bruce Young—either that or he will take on Vaughan Johnson in Gregory. But I want somebody over there to get on the phone to Peter Beattie, because Peter Beattie would be back here in a flash.

Government members interjected.

Mr SEENEY: I say this to the Leader of the Opposition: get Peter Beattie to run in Callide! Get Peter Beattie to run in Callide! I am sure he would be up for it. All the old Labor warriors—the people who created the problem that the people of Queensland are going to have to deal with for years to come—are all lining up for their old jobs. They are the only jobs that the Labor Party is interested in—not jobs for Queenslanders, not jobs for the—

(Time expired)

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: I call the Manager of Opposition Business.

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

Mr PITT: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was not sure if I would get my turn. My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the challenges associated with attracting doctors to regional areas of Queensland, and I ask: how many medical specialists have resigned since the contract crisis began and what steps has the minister taken to ensure that this current crisis will not impact on the standards of patient care, particularly in regional hospitals, into the future?

Mr SPRINGBORG: I thank the honourable member for Mulgrave for his question. I know the honourable member for Mulgrave would be most appreciative of the fact that the Newman government has increased the budget to the Cairns hospital and health service since we have come to government by some \$50 million or 8.8 per cent. But when it came time for the honourable member for Mulgrave standing up for his constituents as the previous Labor government federally maliciously ripped some \$7 million out of it locally, he was nowhere to be seen. Maybe he was being a little bashful when it came to something that was as important as that. He was nowhere to be seen.

To date, there has been no credit given to the Newman government for increasing the budget of the Cairns district hospital and health service by some \$50 million and no credit for the fact that we are now seeing some significant improvements in the Cairns area when it comes to the delivery of patient surgery on time, particularly in the area of urgent elective surgery. Yet we have him standing here today.

Since we have come to power in Queensland we have put in place some very important initiatives that enable us to be able to attract more clinicians into areas throughout the state. One thing that has been received exceptionally well is the tier 4 payments in our contract arrangements. The tier 4 payments allow us to be able to pay more money through our hospital and health services to attract doctors into rural and remote areas of this state. That in itself is something that is being recognised quite widely around this state.

As I have also indicated to the honourable members opposite, there will be people who will make all sorts of claims with regard to whether they are going to go or whether they are going to stay. I say to be very careful with regard to those claims, because to date we do not have any figures that indicate what the honourable member is indicating is beyond the remarkable—

Mr PITT: I rise to a point of order.

Madam SPEAKER: Pause the clock. What is your point of order?

Mr PITT: Under standing order 113(3), I am interested if the minister thinks that his question is too detailed.

Madam SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr PITT: He is able to request to take that question on notice.

Madam SPEAKER: You asked the question. The minister is answering the question and I will allow the minister to continue to answer the question.

Mr SPRINGBORG: Madam Speaker, thank you very much. Under the contract arrangements, we will have the ability to provide recruitment, retention and attraction payments in areas that are going to address concerns that were not addressed by the previous government. We are not going to get into a situation, as we saw occur under the previous government with Caboolture, where we had an entire emergency department close down as a consequence of their negligence and mismanagement, where doctors actively walked away and they had to bring in the private sector to run emergency departments because they were not able to run those emergency departments. We are very confident that, with the arrangements that we have in place and also the assurances and discussions yesterday—

(Time expired)

Queensland Economy

Mr BERRY: My question without notice is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade. Can the Treasurer update the House on how this government's plan for growing a four-pillar economy is boosting jobs growth and unlocking the state's economic potential?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Ipswich for his question. He is always vitally interested in knowing what is going on with the four pillars. I noticed about a week or so ago that the member's predecessor had something to say in the *Brisbane Times* about alignments of unions and political parties, which is interesting. I would have to say that the current member is far better than the previous one. At least he knows what is going on. She obviously did not.

Having received a question from the member for Ipswich, I am still yet to receive a question from those opposite. It is now 140 days since I was last asked a question in parliament. Can members believe that?

A government member: He's just bashful.

Mr NICHOLLS: I know members will be surprised, but I have also done some numbers.

Mr Pitt: Are you doing the numbers?

Mr NICHOLLS: Not the numbers that they are doing over there. I was just waiting for that to come in, because I have a few other things in my hand. I take that interjection about the numbers, because it seems to me, if one reads today's *Australian*, that the numbers are being done over there in the old back rooms of the Trades and Labour Council at Peel Street—over there at Tammany Hall. We see that the old guard is being decimated. They have gone. Dave Hanna is lamenting the end of the moderates. We are seeing the comebacks of former ministers. Preselections are now expected to resurrect the careers of former ministers such as Cameron Dick, the 'show pony', 'gormless'—and those were the words of my old mate, David Hinchliffe. Last week, he was getting stuck into him. We have Stirling Hinchliffe, who we all knew was gormless and a show pony. Members, here is the list of candidates for ALP preselection with the frontrunners dominated by former MPs, union officials and political advisers. That is what the ALP is serving up.

I digress. It is 140 days since I was asked a question. The total amount of Labor interest paid in that 140 days is now \$1.5 billion—\$1.5 billion. While they have been arguing about MPs, unionists and political activists getting preselected, we have been trying to deal with that problem—that \$1.5 billion.

When we look at the unemployment numbers, other than trying to re-employ those who put us in this position, I want to look at what we have been able to achieve: 30,000 jobs in the month of February on seasonally adjusted terms alone. That has been achieved three times since 1978 and twice achieved under the Newman LNP government. We are delivering jobs for Queenslanders. They are looking after themselves

(Time expired)

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

Mrs MILLER: My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the government's claim that individual contracts are required for doctors because of alleged roting of the right to private practice. I ask: will the minister release the secret black list of doctors being investigated? Will he guarantee that none of those on the list are LNP donors or former LNP candidates?

Madam SPEAKER: Before I call the minister—and I will allow him to answer the question—I remind the House that there has been a creeping tendency for imputations in questions that are out of line with standing orders. I will allow the minister to answer it, but I will warn members to take care with their questions, because we will start to rule them out of order.

Mr SPRINGBORG: I sincerely thank the honourable member for Bundamba for her question. The last parliamentary sitting week was a really big week for the honourable member for Redcliffe. She was elected to this place and sworn in. This week is a really big week for the honourable member for Bundamba, because reaching three is usually the cause for great celebration. This is the honourable member for Bundamba's third question to me in about 13 months. It is an extraordinary privilege. Of the two other questions, one of them was about frozen peas. So we are finally starting to get to something that might be almost close to the mark, except that it is wrapped up in the normal hysteria and histrionics that encompasses the honourable member for Bundamba. I am not aware of any such black list. If she has one, maybe she should stand up here and provide it to the House. Maybe I should be asking a question to the honourable member for Bundamba and if she would table such a list? I not aware of any such list.

It is pretty obvious that the honourable member for Bundamba's integrity is really in question. She is somebody who in 2005 was happy to rush back into this place and vote alongside a couple of her colleagues who are still here to exonerate Gordon Nuttall of criminal activity. That is the integrity of the honourable member for Bundamba and the way that she has conducted herself. The honourable member for Bundamba was one of the architects, alongside Gordon Nuttall and more latterly Stephen Robertson, of the failed right of private practice scheme in Queensland. We also know that the report that was available to the government immediately the year after said that if they accepted it in full it would be a \$126 million loss or \$90 million without it and that it would just escalate from there on. We know what the Auditor-General said. We are dealing with those issues as we should.

Unlike Alex Scott and the honourable member for Bundamba, who, quite hysterically while on the former PCMC, was basically prejudging people, we do not prejudge people. The Auditor-General referred matters and those matters are currently being investigated.

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order. The health minister is referring to a subject that is before a select Ethics Committee inquiry.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I warn members on my left. Minister, the point of order is actually valid and I remind you not to refer to a matter that is currently before the select Ethics Committee.

Mr SPRINGBORG: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. We will not prejudge things. Obviously matters that are raised by the Auditor-General should go on to the appropriate authorities and they are and they will. Alex Scott from the Together Union, who is the representative of the doctors, said that all of those 88 doctors should go to jail. That was not us. We have said that those people deserve to actually be properly investigated by the proper authorities.

Tourism Industry, Jobs

Mr COSTIGAN: My question without notice is to the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. Can the minister update the House on how the Newman government is supporting jobs in our tourism industry?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. Living in such a pristine area as the Whitsundays he gets that tourism is a very significant employer for the region. While the former government took our industry completely for granted, the Newman government recognises tourism as one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy because we know that a very strong and prosperous tourism industry will grow our economy and create jobs. And the proof is in the pudding. Last week I welcomed to Brisbane Tigerair's third Australian base. This saw the establishment of more than 120 new Brisbane based jobs. This, of course, is flight crew, cabin crew and additional ground based crew. I met many of these fresh faced and enthusiastic young staff while I was out at the airport last week. This is a further boost to Queensland through the introduction of four new routes. These are Brisbane-Cairns, Brisbane-Darwin, Brisbane-Adelaide and Sydney-Proserpine which, of course, interests the honourable member who asked the question. These new routes will provide an additional 800,000 visitor seats to Queensland this year and Tigerair accounts in Queensland for 60 per cent of its air capacity. These seats are going to boost it even further.

Tigerair's vote of confidence in Queensland was supported just recently by new data from Tourism Research Australia showing that the Newman government is delivering on its promise with a national visitor survey ending December last year with a \$330 million boost to our industry. This is our DestinationQ initiative in action. Our policies are reinvigorating our industry. We are growing a stronger and more prosperous tourism industry in Queensland. We are delivering on our 20-year vision and with the recent launch of our Destination Success we are partnering with every organisation throughout our great state.

Honourable members, just two years ago under Labor the future of tourism looked very, very bleak. The goose that laid the golden eggs was laying bricks. But under the Newman government confidence has been restored. We have reinvigorated an industry that was once the leader in our country. After two years we have the best resourced opposition in Australia, but we are still waiting not only for a question from them about tourism, but also for any sign of a policy from them. But then, of course, the laziest opposition in Australia has only one plan and that is to recycle federal and state Labor MPs already rejected by Queenslanders.

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

Mr JUDGE: My question without notice is to the Premier. Remuneration payable under the proposed doctor contracts is reportedly incapable of precise calculation and I ask: will the Premier explain how doctors' remuneration will be determined and guarantee that no doctors will be disadvantaged by these new industrial doctor contracts?

Mr NEWMAN: Madam Speaker, may I ask the honourable member to repeat the question? I often have great difficulty in hearing what he says. Could he speak up loudly and clearly so I may hear him?

Madam SPEAKER: I would ask the member to repeat the question and to speak clearly into the microphone.

Mr JUDGE: Remuneration payable under the proposed doctor contracts is reportedly incapable of precise calculation and I ask: will the Premier explain how doctors' remuneration will be determined and guarantee that no doctors will be disadvantaged by these new industrial doctor contracts?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the honourable member for his question and I start by again pointing out what I did at the last session of parliament: that the government has a very clear agenda—that is, the reform of the health system so that we have in this state the best free public health system in the nation. That is what we are about—unequivocally, unapologetically. Over the last two years the minister, his team, the department and many thousands of hardworking professionals in Queensland Health are actually turning the system around. If we go back two years ago, we had nurses, doctors and support workers not being paid or being paid incorrectly. If we go back two years ago, we had a fake Tahitian prince syphoning off millions of dollars on all sorts of weird and wonderful escapades, gifts and extravagance. If we go back two years ago we had ambulances ramping outside our public hospitals and we had people waiting to get into our emergency departments. In two years what has happened? There has been a dramatic change—a dramatic and positive change—with almost an end to ambulance ramping; a massive improvement in our emergency access targets, our national KPIs; a huge improvement on elective surgery waiting times; and a great improvement as well in terms of public dental waiting lists. That has all been achieved.

There have been a number of questions to the minister today about doctors' contracts. This question is no different from the questions we had earlier or the ones that I fielded at the last session of the parliament. I say this: we totally respect our hardworking doctors in this state and these contracts are about ensuring that we get better outcomes for patients, a better health system, but do not leave doctors in a worse financial position or worse off in any terms or conditions. Indeed, I think I and the minister have very clearly pointed out that doctors are actually better off under these arrangements. Today the minister has very clearly outlined as well that he has been listening, that he has been prepared to take on board the final concerns, the residual concerns—

Mr JUDGE: I rise to a point of order.

Madam SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr JUDGE: Relevance. It is about the doctors' remuneration being incalculable.

Madam SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am listening to the Premier's answer and he is answering the question. I warn members who take frivolous points of order in the middle of questions when they are being answered. I call the Premier.

Mr NEWMAN: I know he does not speak up and ask the question; he should listen clearly to the answers as well. That would be handy. Doctors will not be placed at a disadvantage by going onto these contracts. The final thing I want to say today is that it is very interesting there is a coalition here. Queenslanders need to know that the Palmer party and the Katter party are working with the Australian Labor Party and clearly a vote for Palmer or a vote for Katter is a vote for the ALP.

Liquor Licensing

Mrs FRANCE: My question without notice is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice.

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! We seem to have members who have forgotten there is a courtesy that we listen to the question. We must hear the question. I warn members on my left and right and I call the member for Pumicestone to start again.

Mrs FRANCE: My question without notice is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Can the Attorney-General update the House on the government's review of liquor licensing? Is there a commitment to give local communities a greater say in the application process and is he aware of any alternate views?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Pumicestone for her question. She is a great local representative for that area, certainly a lot better than the previous one. On a number of occasions recently I have visited the electorate of Pumicestone. I have visited the Bribie Island RSL to talk about the government's positive reforms in terms of regulation red-tape reduction.

If there is any government in the state's history that looks at regulation and red-tape reduction it is this government. Our government is unlike the previous Labor government, which for 10 years could not trust Queenslanders to walk a mile without holding their hands. It could not trust business to get on with the job and run their businesses without government intervention and involvement. We take a different approach. We believe we should get out of the way of businesses and community groups, and let them get on and do what they do best, which is supporting our local communities.

As the honourable tourism minister has said, tourism is a key pillar of our economy. Certainly, red-tape reduction in the liquor industry goes a long way to help. However, we have to ensure that local communities have a voice with those sorts of things. For a few months now the Premier has been talking about potential liquor reforms to tackle the issues of alcohol and drug related violence, and shortly something will be announced in that regard. Over the course of two years, we have implemented 44 red-tape-reduction initiatives. For instance, if tourists stopover at Fraser Island, which is in the electorate of the member for Hervey Bay, and they want a glass of wine with lunch, there is no longer a requirement to fill in a liquor application licensing form. That can be done as part of a package. Members will be pleased to note that in the past 12 months the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation has reduced application processing times by 45 per cent. For every community group, footy club, RSL, soccer club, pub or community club that writes to the OLGR wanting a transfer of licence, there will be a 45 per cent reduction in the application waiting time. That has happened only in the past two years.

We believe in communities having a greater say. I know that there are issues currently in Emerald and Toowoomba. We will ensure that locals have a greater say in those sorts of applications going forward that we will announce in the future. Talking about community interest, I have to say that this party and this government believes in making sure locals have a say, unlike the Labor Party with its preselections at the moment. It believes in factional war lords. You only have to look at the thugs in control. I have a couple of articles that have been referred to by the Premier, Deputy Premier and the Treasurer. In one article, David Hinchliffe said essentially—and I paraphrase—that he was losing faith in the party that claimed a lack of true reform had led to the frequent selection of bad candidates. A couple of nights ago after the Tasmanian election I had quite a laugh, because the opposition leader Ms Annastacia Palaszczuk said that if the Labor Party in Tasmania needed some assistance in reforming, they could pick up the phone and call her. I do not think the Labor Party believes this opposition leader has reformed anything on that side of the parliament.

(Time expired)

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

Dr DOUGLAS: My question is to the Premier. Doctors are repeatedly stating publicly that the health department has stated conditions proposed are not true. Can the Premier please inform the parliament why the health department has decided not to negotiate with doctors truthfully?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, clearly there are imputations in that question that are out of order with the standing orders. I remind you of the standing orders and I rule the question out of order.

Queensland Building and Construction Commission

Miss BARTON: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Could the minister please provide the House with an update on the new Queensland Building and Construction Commission and how it is contributing to economic growth and job creation in our great state?

Mr MANDER: I thank the member for Broadwater for her question. This can-do state government is committed to boosting growth and job creation in the building and construction industry, which is one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy. To help restore confidence in the sector, in 2012 a parliamentary committee tabled a landmark report into the operation and performance of the industry regulator, the former Queensland Building Services Authority. To

respond, I commissioned the help of an expert panel of professionals. They are people who know their stuff. They are people such as union boss David Hanna, who made a great contribution and who, I noticed on the weekend, again offered expert opinion on something that he knows well, that is, the shortcomings of the eight members opposite. Looking across the chamber this morning, it would seem that Grumpy may have an eye on Snow White's job.

Last year, I tabled the government's response to the parliamentary inquiry, which outlined a 10-point plan for action. A key reform was the formation of a new Queensland building and construction commission. The appointment of a professional governing board and a new commissioner were the first steps we took to deliver the reforms in our 10-point plan. The QBCC will contribute to Queensland's economic growth by promoting confidence and fairness in the construction industry. The proof of this is in the pudding. Thanks in part to these and other state government reforms, recent data from the Housing Industry Association and the Master Builders Association already shows an upturn in industry confidence and activity. This data shows that the number of new houses commenced in the last financial year rose by 3.8 per cent and the forecast growth for this year is 14.8 per cent. The QBCC's own data mirrors this. During the past year to January, there has been a 12 per cent increase in the number of home warranty insurance policies written, with a 27 per cent increase over the past two years. These are very encouraging signs. This surge in building and renovation work creates jobs in the building and construction sector. It also flows on to other sectors such as retail, because people buy furniture and electronic goods to put into their new or newly renovated homes.

In 2014, the QBCC aims to deliver new initiatives, including early dispute resolution processes and internal review services, which will add value for both builders and consumers by slashing dispute times and costs. Through the QBCC, the government has already implemented red-tape reduction, which is providing benefits not only to the building industry but also to homeowners, businesses and consumers. The QBCC is helping the government unleash the potential of the construction industry so that it remains a key driver of economic growth in this great state with great opportunity.

Emergency Management and Fire Rescue Levy

Mr WELLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. Numerous community and not-for-profit organisations on the Sunshine Coast recently received their council's six-monthly rate notice, which included the new state government emergency management and fire rescue tax of \$110.20. I ask: as the majority of people who use those community facilities already pay that new tax on their own household rate notices, will the Premier support the removal of this new levy from community and not-for-profit organisations?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the honourable member for the question. In relation to this particular issue, firstly, why the levy? The levy is required to make sure that wherever you are in Queensland you get professional and timely support in a time of emergency. Whether it be the swift water rescue folk from the Queensland fire service, whether it be the emergency services helicopter that plucks you off a rooftop in the north Bundaberg area, whether it be the command and control centre manned by the skilled professionals who plan those operations, that support needs to be there and it needs to be funded. At the current time in our state, the big problem is that we have been left with a legacy of \$80 billion worth of Labor debt and we are paying \$450,000 of Labor interest every single hour. We have taken a very cautious approach to raising taxes and charges. That is the record of this government. On this particular issue, it has been about user pays. In relation to the nub of the question, I think that the member makes a good point and, indeed, it is something that we are looking at.

While I am on the subject of debt and deficit and our financial position today, I cannot let go by this opportunity to read some members' words back to them, because in recent days some people from a certain party have denied the financial issues that have caused this levy to be put in place. I will read back someone's words to them. On 13 September, an honourable member said—

The budget breaks the addiction to years of debt and deficit and starts Queensland on a path to regaining the AAA credit rating.

Another quote from the same honourable member states—

It is no secret that state debt has become a major issue.

The same honourable member has stated—

State debt has escalated to unprecedented levels.

The same honourable member said ‘... because of the uncontrolled spending by the former Labor government’. The honourable member is, indeed, the member for Yeerongpilly, a member of the Palmer United Party. In recent days, he has put a flyer across a large part of state, it would seem, saying that there is no debt problem and there is no spending problem, and making a whole range of outrageous complaints. The member for Gaven has stated—

We had to have this budget because the Bligh and Beattie Labor governments just squandered every new opportunity, looted every GOC and then finally borrowed, in far too high proportion, just to pay for recurrent expenditure with limited capital expenditure averaged over their 14 years.

Both members of the Palmer United Party have very clearly said that there was a problem with the finances. This levy is part of the solution.

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Infrastructure

Mr JOHNSON: My question without notice is to the honourable Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister advise the House how the Newman LNP government is delivering better infrastructure and planning which supports jobs and a better quality of life in regional Queensland?

Mr EMERSON: I thank the member for Gregory, who, as a former transport and main roads minister, knows the importance of delivering jobs in the bush and in regional areas. He did that when he was the transport and main roads minister.

I had the great pleasure the other week to head out to Boulia to announce with my federal counterpart, Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss, and a group of mayors some \$24½ million for the Outback Way highway and local roads out there. This is a great example of a partnership not just between the state and federal governments but between those governments and the seven councils out there. They approached me at a local government conference in Longreach last year. The local government minister was at that conference and he knows that I worked in Longreach. The Longreach mayor, Joe Owens, was in Boulia, as was the mayor of Boulia, Rick Britton, the mayor of Winton, Butch Lenton—

Mr Costigan: Good man.

Mr EMERSON: He is a good man. The mayor of Barcoo, Julie Groves, and the mayor of Barcaldine, Rob Chandler, were also there. I know Barcaldine very well. They all came together. They knew that we needed to provide projects out there and they worked together on that. That is what the meeting in Longreach was all about. It was about coming together and looking for projects out there but also recognising that the Outback Way highway provides potential not only in terms of tourism but also in terms of the economy with freight and trucking. Those local roads are also important.

I can tell members that that area has been doing it tough. When we were out there the other week they told us that they had had 100 millimetres of rain in about three weeks. I asked Rick Britton, ‘When was the last time you had some decent rain?’ He said, ‘June 2012,’ and that was 30 millimetres. There was a bit of greenery out there but it will not last. It will get them through to Christmas.

These jobs will last. The state government, the Newman government, is delivering across Queensland—in regional areas, in rural areas, in cities, up the coast. We have projects like the Bruce Highway upgrade, like the Toowoomba second range crossing and like the Outback Way highway project in Boulia. There are projects across-the-board.

Mr Ruthenberg interjected.

Mr EMERSON: We also have the underground project as well and the Moreton Bay rail project. I take the member for Kallangur’s interjection.

The Newman government is getting on with the job of delivering jobs across Queensland. Also through the good efforts of those mayors and the endless, enthusiasm and determination of the member for Gregory in fighting for his area we are delivering jobs across this area. Again, I have to applaud those local councils for banding together and getting results. I thank the federal government for their contribution. Some \$10 million is coming from the Newman government for this project.

Minister for Health

Ms D'ATH: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the health minister's charter letter signed by the Premier which states that the minister is to 'continue to establish effective working relationships with stakeholders and other interest groups', and ask: what action will the Premier take to censure the health minister for breaching his charter and failing to deliver a core ministerial responsibility?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the honourable member for her first question to my good self, and I am delighted to answer it. I will always be happy to answer questions that she might want to bowl up. I think the best way to talk about what is going on in this area is to look at the success in her own electorate of Redcliffe—the Redcliffe Hospital. We have a minister who does business in sharp contrast to the normal Labor Party way of doing business. When the Labor Party is in office they are so consumed with having got there and staying in power that it is all about the deals, the machinations and being in power rather than actually focussing on achieving reform.

When the honourable member was an honourable member in the federal parliament she had made commitments to deliver for the local area—the GP superclinic is just one example—and let them down. Another example was a community centre for the local area. She let them down.

In contrast, the minister that I am privileged to have in my team has delivered for the Redcliffe community. In March 2012, in terms of the KPI for category 1 elective surgery patients, the Redcliffe Hospital achieved 93 per cent. In December 2013 it achieved 100 per cent. Let us look at category 2. For the Redcliffe Hospital as at March 2012 it was 56 per cent. It is now 86 per cent. What about emergency access? In March 2012 at the Redcliffe Hospital it was 52 per cent. This means people seen within four hours. As at December 2013 it was 73 per cent.

We would think that the honourable member for Redcliffe would be happy that the minister has bailed her out of her embarrassing mistake. No longer will the people of Redcliffe have to look day in and day out at an empty building that was meant to be a GP superclinic. No longer will 'Doc' have to put up with the embarrassment of an empty building because the Minister for Health has bailed her out.

We have a minister who is delivering a better health system, who is actually paying doctors, nurses and support workers in the health system on time generally speaking and giving them the right amount of pay. We have a health minister who has dealt with ambulance ramping issues and problems in terms of emergency department access. We have a health minister who is actually going through the important program of reform in the health system.

I go back to the question. Why would we censure a health minister who is arguably the most successful health minister the state has seen in 25 to 30 years? I go back to the Labor Party. The Labor Party never censured anybody, anytime for anything because they never took responsibility anytime for anything.

(Time expired)

Energy Industry, Jobs

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Minister for Energy and Water Supply. Can the minister please advise how the government is promoting jobs and skills in the energy sector?

Mr McARDLE: I thank the member for the question. She is a hardworking member on the Gold Coast. The issues of power and water are at the forefront of this government developing its four-pillar economy—whether it is tourism, construction, resources or agriculture. To do that we need to have young people trained in the electricity industry to ensure that we get continued, good quality service from both Ergon and Energex.

I had the great fortune to be in Townsville recently and meet young men from Ergon. I met Ryan from Ayr and Josh from Winton. These two young men started apprenticeships within five days of me meeting them. They were excited. They saw careers ahead for them for many years to come. There are 79 young men starting apprenticeships in Ergon and some 16 in Energex.

To become an apprentice in either Ergon or Energex is a very hard and arduous task. These men are put through a rigorous regime to ensure they are the right people to take on board in the electricity industry. Working with electricity is a very dangerous profession. It is very dangerous and the utmost care and caution must be taken in selecting whom we train up to work in either of those utilities.

I spoke to these young men and you could see that they were as keen as mustard. What they saw was a long-term future. They will gain practical experience. They will become qualified in an area and in a profession that is well recognised. They will get paid while they are taught and they will learn the latest knowledge and skills.


Well-trained professional workers are the key to the future success of the power sector in this state. It is so important because it is the energy infrastructure that is an economic enabler for both business and industry. This government will continue to work with all apprentices in this sector to ensure they get the best outcome for themselves and their families, because we need the young people in this sector to develop the skills and the technology for years to come. As I said, all four pillars of our economy and our economic growth depend upon young people coming on board and providing the best they possibly can. In addition to that, this government will not sit idly by. We are developing the 30-year energy plan to ensure we gather the best and the brightest, not just in Ergon and Energex but right across the state, to drive this state harder and faster into the future, taking on board the essential technology we need to make life simpler and more efficient for all people across Queensland.

(Time expired)

Madam SPEAKER: The time for questions has expired.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Daniel Morcombe; Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.00 am): Today I want to pay tribute to the courage, the dignity and the determination of Bruce and Denise Morcombe. This couple and their family lived through every parent's nightmare. They spent a decade experiencing the worst kind of sadness and desolation—not knowing what had become of their cherished son Daniel when he disappeared. As they grieved, Queensland grieved with them. As they tried to find their way through the devastation and the mystery of Daniel's disappearance, Queensland shared their pain. But, in the glare of publicity as Queensland police undertook the most extensive investigation in history, they refused to let Daniel's memory fade.

They established the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, which has seen tens of thousands of school kids learn how to protect themselves. In providing valuable life lessons through the foundation, they no doubt have helped prevent attacks against children and provided a generation of Australian children with an invaluable education on how to keep themselves safe. As the man who committed this horrific crime and took Daniel from his family begins his prison sentence, I, like all Queenslanders, and I believe all members of this House, hope that Bruce and Denise Morcombe, their family and their children find some solace.

On another note, on behalf of the opposition, I would also like to extend our deepest sympathies to Dr Chris Davis and his family. We heard about the tragedy last night. It has deeply shocked all of us on the opposition side, at it has everyone throughout the whole parliament. Our thoughts and prayers are with their family as they go through this time.

Today I want to talk about the doctors crisis that is engulfing this government. The health minister stood in this place not more than an hour ago and talked about all the issues that he was now finally addressing in relation to this dispute. He thanked senior medical officers very personally for the leadership they provide. There is no thanks for the leadership that this government has provided. In fact, the health minister and the Premier have been found wanting in terms of any resemblance of leadership to resolve this crisis.

The opposition first raised this issue over 130 days ago, when we raised the issue of the contract here in this parliament and asked the minister and the government what they were doing about this contract. And we got silence—absolute silence. We have seen the situation arise over the last couple of months where the public are deeply, deeply concerned about the crisis that is engulfing our public health system. What has been the response from this government? The response has been for the health minister to hide his head in the sand and do absolutely nothing—do absolutely nothing about a crisis that could have been avoided. How could it have been avoided? By (a) leadership and (b) listening—listening to doctors.

Who can remember the Premier's famous words after the Redcliffe by-election, after the 17 per cent swing against the LNP government? 'I have heard the message and I will now listen to Queenslanders.' Well it is a bit hard to listen when you are overseas. But he has come back and once

again has failed to take any action, failed to provide the leadership that this state so rightly deserves. And what has the health minister been doing over this period of time? Well, we do not know because there has been silence from the health minister. But today's performance was the worst performance I have ever seen in this House from a health minister—a complete and utter disgrace. Very simple questions were put to the health minister and let me recap in detail for everybody.

One of the questions was: would he table the new contracts he was going to present to the doctors? What answer did we get? No, absolutely not. The health minister refuses to table the new contracts so that doctors and the public can sight these contracts in full. So he failed on that occasion. Then we asked another very simple question. We tried to make these questions very simple for the health minister today, hoping that he could comprehend these questions and that he would be able to answer these questions. The next question was along the lines of: how many specialist doctors have signed the contracts that have been personally delivered to them? Did we get an answer? No. Once again, there was complete silence—the minister failing to know very simple facts about this health crisis.

The next question was: how many specialists have resigned from the regions? Did we get an answer to that question? It was a very serious question because we are hearing that doctors are going from the Gold Coast and from Townsville. That is going to have a huge impact. We have seen reports that in Atherton I think, member for Mulgrave, five doctors—

Mr Pitt: Three.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—three doctors were considering leaving up there. The impact of these doctors leaving regional areas will be felt right across the state. We know that once you attract people to the regions they tend to raise their families there and, if they leave the regions and go interstate or overseas, they are going to be hard to replace. So did the minister answer that question? No. He failed dismally.

Then the member for Bundamba, the shadow health minister, raised another very important question about the secret black list of names that the minister will not release. Once again, he failed to release it. The allegations were: can the minister advise the House whether any of those names on that secret black list are names of either previous or current donors to the LNP or whether any of those people have been a candidate for the LNP? They are very simple questions. What is this government hiding from? Why are you hiding and why are you refusing to answer any of these questions?

So after what we have seen over the 130 days that have passed, this minister, who could have solved the issue from day one if he had (a) listened and (b) sat down with doctors and listened to their concerns, suddenly at the eleventh hour has been painted as this knight in shining armour who is coming in to save the day. I am sorry but this is a health minister who created this mess and who is now mopping up his own mess. He is no white knight in shining armour. This is a minister who now has to fix up the mess he has created. It is a last minute deal, and Queenslanders have every right to ask: how did it get to this? How did it get to this situation where there is expected to be over 1,000 doctors at the Brisbane convention centre tomorrow night who are threatening to walk away from the public hospital system? These doctors do not want to walk away from the public health system. They want to continue working in the public hospital system.

Mr Pitt: They feel they have no other choice.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. They feel they have no other choice but to take the action that they are thinking about taking because this government is so arrogant that it will not listen to their concerns.

The only resolution here is for this health minister to be sacked. The Premier needs to show leadership and it is about time that he sacked this incompetent health minister, had a reshuffle, got rid of the dead wood, moved some people from the back bench who might be a bit more competent than the health minister and actually took some decisive action in resolving this issue.

We heard the health minister today talk about how he is now going to address the issues of fatigue, unfair dismissal and the collective agreements: he is going to put in place a ministerial directive and he is going to create new contracts. That is the biggest backflip I have ever seen.

These are the issues that we have been raising time and time again and that doctors have been raising time and time again in the media, and this arrogant, know-it-all, incompetent, bungling health minister who could not answer a single question in the House today should do the right thing and resign. He does not deserve to be in the position of health minister. It was the worst performance

from a health minister that I have ever seen in my time in this House. He failed to answer any questions. Guess what? Being a minister requires hard work. It does not require sitting behind a desk in Charlotte Street but getting out there and meeting with doctors and listening to people on the ground to avert a crisis where doctors are thinking of walking out of our public health system. Every member in this House should be thinking, 'How did it come to this?' If this health minister had any shred of decency or integrity, he would offer his resignation letter to the Premier today and let someone who is competent take over and do the job that is meant to be about preserving our public hospital system in this state.

Foster and Kinship Carer Week



Hon. TE DAVIS (Aspley—LNP) (Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services) (11.10 am): Last week from 9 to 15 March was Foster and Kinship Carer Week. What a great week it was. The special week is a celebration of the dedication and commitment of Queensland's foster and kinship carers who provide children and young people with a safe, loving and stable home. There are currently more than 4,700 carer families in Queensland who find room in their hearts and their homes for more than 7,400 children and young people in care. The week offered an opportunity to highlight the selfless work by foster and kinship carers, to thank them for their efforts and to raise the profile of foster and kinship caring in the community.

I was delighted to launch the week at the conclusion of Foster Care Queensland's conference on the Sunshine Coast as well as events throughout the week and personally thank the foster and kinship carers who provide safe and loving homes to Queensland's vulnerable children and young people. On Wednesday it was my pleasure to join the member for Morayfield and meet some of the dedicated carers of his electorate. I was impressed to learn that some of the carers had been opening their hearts and their homes to foster children for more than 30 years. I would also like to acknowledge the Assistant Minister for Child Safety, the member for Mount Ommaney, who travelled around the state attending many of the Foster and Kinship Carer Week events, learning firsthand from carers about the challenges that they face and their great contribution to children in care.

Today I am very pleased to welcome some of our foster and kinship carers to Parliament House, and I acknowledge their presence in the House today. Welcome Lucy, Tartu, Michael, Natasha and Rhonda. I would like to sincerely thank you for everything that you do. I am sure I speak on behalf of all members in this place when I express our gratitude for your tireless work in this area. I hope you enjoyed this morning's proceedings and I hope you felt extra special last week. While foster and kinship carers come from varied backgrounds, they all have one thing in common: an enormous generosity of spirit and a commitment to making a difference in the lives of children and young people. They deserve a very public thank you for their great work. I was delighted to see them receive that over the past week.


To help with the week's celebration, the Queensland government partnered with PeakCare to administer regional grants to 17 organisations that held events to thank carers right across our great state. As well as administering the regional event grants, PeakCare developed a special website that included a calendar of events as well as an online open letter of appreciation to our carers. As I speak today, well over 1,000 people have taken the time to visit the Foster and Kinship Carer Week website and become a signatory to that letter. This letter wholeheartedly thanks foster and kinship carers with its signatories including some very well-known people like Queensland Academy Award-winning Geoffrey Rush, well-known musicians Katie Noonan and Marcia Hines, as well as sporting identity Michael De Vere. I was delighted to see that Mrs Lisa Newman also added her support.

The broad range of organisations that added their messages of support included the Coffee Club, Australia Zoo, Queensland Cricket, Village Roadshow Theme Parks as well as non-government organisations, councils and some of my fellow members of parliament. I am very proud to have posted my own personal message of appreciation for our dedicated carers.

Another way the Queensland government showed its appreciation last week was allowing foster and kinship carers to become part of the carer business discount card scheme. This scheme offers discounts at more than 4½ thousand businesses across the state and was previously only available to eligible carers of people with a disability. Opening up the discount card to foster and kinship carers was a good way of acknowledging the great job that they do and helping them stretch their dollar further.

Through Foster and Kinship Carer Week, we aim to raise the profile of this important role. I encourage anyone who may have room in their hearts, their homes and their lives for one more child to visit my department's website or call the foster carer recruitment phone line to find out more information. Queensland has great foster and kinship carers who deserve nothing but our continual acknowledgement and thanks throughout the whole year—not just Foster and Kinship Carer Week—but especially during their very special week each year in March.

Electrical Trades Union

 **Hon. MF McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (11.15 am): Recently we have had a lot of hot air, froth and bubble from the Electrical Trades Union of Employees Queensland—or the ETU as they are more commonly known—about the power sector in Queensland. The people of Queensland know we currently have an electricity sector that is beset by Labor debt and Labor green schemes and that is producing outcomes for Queenslanders which are unacceptable either at home or in business. The government is determined to continue its reform of this sector. However, it is clear that we are going to be fought every step of the way by the ETU, which former Premier Anna Bligh once described as a militant and extremist organisation.

Recently, the ETU has been making noise about the commercial decision that the Stanwell Corporation made to put its Swanbank E Power Station into cold storage and instead reopen two units at Tarong. The ETU has been madly trying to suggest that this is linked to some sort of asset sale agenda. However, it does not mention anything about the closure of the Swanbank B Power Station by CS Energy back in 2010. Over 100 positions were affected by the decision that day, yet the ETU rolled over like a Labrador wanting its tummy tickled. We did not see any big green billboards and we did not see any privatisation scare campaigns that day.

We have also seen examples recently where the ETU seems to have an issue with the truth. Recently, Justice Collier in a Federal Court decision said about evidence given by the ETU officials that it was 'weak and speculative'. Justice Collier then proceeded to rule against the application by the ETU. However, in more recent days we have seen more comment about the ETU. Former Labor transport minister and member for Ipswich, Rachel Nolan, has entered the debate in a not so subtle way by drafting an opinion piece for the *Brisbane Times*. In a piece titled 'The ETU is nobody's friend' the former minister bells the cat on the modus operandi of this organisation. She states—

The union's militant and relentlessly negative form should be borne in mind both by ordinary voters who have a right to know the agenda of those they're hearing from ...

She further states—

Sure, it's easy to stand in lock step with the ETU now when the party has so few MPs and friends, but Labor people should never forget the ETU's form. These are not the kind of friends you need.

That is from a member of the ALP and a former cabinet minister. I again quote her words about the ETU—

These are not the kind of friends you need.

This sentiment was backed up by a media release that the ETU released when Peter Simpson, or Simmo as he is affectionately known, told everyone that 200 ETU members may have connections to criminal motorcycle gangs or associations therewith. I table that release for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 10 January 2014, from the Electrical Trades Union titled, 'ETU plans High Court Challenge to extreme new laws that threaten honest livelihoods' [[4665](#)].


This instigated the announcement that the ETU would spend its members' money challenging the Newman government's strong criminal motorcycle gang laws in the court system. We can draw our own conclusions about the ALP and ETU support in relation to laws that are there to protect members of our society. This is now a regular pattern of behaviour from the ETU leadership spending their members' money on legal challenges. They are currently suing me—little old me—and also a blogger who criticised Peter Simpson, just to name a couple. I am heart-stricken by that legal action, too.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr McARDLE: I am weeping! I take the interjection. Hardworking electricity members who are members of the ETU should heed the words of Rachel Nolan. I never, ever thought I would come to the point in this House where I would stand up and say, 'I support Rachel Nolan.' I could never, ever have seen this day coming, but lo and behold here it is. The ETU is not your friend: manna from

heaven, actual reality, truth from the Bible. Rachel Nolan, bless your heart. They spread misleading statements and misinformation to benefit their masters, the Queensland Labor Party, through their 'not for sale' campaign. However, actions and words demonstrate that 'not for sale' is simply not for real.

Sale of Public Assets

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (11.20 am): The con job from the LNP on asset sales has begun in earnest. The Premier and the Treasurer like to pretend that they have not made up their minds on asset sales, but Queenslanders know the truth. They know that the Premier and the Treasurer are both fully invested in this course of action. Their rhetoric around considering 'choices' yet then saying they do not have any other choice apart from asset sales shows that the LNP is not listening to people in this state.

It is clear that, after not quite two years in the job, this Treasurer has run out of ideas. It is clear that the federal Liberal Party and global investment banks are the ones running economic and fiscal policy here in Queensland and they are doing it at the expense of the views of everyday Queenslanders, who have spoken long and loud about their desire to keep public assets in public hands. The people I speak to—and I suspect many people to whom those opposite speak—have not changed their minds. They are asking why the LNP said before the last election that they had a plan to pay down debt that did not involve asset sales yet are now going back on their word. They are asking why the Premier compares our state to Spain and the Treasurer says that we are going broke—making outlandish statements like this—and then they go on taxpayer funded trade missions and say the exact opposite to people overseas. They are asking why millions of dollars are being spent on scoping studies for asset sales, lining the pockets of global investment bankers, while their electricity bills are going through the roof. The LNP knows that it should be listening to the people of Queensland, yet it has clearly chosen not to.

At least the \$20,000-a-month taxpayer funded spin doctors, who were hired to spin the government's message, know it. They told the Premier that someone needs to 'at least pretend they are listening' before the inevitable sell-off is announced. That is why the Premier pushed the Treasurer out the door of the bankers' boardrooms in Eagle Street and sent him off to a few places in regional Queensland on a so-called listening tour. How did these meetings play out? Firstly, they were invite only. That is right: the Treasurer says, 'Let's go and consult and listen,' and then he draws up his own attendee list and locks the doors. If you are supposed to be listening, why would you close the door to everyday Queenslanders and refuse their attendance at these meetings? How can you call an invite-only process genuine consultation? You cannot because it is not. If it were genuine consultation, Queensland residents and families would be invited to attend. Sadly, only those on the Treasurer's rolodex will get to go through the door.

Where were the families who question what kind of future their kids will have if the LNP sells off everything they can get their hands on? They were locked out, shut out and completely disregarded by this LNP government. What was discussed in these meetings? According to the Treasurer, he delivered his spin about the state's finances, neglecting to mention the \$14.6 billion in debt that he has added in just two years. That is over \$830,000 worth of extra debt added by the member for Clayfield every single hour that he has had control of the purse strings. He also did not tell them about the dog's breakfast that is his management of the 1 William Street project, where \$2.6 billion is being wasted on the Premier's personal skyscraper. Of course, the Treasurer does not mind running the gauntlet on that project. After all, he firmly believes that he will be occupying the top floor of that building once Santo's boys gives the current Premier the chop. He also would not have told them about the \$100,000 wasted on the Attorney-General's royal birth certificates. This is, of course, small change compared to the waste on the Premier's skyscraper, but it is instructive of how the government campaigns against wasting money while throwing billions away on their pet projects.


So once he delivers the spin typed out for him by the \$20,000-a-month taxpayer funded PR consultants, what does he do? He asks those present to give him the answers. He tells them that, if they want to pay down debt, they should tell him what needs to happen. There is no wonder his backbench colleagues, especially the member for Moggill, think the member for Clayfield is the laziest Treasurer in Queensland's history. According to the Treasurer, what was the response from his invite-only guests when presented with his doom and gloom scenario? They agreed with him of course. Asset sales it is, according to the Treasurer. What a shock! What a surprise! A remarkably different outcome from what everyone expected! Now we hear the federal Treasurer setting deadlines for the states to sell off as many assets as possible and pretending there is some financial benefit. Let

us be clear about what this will mean. The federal Treasurer's proposal would see profits from these businesses go to the private sector and any financial returns to Queensland equalised away through the GST process. That means no gains for Queensland whatsoever. We would lose our assets, we would lose our profits and we would lose GST payments.

The Newman government is working with the Abbott government to pull the wool over the eyes of Queenslanders and sell off our assets. First they had Peter Costello saying, 'The devil told me to do it,' and now they have Treasurer Joe Hockey wielding his almighty power as federal Treasurer telling them, 'Do it or you don't get anything off us as a federal government.'

The Labor Party has listened to Queenslanders. A message was sent very clearly to all politicians at the last election—not just to the Labor Party—that Queenslanders do not want publicly owned assets sold. I say to all the cannon fodder, which is exactly how they are treating them: you are going to bear the brunt of these decisions at the next election. Quite simply, they can either stand by and keep drinking the Kool-Aid or get on board, show some gumption and run against their own mob.

Road Safety; Crime Rates

 **Mr YOUNG** (Keppel—LNP) (11.25 am): I rise to bring to the attention of the House two important messages from the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Central Region, Mr Mike Condon, who launched the Central Region Road Safety Week on Sunday. Road Safety Week commenced yesterday, the 17th, and runs to 23 March 2014. The police minister, the Hon. Jack Dempsey, was a welcome sight in the Central Region to support the 'Road Safety is Your Future' safety week. Everyone has been touched by the loss of a family member, a distant relative or a friend from a motor vehicle accident. As a young man I lost many of my school mates who succumbed to motor vehicle accidents, including two brothers from one family. Rockhampton had the pleasure of having former Army Corporal Ben Roberts-Smith VC to attend the breakfast and to be a special guest to launch the two new police vehicles. Ben Roberts-Smith is the ambassador for the Central Queensland Region's Road Safety Week campaign, a joint initiative between Queensland Police Service, the state government and major sponsors.

Whilst on the subject of policing, I can say that the statistics for crime in the Capricornia District released on 6 March show a massive drop in property/robbery offences, by 44 per cent. This data is a snapshot of the six months from 1 July 2012 to February 2013 and 1 July 2013 to February 2014. This is a magnificent result being a culmination of the reform in youth justice laws, the good work by the youth justice reference group, of which I am a member, and the Capricornia District Tactical Crime Squad, which has had a priority focus on property crime. Rockhampton has a long history of repeat offenders, and those offenders often reoffend whilst under bail conditions. Intelligence plays a significant role in the targeting and management of those property offences.

One important aspect of the youth justice reference group is to target the management of our top 20 persons on youth justice orders. The tactical crime squad also placed enhanced emphasis on targeting known property offenders using target prioritisation tools, with ongoing checks on bail and curfew compliance being the centrepiece of that strategy. Daily intelligence briefings are provided across the Capricornia region so that operational police are provided with up-to-date information on active property offences and offenders. Crime Stoppers also plays a pivotal role, with the information provided to police leading to the arrest of offenders. In January and February 2014 the region received a total of 154 Crime Stoppers reports from members of the public which assisted in solving a variety of offences and led to the arrest of 24 offenders who were charged with 50 offences.


Other promising crime rate figures which have been verified by the police force's Statistical Services unit showed that not only have robbery offences decreased by 44 per cent but also assaults are down by 44 per cent. There has also been a massive 31 per cent reduction in sex offences; a 23 per cent reduction in unlawful entry to premises, which are generally termed as break and enter; a 12 per cent reduction in unlawful use of a motor vehicle; and an eight per cent reduction in stealing from a motor vehicle.

Another important arm of the Capricorn Tactical Crime Squad is the deployment of their mobile enforcement task force, or MET, to assist with drug enforcement operations, road policing and policing of public order incidents. Their three major operations, namely operations Shred, Yewdale and Pollution, resulted in numerous persons being charged with the production, distribution and supply of dangerous drugs along with counts of stolen property.

Two other important measures which are proving pivotal to crime reduction in our region are also outcomes from the liquor accord meetings, which we hold monthly. These provide data shared across our hotels and clubs to combat alcohol fuelled violence and antisocial behaviour, and they are really working well.

The three-strike policy in the public housing sector is also showing dividends. Tenants who have had a long history of antisocial behaviour are now showing common courtesy to their neighbours. I entered public life as the representative for Keppel with the goal to address the ongoing issue of crime within the region, and I am delighted to see some very good outcomes in crime reduction. I wish to acknowledge the hard work of our region's police officers.

Alcohol Fuelled Violence

 **Mr BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (11.30 am): I last spoke about alcohol fuelled violence in February. The expert evidence and people speaking about the need for action must be embarrassing for the Premier who portrays himself as a 'can-do' Premier, only for the community to discover that he is impotent to the puppet masters pulling the strings in the LNP. I would suggest that the vested interest groups have got to him. It is embarrassing to watch the government try to deflect everyone's attention away from what the experts on the ground say will work whilst ignoring the science of alcohol fuelled violence. The science of alcohol fuelled violence is settled. It is backed up by peer reviewed research from all over the world, and the Premier risks being depicted as the Lord Monckton of alcohol violence deniers if he continues to deny alcohol fuelled violence science—that is, the facts—just like that renowned climate change denier.

If the Premier opens his eyes, he will see that the latest internationally published peer reviewed research was released this month. It shows that the Newcastle solution has prevented 3,000 to 4,000 assaults. Professor Kypri—who I met when I travelled to Newcastle—indicated upon the release of the latest research that the Newcastle solution effect on the ground is around a 20 per cent reduction in assaults per hour for each hour of reduced trading, as has been proven in Norway and 15 other countries. That is a fact. The research shows that eight cities where trading hours were increased saw a similar 20 per cent increase in assaults per hour. That is a fact. Professor Kypri also pointed out how other interested parties like to use the research that has been done in Victoria, which was poorly designed and not subjected to the rigour required for it to be published in any peer reviewed literature around the world.

Last week the New South Wales Police Commissioner praised the program and said that the Newcastle solution is having a significant impact globally. The Foundation for Alcohol Research & Education warned the Premier that the key issue was reducing trading hours and it was flawed logic to focus on tougher penalties. The March issue of the *Queensland Police Union Journal* has experienced police saying that simply focusing on penalties misses the point, because offenders do not think about consequences when they are drunk at four in the morning. One experienced officer describes that solution as similar to 'putting on a bulletproof vest after you have been shot' and then outlines that we need to provide less opportunity for people to get rotten drunk, which includes reducing trading hours.

Surfers Paradise police write in this month's edition of the *Queensland Police Union Journal* that the current government has reduced the drink safe precinct trial to 'a shell of its former self' and that funding for police is coming from internal savings following the cuts to the program. They then highlight that trading hours and the lockout are among the most likely solutions to reduce violence. The Queensland Police Union has long held the view that trading hours are an important element to reduce alcohol fuelled violence. In fact, Ian Leavers said—


Police have long pushed for a complete closure of licensed premises at 2 am, however, we would compromise for a 3 am close.

In the same issue a member of the Police Union wrote that the problem deserved as much attention as the bikie issue and that 'pussyfooting around does nothing to solve the problem'. Barry O'Farrell did not pussyfoot around and adopted similar measures to those which Queensland Labor has put on the table. The results are coming in and they are effective: hospital admissions due to alcohol fuelled violence are down dramatically, along with admissions due to accidental alcohol related injuries; no coward punch victims at St Vincents Hospital; fewer drunks wandering the streets; and big tourist events like the Mardi Gras being successful, despite predicted doom and gloom. Labor recognises that data collection of alcohol related admissions is important to demonstrate the success of any measures. Our front-line police, paramedics and hospital staff deserve the same strong action

to improve their workplaces, but what do they get from our present government and the Premier? He travels to Los Angeles where pubs close at 2 am and—what an irony—announces that he expects patrons to adhere to a no vomit code of conduct before they can have a drink in the pub.

I draw the attention of the members of the House to the fact that in parliament tomorrow the Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol is holding a special forum to educate people on measures to combat alcohol abuse. I implore the Premier and every other member of the LNP here who actually care about the community to come and listen to what those experts have to say so that we can prevent the people in Queensland from being bashed. To the Premier I would say that whatever our disagreements are, I implore him to ignore the vested interest groups, put the feather duster away and put the spin away, and take the sensible measures to reduce violence in this state that his counterpart in New South Wales has had the courage to do.

Manufacturing

 **Ms MILLARD** (Sandgate—LNP) (11.35 am): Today I raise the issue of manufacturing in Queensland for the second time in parliament. I am sure it is of no surprise to most members in the chamber that this is a topic that is close to my heart.

In broadest terms, manufacturing is the production of goods or input for use or sale. It can be high tech, labour intensive, or something in between. I commend this Newman government for the policies that it is putting in place to step out of the way of industry and let it do what it does best. An unprecedented reduction in regulation to support Queensland industry has been carried out in a remarkably short period of time, which makes a huge contribution to our impressive economic growth—forecast to be four per cent in 2014-15—making Queensland the fastest growing Australian economy.

I also recognise that the Queensland government has committed to a local content framework and has injected \$8.75 million into Queensland's research sector to boost innovation, all of which are initiatives that can support Queensland's manufacturing sector. I am extremely proud to be part of a growth oriented government that thinks about a future Queensland in which we all want to live, and it was for this very vision that I entered politics in the first place.

My passion for the manufacturing industry in particular was consolidated during an approximately 20-year-long career in the steel industry prior to entering parliament. While my personal experience has definitely coloured the intensity of my views concerning the importance of this sector to the Queensland economy, there is a substantial body of corroborating data. The manufacturing sector employs around one million Australians, which is 8.5 per cent of the workforce and five times that of the mining sector; contributes close to 10 per cent of total industry gross value added in Australia—note GVA was around 16 per cent in 1986—is responsible for a third of our exports; and has strong potential for foreign investors. These points are not debated and, as noted, there is no doubt that our government is the most pro-industry government that Queensland has ever seen. So why does the manufacturing sector continue to decline?


I have spoken with constituents and previous work colleagues who have experienced one job loss after another as manufacturing companies close down or move offshore to reduce costs. We often have some fairly lengthy conversations and debates. The short answer is that there are many pressures on today's manufacturing firms which are outside the realm of direct government control, including a high Australian dollar, the effects of liberalisation over time, new technologies, and a small domestic market. Nevertheless, I cannot help wondering if more could be done to embark on a focused action plan for revitalisation to ensure that manufacturing can make a solid contribution in the future to employment growth and to an economy that will be more diversified.

Case studies from countries such as Germany, which have actively nurtured a competitive manufacturing sector, suggest that they fared better during the global financial crisis. Other issues worth considering are what skills are developed through our manufacturing sector that we want to retain in Queensland. If decline continues in areas such as metal and machinery, where employers are running at 50 per cent capacity or less, the Queensland economy will lose essential skills that young people are hoping to employ once they graduate from vocational education. Yet another set of issues partially within the jurisdiction of our federal counterparts relates to levelling the playing field internationally.

I do not stand before you today with answers, nor do I intend to present anything more than complaints and problems. This government's industry vision sets us squarely on the track towards prosperity, and I am impressed with its dexterity in facilitating industry to do what it does best: drive

an economy, create employment and innovate. I simply want to keep our manufacturing sector—one of Queensland's major employees and an essential variable in our own unique Australian brand—at the forefront of people's minds. It does have unique challenges as an industry. I would love to see us engage in a comprehensive review of the manufacturing sector so that we as a government can ask more questions concerning issues confronting the industry and reasonable strategies that may yet be undiscovered. I would love to see us as a government ask the people of Queensland what they would like to see from our manufacturing industry and what is important to them and to look to other governments to see what we can learn.


Newman Government

 **Mr JUDGE** (Yeerongpilly—PUP) (11.40 am): I firstly want to pass on condolences on behalf of the Palmer United Party to Dr Chris Davis and his family. He is one of the good people in this parliament and our thoughts are with him and his family at this difficult time.

Good people do what they must in spite of pressures, consequences, obstacles and even dangers. That is the basis of human morality. I believe in human morality. I believe in doing what is right. I know doing what is right is not always easy. I understand the obligation to do it anyway. I comprehended that a clear conscience should not be underrated, especially in politics. I entered politics to serve all people, not just some, and to do what is right. Just like policing to serve and protect the community, politics is not for the faint hearted nor fearful. The radical rule of the Newman government is hurting and harming too many Queenslanders and the two principal offenders are the grossly inexperienced Attorney-General and the Premier. While the Premier may see nothing wrong with giving the member for Kawana some legal experience as the Attorney-General, the rest of Queensland is suffering for it. Queensland's so-called first law officer is our state's worst ever law officer. As a zealous monarchist, he may start each day by saying 'God save the Queen', but each day many other people are now saying 'God save Queensland'. The Attorney-General's disgraceful disregard for submissions and reports from experienced senior departmental officers as well as many respected experts and even ordinary people should be a serious concern for everyone involved in the important process of law-making. The Newman government's arrogance towards the electorate, along with the Attorney-General's ignorance towards evidence based policy, was apparent from a very early point in time and frankly became untenable. Resigning from the LNP was not easy, but it was right. It gave me a clear conscience. The Premier and the Attorney-General lost my trust and respect a long time ago now, but the recent Redcliffe by-election confirms that the Newman government has lost the trust and respect of many Queenslanders. Many Queenslanders voted for change—not chaos, not carnage. The Premier and the Attorney-General are now branded the 'can-doers' of political offensiveness and are jointly responsible, with others, for the destruction of democracy in Queensland.

I served in the Queensland police for two decades before entering politics. I lived in many communities across the state and always valued and respected people and stood up for victims and locals. I will continue to represent my constituents in Yeerongpilly well and truly for the entire duration of this parliament. It is my intention to then relocate with my wife and my children to the Sunshine Coast. At the next election I will campaign in Kawana and work hard there to win people's trust and respect. I recently read a claim by the current member for Kawana that people never know where I stand on law and order. I remind the Attorney-General that I have introduced three private member's bills addressing looting, child protection and organised crime. People should know that this is typical of his false and misleading claims and that he is a person who I know is unfit for parliament. The truth is that the Attorney-General has always known exactly where I have stood and now he also knows exactly where I stand at the next election.

Gas Industry


 **Dr FLEGG** (Moggill—LNP) (11.45 am): One of the critical issues for the future of our economy is the adequacy of supply and the cost of energy. We have already seen an upheaval with the dramatic increase in the cost of electricity. We are in the process of seeing an even greater upheaval in the cost of gas. A study commissioned by the Department of Industry conducted by Intelligent Energy Systems—IES—showed that by just 2016 gas demand in Australia will triple to 2,300 petajoules due to the liquefaction of natural gas for export. By the time these facilities are in full operation, we will export three times the amount that we currently use domestically. While the IES report suggests that the supply of gas will be adequate to meet demands, we need to look at its underlying assumptions. To have adequate gas supplies, it is assumed that a third of supply in New

South Wales, which currently imports 95 per cent of its gas from other states, will come from the as yet undeveloped Gunnedah and Gloucester basins. Given the current regulatory hurdles in New South Wales, this is an unlikely scenario. It also concludes that gas will be so expensive that production of electricity from gas will plummet, resulting in a significant overall contraction of domestic gas demand. It also assumes that all planned pipelines will go ahead. Even in this Goldilocks market, if all of these planets align, we will see an increase in Queensland from around \$3 a gigajoule to around \$10 a gigajoule and, on many estimates, \$12 a gigajoule or even more. Once exports begin, we will in effect pay a netback world parity pricing.

A tripling of current gas prices and the upheaval for business and domestic consumers could not be overstated. Domestic consumers will pay huge increases, but the real pain will be felt by industrial users. We have already seen the amazing decision by Stanwell to mothball Swanbank E because it is uneconomic at current gas prices. The Grattan Institute estimates domestic users will pay an extra \$1.4 billion annually for gas, with households paying up to an extra \$160 each year. The food processing industry is estimated to pay \$170 million extra. One of Queensland's largest companies, Incitec Pivot, with a market capitalisation of \$5 billion, has chosen Louisiana in the US for its \$850 million ammonia plant because of what it describes as the 'gas market dislocation in Australia'. In another announcement, Incitec Pivot on 19 December 2013 secured just 23 months of gas supply for Phosphate Hill in north-west Queensland but to do so had to pay an additional \$50 million each year in 2015 and again in 2016. Many energy-intensive industries such as metal refineries, fertilisers, explosives and gas power generation are unlikely to be able to compete. The chief executive of BlueScope Steel said that Australia is the only country in the world that exports gas without having a national gas policy or understanding how gas is positive for value-added industries as well as export. 'I think there is a problem, and quite frankly I think there is a train wreck coming,' Mr O'Malley from BlueScope said. On the other side of the industry, Mr Wrench, CEO of gas producer Strike, said that a lot of these industrial consumers just cannot afford to run their businesses if they have to pay \$8 or \$9 a gigajoule.

A few facts are indisputable. Firstly, if all current gas uses were to continue along with export volumes, there would not be adequate supply. It is equally obvious that with prices tripling—and, on some credible estimates, rising more—industrial users will close and take their activities overseas and domestic users will seek other sources. It is also equally apparent that a market is operating here. High prices will draw in new supply, provided government regulation allows it, and of course with the long lead time for infrastructure. I remain deeply concerned about the impact on certain parts of the Australian economy. I would have been a supporter of domestic reservation, but we cannot continue to trash our reputation for sovereign risk by continually moving the goalposts. I do declare per my pecuniary register that I own shares in some gas producers and explorers. If things like domestic reservation were to occur, they would be negatively affected by that.

Gold Coast University Hospital

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—PUP) (11.50 am): Like nearly everything ever stated by the health minister, his most recent comments about the Gold Coast University Hospital and what is really going on are just plain wrong. He claims that I have created a crisis of confidence on the coast. He also claims that the local hospital and health board is working with local clinicians and that there is a local health service that is working for them. There is no evidence to support any of these claims and my evidence is significant to the contrary and I have tabled most of it or spoken of it. The only crisis of confidence on the Gold Coast is that being created by the health minister, who refused to reveal the details of the final senior medical officer contracts to hospital doctors until today, and that was only in part. Secondly, when 140 doctors' complaints were ignored by the local hospital board regarding the actions of CEO Ron Calvert, the minister pretended nothing had occurred, as did the hospital board chair. The board sat on its hands and did nothing either. The subsequent limited inquiry into the medical officers found a toxic culture at the hospital. It found that there were deep divisions among senior medical staff about the hospital's management, governance and the hospital's objectives and a loss of trust in the senior executive because of the way a medical assessment unit was introduced.

Despite this damning report, the minister came out in a media statement saying that the review awarded the Gold Coast University Hospital a clean bill of health. That was extraordinary. This is the opposite of what the report stated. This is the hypocrisy that goes on with this government. This is lying. The pattern is consistent today. The minister is presenting a Clayton's contract at the last gasp to doctors. I raised the matter of a senior executive doctor, who I named a second time in parliament, bullying and pressuring members of staff to sign contracts. That doctor has now resigned from his executive position. The problem that I raised has now ceased. I have evidence from senior members

of staff that that is the case. The health minister, Mr Springborg, says that the local health service is working for them. Exactly who 'them' is is unclear. It is not the patients or the senior medical officers. Why did the minister not say that eight clinicians had gone further and made their complaints about the executive officer bullying them to the hospital board? The minister conveniently left out that part.

The member for Southern Downs, the Minister for Health, is working for no-one else other than himself. It is his crazed desire to become Premier, which he believes is his destiny, that is driving this current agenda. The hospital board is not working with clinicians. It is ignoring them and any complaints they make—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Dr DOUGLAS: The member for Coomera should support me, because it is very important for people—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Dr DOUGLAS: No. The board is ignoring any complaints they make about matters such as bullying. Yet here today the minister says that he believes that the SMOs and the VMOs should take advice regarding their contracts from that same board. What planet is he on? The Gold Coast University Hospital board has consistently refused to confront the CEO issues that have been raised by multiple medical officers ever since the CEO was placed in that position. That board now wishes to wash its hands of this executive officer's activities and it appears to want to blame the whistleblower. Worse still, the board wants to deny what has occurred and obviously refuses to acknowledge and publicly state that complaints have been made about this officer's repeated bullying behaviour towards staff who they claim were intimidated by him. In other words, these staff members have made complaints to the board and there is a denial that that has occurred by the minister, by the hospital board chairman and by anyone else representing the government. But in his statements the minister goes even further.

No amount of government spin will change what is clearly obvious. The Campbell Newman government, with the health minister as its steroid loaded gunslinger, is shooting every doctor or health worker it can to ram through unfair Work Choices mark II contracts even at this stage. The end result of the government's actions are either a captive, suppressed workforce on contracts that are unfair and malignant or no real workforce at all. Either way, the health minister foolishly believes that he wins. But we all lose because of this decision—everybody loses. The latter option is that patients are denied all care and, by default, no money has to come from consolidated revenue to pay for them. That achieves the LNP's stated objective of saving money and cutting red tape: no patients, empty hospitals, a denial of service, but filled Treasury coffers.

And wait for it: if SMOs do not sign by 30 March, then they cannot enable what they call their 30 June option, leaving doctors 30 per cent to 40 per cent out of pocket by missing that deadline. Yet today the Premier said that there was no disadvantage. That is not true. There is a disadvantage. Of course, the SMOs know that.

The minister is defending no-one else other than himself and he is damned for what he is doing to our free public hospital system. He has put his interest ahead of the public interest and we are all worse off because of that. His continuing brinkmanship, whilst testament to a 24-year career as a politician, damns him forever as the one who destroyed—

(Time expired)

Northern Gold Coast, Attractions



Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (11.55 am): I rise to bring to the attention of the House that sometimes what we need more than anything else is an adrenaline rush. For that, members need go no further than the northern Gold Coast. We have it all down there and I invite all of those hardworking members on this side of the House to do a tour with me of those adrenaline-rush areas that I am now going to outline for them.

First of all, on the western side of the highway we have Movie World and Wet'n'Wild. Let me tell members about the thrills at Movie World: Justice League 3D, Arkham Asylum, the Green Lantern coaster, Superman Escape and Batwing Spaceshot. There is absolutely amazing stuff there and members can see it on the northern Gold Coast.

At Wet'n'Wild there is AquaLoop, which will give members the ultimate adrenaline rush on four massive transparent looping slides. There is also the Tornado, the Blackhole, the Surfrider and the Kamikaze. Some members might want to spend a little bit of time on the Kamikaze.

Across the road there are the big eight thrill rides of Dreamworld: the Pandamonium, the Tower of Terror, the Giant Drop, the Buzzsaw, the Cyclone, Wipeout, the Claw and the Mick Doohan Motocoaster.

Dr Flegg: And you've done them all.

Mr CRANDON: I have not done them all. I have done a few of them. I have to tell members that the Buzzsaw is terrifying. It makes you squeal like a girl! There is also Whitewater World. Of course, everyone would understand and appreciate what the Wedgie is all about. I am sure that those young people in the balcony would appreciate what a wedgie is. They can be wedgied by Whitewater World with Pipeline Plunge just to finish things off.

And it does not stop there. Australia's first V8 supercar official driving experience opened recently on the Gold Coast. The member for Burleigh and I attended the opening of that experience, which was also attended by Jamie Whincup, Will Davison, James Courtney and Mark Winterbottom. By the way, I represented the minister at the opening, who was very pleased that I brought back a helmet for her to use as perhaps a fundraiser for her local community.

I will go on. The Gold Coast also has the Xtreme Karting experience, which is located along Pimpama-Jacobs Well Road. Its website states—

The team at Xtreme Karting is committed to motorsport and safety. From novice to expert we will help drive your karting experience.

I have been out to Xtreme Karting and done a few laps—

Mr Rickuss: Will it compete with Willowbank?

Mr CRANDON: It will absolutely smash Willowbank with the experience.

Mr Rickuss: Oh, come on! Be reasonable!

Mr CRANDON: I am talking about an adrenaline rush that the member and I can experience; not just watch somebody else race around a track.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr CRANDON: When was the last time the member was out there? I am talking about the northern Gold Coast. I am not taking any further interjections from the member. I am talking about the northern Gold Coast and the adrenaline rush that people will experience if they come to the northern Gold Coast.

The latest and absolute greatest experience is Game Over. Let me tell members that I have just done a tour of this particular facility and it is the facility that I particularly want all members to come along and experience with me, because this track is the first of its type in Australia. It is all under cover. It is a—

Mr Rickuss interjected.


Mr CRANDON: I told the member that I am not taking interjections. The maximum speed is 55 kilometres along the track and the electric racing cars take you around a very tight course. It is a fantastic experience. I am looking forward to going on that course in the not-too-distant future. On top of that, at that attraction there is also a fabulous death-defying leap. I am told that people get three chances at that. There are also 18 massive adventure climbing precincts at that attraction.

So members can see how the adrenaline rush on the northern Gold Coast will be experienced. I challenge all members in the House to put up their hands to come down and do a tour of the northern Gold Coast adrenaline-rush experiences with me. I see I already have one, two, three—I have a number of members who are going to attend with me in the not-too-distant future. I look forward to hosting them at those attractions.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The time for matters of public interest has expired.

CONSTRUCTION AND TOURISM (RED TAPE REDUCTION) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.00 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991, the Casino Control Act 1982, the Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999, the

Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998, the Keno Act 1996, the Lotteries Act 1997, the Reprints Act 1992 and the Wagering Act 1998 for particular purposes, and to provide for an act to repeal the Travel Agents Act 1988 and to make consequential and minor amendments to the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for related purposes. I now table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Construction and Tourism (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 [4666].

Tabled paper: Construction and Tourism (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes [4667].

I have presented this bill for an act to amend the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991, the Casino Control Act 1982, the Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998, the Keno Act 1996, the Lotteries Act 1997, the Wagering Act 1998 and the Reprints Act 1992 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Queensland Travel Agents Act 1988. I am pleased to introduce the Construction and Tourism (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 in parliament today.

At the 2012 state election the government made a commitment to grow a four-pillar economy based on tourism, construction, agriculture and resources. We also said that we would reduce red tape and regulation by 20 per cent in six years. The bill reflects our commitment in both of these important economic policy areas and illustrates our determination to grow the economy and create job security and prosperity for all Queenslanders.

Job security is enhanced by reforms that reduce the cost of doing business in this state whilst retaining important worker entitlements such as portable long service leave. The amount of leave or the availability of leave available to workers is not changing as a result of the amendments in this bill. The bill will streamline the Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991 that governs the equitable and efficient system of portable long service leave in the building and construction industry. The bill implements the results of a review of the Building and Construction Industry Portable Long Service Leave Scheme completed as part of the government's strategy to simplify business regulation and reduce costs to Queenslanders. It acknowledges the changing face of the construction industry and the concerns raised by the Queensland Resources Council regarding the scheme's application and effect on coal seam gas, liquefied natural gas and mining operations which require the building of infrastructure in Queensland.

The bill and associated regulatory changes will provide savings and less red tape in the following ways: it will reduce the QLeave levy rate from 0.3 per cent to 0.25 per cent. Based on the 2013-14 estimated total construction value of \$47.2 billion, a reduction of 0.05 per cent in the levy will reduce the industry impost from \$141.6 million to \$118.0 million, or 17 per cent. From an individual construction company perspective, a large resource company building, for instance, a \$1 billion infrastructure project, will save \$500,000, a midsize firm building a \$100 million high-rise block will save \$50,000 and a smaller \$300,000 housing project will save about \$150. It is estimated that the removal of GST from the leviable cost of work will save the industry approximately \$10 million per annum. It will increase the threshold value of projects from \$80,000 to \$150,000, with an estimated \$2.5 million per annum saving to the industry—primarily the lower-end housing and renovation sector. It will also assist housing affordability in a minor way. This change to the threshold will be of most benefit to employing small and medium-sized businesses engaged in residential house construction or renovation, which is an estimated 13,000 businesses. The application of a tiered levy rate for projects over \$1 billion in value will create savings mainly in the resource sector of up to \$10 million, reducing as resource construction falls. The removal of feasibility studies and environmental impact study costs from the leviable indirect cost of work will reduce red tape and result in savings of approximately \$0.5 million per annum. Finally, clarifying levy grey areas and boundaries between resource sector operational work and construction work will greatly reduce red tape and result in an estimated \$2 million to \$3 million in annual savings for the industry.

This bill applies to all building and construction work in Queensland. By reducing red tape and the cost of doing business, it delivers reforms that provide certainty and transparency for businesses and the Queensland workforce. The bill and associated regulatory changes enable significant improvements to the administration of the scheme. These amendments are evidence of the government's commitment to reducing costs for the building and construction industry. It is important to note, however, that the costs incurred by Queenslanders for whom the building and construction work is done will also be significantly reduced.

This bill will remove unnecessary regulatory restrictions on not-for-profit community clubs that provide important services to their members and local communities. Community clubs have long been a great asset to our communities. They play a significant role in terms of entertainment, employment creation, social contribution and provision of recreational facilities to communities. However, the community club industry has struggled in recent times as a result of a number of key external drivers such as softened demand for leisure activities, increased competition from online gambling providers and also, I might add, the constant regulation and red tape that the former Labor government introduced into our community club sector. The bill makes a number of amendments to the Gaming Machine Act 1991 to support clubs to continue to provide these important services to the community. These amendments include the removal of the requirement for an additional club premises to be approved only if it is near the club's existing premises. The removal of this requirement will facilitate larger clubs to establish new club premises in greenfield areas and to assist smaller struggling clubs to prevent their closure.

The bill also removes the requirement for club gaming machine entitlements to be sold within specific regional boundaries. Removing this geographical restriction will allow clubs to trade their entitlements with any licensed club within Queensland according to supply and demand. The bill also makes a minor amendment to the Gaming Machine Act to allow different maximum numbers of gaming machines to be prescribed in a regulation. The government has increased the maximum number of gaming machines allowed under a club licence from 280 to 300. The amendments will allow a regulation to prescribe a maximum number of gaming machines based on the number of sites operating under a licence provided that there are no more than 300 machines at any one venue. However, it is important to note that the government is not changing the overall cap on the number of gaming machines allowed in Queensland for community clubs, which will remain at 24,705. For absolute certainty and for any commentary that will follow I want to repeat that it is important that the government is not changing the overall cap on the number of gaming machines allowed in Queensland for community clubs, which will remain at 24,705. The bill also includes minor amendments to the gaming acts to reduce red tape and increase the efficiency and clarity of the legislation.

The bill will also amend the Casino Control Act 1982 to amalgamate the Breakwater Island Casino Community Benefit Fund, the Reef Hotel Casino Community Benefit Fund and the Jupiters Casino Community Benefit Fund into the Gambling and Community Benefit Fund to create a single streamlined grant program. The amendment is in accordance with the Queensland Commission of Audit recommendation to streamline and consolidate grant programs across government and also supports recent recommendations of the Queensland Audit Office to improve accessibility, governance and consistency across these funding programs. The amount of grant funding available under the amalgamated program will be the total of the funds currently available across the three casino benefit funds and the Gambling and Community Benefit Fund. The maximum grant will be \$35,000, which reflects the current maximum grant available under the Gambling and Community Benefit Fund. Amalgamating these funding programs into a single program will make applying for a grant simpler for applicants and will also create greater equity in the distribution of available grant funds to community organisations across Queensland. The total amount of funding available for grants under the amalgamation will remain the same. These changes will make it much easier and simpler for community grant applications in Queensland. When a member of a great community organisation walks into a member of parliament's office and asks about grant processes, the member of parliament can now simply refer them to one supergrant process without any change to the amount available.

I thank all those who have served on the casino boards. I thank the operators of the casinos, community clubs and pubs across Queensland who contribute through gambling revenue to make sure that our community grants are about \$50 million a year. I know that all members of parliament are very much appreciative of the grant process. Our local community groups that cannot afford certain things will certainly benefit from having less regulation and red tape when they apply through one simple grant process. The government will ensure that the new board established under the bill is regionally representative of all Queenslanders, with rural and regional and Northern Queensland counterparts catered for on the board. We will ensure appropriate acknowledgement of the casinos in the allocation of grant monies. We will also ensure that turnaround times are reduced. Community groups can feel confident that they can fill out an application for a community grant knowing that it is going to be looked at by a board which is representative of all Queenslanders in a more timely fashion than has been the case.

The bill also repeals the Queensland Travel Agents Act 1988 to deregulate travel agents. More Australian travellers are making their own travel arrangements through the internet, rather than using travel agents. With these changes, consumer protections offered to travel consumers through travel agents acts and the current national compensation scheme are estimated to now cover only one-third of travel transactions and licensed travel agents tell us this situation puts them at a competitive disadvantage. In response to this changing travel market, I and my fellow ministers for consumer affairs have agreed to deregulate the national travel industry through the Travel Industry Transition Plan. We have agreed to repeal state and territory travel agents acts by 30 June 2014 and to close the national travel compensation scheme, the Travel Compensation Fund, by mid to late 2015. On 13 March 2014, the Victorian repeal bill was passed by the Legislative Council of the Victorian Parliament. A repeal bill has also been introduced into the New South Wales Parliament.

Repeal of the Travel Agents Act will contribute to the Queensland government's objective of reducing red tape for business. Queensland travel agents no longer will be required to be licensed with the Queensland government or contribute funds to the national Travel Compensation Fund. In deregulating travel agents, the Travel Industry Transition Plan also provides for a new voluntary industry accreditation scheme. The Australian Federation of Travel Agents is well underway in developing its voluntary accreditation scheme. The scheme will be available to travel agents and suppliers of travel services and is expected to commence on 1 July 2014. Consumers using an ATAS accredited travel business can expect that business to meet certain conduct standards, to have provided proof of their financial solvency, to hold public liability and professional indemnity insurance and to have a complaint handling process. A national media and education campaign is currently being developed to advise travel businesses and travel consumers of their options in the new deregulated environment. Travel consumers will be encouraged to use accredited travel businesses and businesses with insolvency insurance.

This bill demonstrates the government's ongoing commitment to ensuring a sensible approach to regulation by removing unnecessary legislative impediments and red tape on industry and the community while maintaining important community safeguards. At the request of the Premier, the bill also includes an amendment to the Reprints Act 1992 to support the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel's eLegislation project to develop a new electronic legislative drafting and publishing system. A key objective of this project is to future-proof the Queensland statute book by converting the electronic files for current legislation from proprietary software to eXtensible Markup Language, or XML format. This is a way of storing data that is independent of any particular software or hardware.

The amendment to the Reprints Act 1992 allows the structure of a law, meaning how different provisions of legislation are set out, numbered and grouped with other provisions and headings, to be brought into line with current drafting practice. This will streamline and reduce the cost of the data conversion process for the Queensland statute book by allowing the structure of Queensland's legislation to be standardised before conversion. The new provision does not allow any changes to be made that will change the effect of a law and is expected to be used to standardise the structure of approximately 25 acts. The new Reprints Act provisions are being included for the specific purpose of facilitating OQPC's eLegislation process and, for this reason, will expire on 31 December 2014 when they are no longer needed.

In conclusion, I thank all stakeholders, for instance, Clubs Queensland which held its awards ceremony the other night. On behalf of the government, I congratulate all winners from right around Queensland who won Clubs Queensland excellence awards. They contribute amazingly to the Queensland economy, employing thousands of young Queenslanders. Whether it is your local footy club, bowls club, golf club, surf club or RSL, they contribute very much to the economy. We want to do something to ease their burden of regulation and red tape, and that is what this bill is all about.

First Reading

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

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

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 11 February (see p. 47).

Second Reading

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.14 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Queensland government is committed to breaking the cycle of repeat youth crime, inherited from Labor, using practical methods to generate positive outcomes from the youth justice system in Queensland. We will no longer tolerate the shallow slap-on-the-wrist approach of those opposite to a generation of our most vulnerable, which has meant that 60 per cent of young offenders have been to court five times or more and that 30 per cent of young offenders in Queensland commit approximately three-quarters of all offences. The system left behind by Labor has failed to address youth offending and has failed to meet the expectations of the communities they represent, that is, those they purportedly work hardest for.

This government's youth justice agenda commenced with the removal of luxury goods from our detention centres, including bouncing castles, gaming consoles and bucking bulls. It has also introduced mandatory graffiti orders, which has resulted in the restoration of businesses and public property across the state. Next, the government commenced a trial of the early intervention and sentenced youth boot camps. To date, 85 young Queenslanders have started a youth boot camp program. Most of those young people, 92 per cent, have either completed or are currently engaged in the community integration phase of the program. Improvements in behaviour, anxiety and depression, parental involvement and the re-engagement in education are just some of the positive outcomes the Queensland government has brought about to address the causes of offending in young people. The third step in the process has culminated in the reforms presently before the House, aimed at realigning Queensland's laws to meet community expectations.

To this end, I thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its consideration of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. I note the committee tabled its report on the bill on 12 March 2014. I now table the government's response to that report.

Tabled paper: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 58—Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, government response [\[4668\]](#).

The committee made two recommendations, sought a point of clarification and raised a matter for consideration. I note the committee recommended that the parliament pass the bill. I thank the committee for that recommendation, which the government is pleased to accept. The committee also recommended the proposed amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992 to create a new mandatory boot camp (vehicle offences) order. When I introduced the bill I foreshadowed that I would move those amendments during the consideration in detail, once the committee had considered them. In sentencing a child who usually resides in a prescribed area for the unlawful use of a vehicle under section 408A of the Criminal Code, the child will be ordered, as part of their sentence, to participate in a sentenced youth boot camp program if they have been found guilty of at least two other unlawful offences in the previous 12 months.

Townsville will initially be prescribed for the purpose of this new order. This will equip the courts to respond more effectively to the alarming level of vehicle related crime by young offenders in that city. I note that in the early hours of yesterday morning a young man was hospitalised after he and three other juveniles were involved in a crash with a fuel tanker after the stolen car they were driving ran a red light. That is just one example of offending that is prevalent in Townsville and the ineffective policies that existed before this government commenced its youth justice reforms. This government has listened to the community in Townsville and is taking a unique approach to address the issues of youth crime. The courts will not be prevented from making additional sentence orders when warranted by an offender's behaviour or criminal history. However, it will ensure that recidivist vehicle

offenders from Townsville will be removed from the environments in which they are repeatedly offending and will be engaged in an intensive and tailored program designed to target the causes of their offending. Again, the government is pleased to accept that recommendation from the committee.

In its report, the committee requested the government to consider including in the bill further amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992 to address, in part, an issue raised by the Chief Magistrate, the Honourable Judge Tim Carmody QC. The Chief Magistrate wrote to the committee as part of its inquiry, proposing that the review and appeal of convictions and sentencing decisions of magistrates in relation to both adult and child jurisdictions be brought into line with those of judges. This would ensure that all lower court decisions were subject to the same level of scrutiny by a higher court. The government believes there is merit in the Chief Magistrate's view that this proposal would enhance the efficient administration of the justice system, allowing the district and children's courts to focus on the more serious matters before the courts. Also as pointed out by the committee in its report, it is important for an offender, perhaps even more so for a young offender, to have certainty as to the consequences of their actions as soon as is reasonably practical. This proposal will meet that ideal.

The government therefore accepts the committee's request that appropriate amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992 be included in the current bill. I will be moving these amendments during the consideration in detail of the bill. These amendments will omit sentence reviews from the Youth Justice Act 1992, focusing on appeals under the Justice Act 1986, as applied to decisions of Children's Court magistrates, as the applicable mechanism for providing judicial oversight of magistrates' sentencing decisions. The amendments will also bring magistrates' orders made on finding a child has breached a community based order within the Children's Court's appeal jurisdiction. Amendments to the Justices Act 1886, to complete implementation of the Chief Magistrate's proposal, will be considered at a later time.

The committee also requested that the government include clarification in its response on the programs and sentencing options available to the courts, government and agencies and non-government organisations to divert children away from the youth justice system. At present, supported bailed programs, drug and alcohol counselling, police conferencing, parenting programs, anger replacement training and sexual offender programs are just some of the options available to stakeholders in the justice system.

I am also pleased that the government has had the opportunity to detail in its response the plan we are implementing to address the causes of youth offending and reduce the incidence of children becoming entrenched in a life of offending. To this end, I look forward to releasing the culmination of this government's youth justice agenda—the blueprint for the future of youth justice in Queensland—in the near future. The blueprint is the other key component of the government's comprehensive reform agenda. It will set the direction for transforming the youth justice system to one that addresses the causes of youth offending and reduces the incidence of children becoming entrenched in a life of offending.

The blueprint will involve the implementation of a long-term, evidence based reform and the close engagement of partner agencies and organisations in the delivery of integrated services to at-risk children. I look forward to continuing to work with our partner agencies across government and with non-government organisations in the delivery of innovative and locally responsive services as part of this strategy.

I would also like to foreshadow that I will be moving several small administrative amendments to the bill during its consideration in detail to ensure the measures it contains are able to operate as intended. The first of these will prescribe the process to apply in administering the new offence of committing a further offence while on bail. This process has been developed in consultation with the police and the courts. By ensuring the new offence is able to be administered simply and efficiently, this prescribed process ensures that children are able to be dealt with quickly and will be able to understand the full consequences of their offending.

The second further amendment I intend to move during consideration in detail will close a small gap which has been identified in the operation of the proposed provisions for the automatic transfer of offenders from detention to adult correctional facilities on reaching the age of 17. The amendment will deal with the situation where an offender is 17 at the time of being found guilty but 18 at the time of sentence, which otherwise falls outside both the existing and the new provisions of the Youth Justice Act 1992.

The final additional amendments I intend to move during consideration in detail will maintain the existing power for the Children's Court to permit media to be present in a closed court. They will also maintain the existing requirement that the Children's Court remain open when constituted by a judge hearing and determining a charge on indictment.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of those stakeholders who made submissions on the bill to the committee, and particularly those who took the time to give evidence at the committee's public hearing on 3 March. I would also like to reiterate to the House that the measures contained in this bill are critical to our efforts to protect the community from the escalating seriousness and devastation currently being caused by young criminals. A core group of recidivist young offenders are offending more often and are committing more serious offences. This bill targets these young recidivist offenders by making them more accountable for their actions and creating real disincentives to engage in further criminal activity and behaviour. It is this government's mission to make Queensland the safest place to raise a family. This bill will play a real part in realising this mission.

I also thank all honourable members who have had input into the development of this bill. I particularly thank Central Queensland and North Queensland members who have been battling the issues of youth crime. I visited Townsville on numerous occasions and saw firsthand from the community perspective what is going on. A local action group has been set up in Townsville. Torhild Parkinson came down recently and met with the Premier and me and local members. They are very much in favour of the government's action on youth offending. They also recognise that it is not all about this bill, but about the future of youth justice in this state. It is about developing the blueprint.

As I said, we had a clear strategy. The first phase was to make the fun stop in detention centres by getting rid of the bucking bulls, the jumping castles and the Xboxes, which we did. The second phase was setting up the youth boot camps which are an incentive for young offenders to get out of detention, get out of the way of that offending behaviour and start turning their lives around. I am very pleased that the boot camps that are operating are going spectacularly well. Young people are going through them. Parents are giving feedback in relation to the boot camps. Parents are participating in the boot camps where relevant. They have certainly received a lot of local support.

Unfortunately, the PCYC boot camp in Rockhampton, which is going quite well, does not have the support of its local member who is about to stand on his feet and speak. The Rockhampton community certainly supports the boot camp. The member for Keppel and our other members up there certainly support the boot camp. When we have a member of parliament not supporting the local PCYC it shows how out of touch the local member is. I have never known a member of parliament who does not support a PCYC. The member for Rockhampton does not support his local PCYC and does not support boot camps and young offenders getting back on track. Not only is he the local member but he is also the shadow police minister. The shadow police minister does not support the PCYC. Maybe the honourable police minister, Jack Dempsey, ought to give him a brief on who runs the PCYC. It is actually the police. They do an amazing job right around Queensland.

On that note, I thank the PCYC for their contribution to these sorts of things. I was glad that the PCYC in Rockhampton won the tender for running the boot camp. I think they are doing a great job. I thank the local members up there from the government side for supporting those—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I am not sure whether the honourable member for Rockhampton has inquired about visiting the PCYC. I am not sure whether he wants to go and visit and whether he wants to see these young people being turned around.

I remember having many a conversation with the member for Keppel and the publican in his area, Will. He has come out quite strongly on this. I have met him on a few occasions in parliament but also at some of the QHA functions that we go to. He is very supportive of making sure we tackle the issues of youth crime. I live in hope that one day we will live in a world where we have a local member for Rockhampton who supports the PCYC and a shadow police minister who actually supports the police.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: While I am talking about young people, I notice that the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing, the member for Buderim, is in the chamber. I acknowledge on his behalf the young folk in the gallery from Buderim Mountain State School. In acknowledging the young people in the gallery on behalf of the member for Buderim, what the young folk will not realise is that I am a former student of Buderim Mountain State School.

Mr Stevens: He was there for 16 years.

Mr BLEIJIE: No, no. Thank you for the endorsement of a great local school. I attended Buderim Mountain State School. Not only is your local member glad to see you today, but I feel privileged to have you going around the big House today. I go off track.

These youth justice reforms were a clear commitment from this government to tackle the issues of youth crime. As I was saying, we had a clear strategy. It was to end the fun in detention centres and implement the youth boot camps, which are not supported by the shadow police minister, the member for Rockhampton. The third phase was dealing with the immediate response to the youth justice issues. That is this bill before the House today.

The final phase will be the culmination of all these little plans in a big plan which will be the blueprint for youth justice. I have already started to meet with the not-for-profit sector. I met with the Very Reverend Dr Catt last week to get the not-for-profit community sector engaged in developing this youth blueprint. I think they have a lot to give.

The opposition in a short period of time will stand up here and they will say everything we are doing wrong about youth justice. Whether they support this bill or not is another thing. Let the facts remain: they sat here in the government chairs for 20 years in Queensland and did nothing on this issue. They did absolutely nothing on the issue to deal with juvenile justice.


We recognise that there have to be consequences for the actions of young people who commit crime, but we also recognise that we have to understand that there are some people who have not been blessed with a good family life and the circumstances they come from and we have to try to steer those young folk onto a good path and in a good direction in life so that they can get an education and a job. That has been the government's strategy and plan all along. We have had no assistance, no help, from the opposition in dealing with these issues because they have the same approach now as they had years ago—that is, a head-in-the-sand approach.

When they talk about getting tough on individuals, their position changes from week to week. I am pre-empting the debate that is about to occur—and one should not do that—but I am really looking forward to the member for Rockhampton's contribution because I am really looking forward to finding out where they stand today. If I can guarantee anything—if anyone can guarantee anything in life other than death—it will be that the opposition will have a different response to juvenile justice issues today than they had yesterday. The third guarantee is that what will happen will happen and then they will have a different position tomorrow. We have seen it with the criminal gang laws. I have seen it even this week on dealing with serial sex offenders in the community. They opposed the indefinite detention of sex offenders and they opposed our two-strikes policy, yet yesterday the opposition leader came out and said we should have tougher penalties for sex offenders. So their position on these sorts of issues and the community response change from day to day.

Mr Stevens: They're a flip-flop party.

Mr BLEIJIE: They are a flip-flopping party; I take the interjection from the Leader of the House, who incidentally hosted me a few nights ago at Broadbeach, and I thank the member for that. In talking to the business owners and the restaurateurs who operate along the strip in Broadbeach, they tell me that they are very happy and thrilled and excited that their communities are now safer—no thanks to the opposition but thanks to this government for the laws that we have implemented.

We will hold the same determination and will, as we have done with the criminal gangs, with youth justice. We will sort these issues out. Young people will be held responsible for their actions and know that there are consequences, but we will give all the young people a chance to sort out their lives, to get themselves into a boot camp, to get themselves an education and a job. That helps everyone. That helps the young people and it helps the community because these young people will stop offending in our streets. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (12.31 pm): I rise to make a contribution in the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I want to state very clearly for the record that Labor will be strenuously opposing this bill.

Government members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: No surprises there—and it was not very hard to find reasons why, I might add.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order, members! Those on my right.

Mr Bleijie: They wanted tougher penalties yesterday.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, you have made that point in your speech. I call the member for Rockhampton.

Mr BYRNE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I believe it represents the very worst conservative tradition of pandering after law and order votes without consideration of the consequences—a tradition that has been elevated to an art form by this government and this Attorney-General.

Being a bit of a history buff, I was recently rereading one of my favourite books, *The Rommel Papers*, where I came across this little excerpt—

Mr Bleijie: Comrade.

Mr BYRNE: Comrade, yes—‘most people do not seem to exert themselves until the water is lapping around their shins’. I thought nothing could more aptly describe this government’s approach to juvenile justice than that statement. Just look at the abysmal outcomes in Townsville and these finger-in-the-dyke responses from this government in this bill to try to deal with it. That all occurred on their watch! Who in this House can forget the last election campaign, when the Premier, in consort with others, announced the LNP’s embryonic boot camp policy—a launch where the Premier could not give one example of where such an approach has worked anywhere in the Western world?

Over the last two years I have regularly revisited the ineptitude and complete and recurrent failures of this government when it comes to the issue of juvenile crime and youth justice. One of my earliest speeches nearly two years ago addressed the issue as it applied in my electorate. That was in May 2012. In November 2012 I told the House that the government had politicised the issue of juvenile crime, dumbed it down, with a one shot in the locker solution being boot camps. Then they sold it mercilessly to all and sundry.

Again, in August 2013, speaking about youth justice and boot camps in particular, I described the litany of failures that have punctuated the government’s response and the vainglorious failures to deliver. Again, in September 2013 I raised the issue of boot camps in an adjournment speech. So, in retrospect, it has been one of the things that I have missed over the Christmas period! I have missed the opportunity to come into this House and be astounded by the ineptitude of the Attorney-General. Let’s celebrate the fact that we can now witness at close quarters a performance that is now reaching the proportions of a national embarrassment, aptly demonstrated by this bill.

Every single thing that the Attorney-General puts his hand to turns to clay or something similar. He certainly achieved one thing though—that is, to give the rest of Australia the impression that Queensland’s current government is an ideologically driven, evidence-free policy joke. He certainly achieved that to the never-ending embarrassment of most of the rest of the state. Here we go again—another piece of propaganda legislation, legislation crafted for political purpose to create an impression at the expense of sensible, long-term positive outcomes. Of course, this is a very familiar recipe for this government and one that many Queenslanders are now well awake to. If I were one of the 30-something LNP backbenchers sitting there on less than a 10 per cent margin in this House, I would do something about this Attorney-General because I can inform them that they will be needing new jobs very shortly if they do not. But I digress from the core issue here.

I have risen in this House and spoken on a number of occasions about the related issues of juvenile crime, boot camps and alcohol abuse. I stand by every comment that I have made and every criticism that I have levelled at this government for its failures. No matter how the spin doctors in the backrooms are trying to dress this government’s performance up—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my right.

Mr BYRNE:—it has delivered failure compounded by failure, garnished with more failure.

I have listened intently to the public and parliamentary contributions made particularly by the Attorney-General about youth justice matters and, frankly, it is clear that he wants nothing more than to be perceived as a sort of quasi-hard man of Queensland politics. Perhaps if he had done something in his life outside of parliament to deserve such a title, there might be some capacity to reflect with some merit on his present endeavours. Unfortunately for the Attorney-General this is not the case, and the only thing that I can reflect on and the only image that I hold is that of a bantam rooster with a bower bird syndrome—all squawk and shiny bead deceptions!

All Queenslanders saw reports in the media in January where the then Acting Attorney-General, I might add, said, ‘The boot camps are only one piece of the puzzle for fixing youth crime.’ Having read that far, I thought, wow, just maybe something like the truth might come out in the

next sentence, something that might reflect a different, more informed, coherent approach. But no—the next words from the then Acting Attorney-General were these: the most important thing is tougher penalties and changes to the Youth Justice Act.’ This is a government that simply cannot help itself. It just does not get it. It is clearly evident that the government has neither the patience nor the intellect to appropriately address this burgeoning problem.

As much as I would like to continue to reflect on the litany of comments that members of the community make to me about the Attorney-General, and this government more generally, I will drill down to the core issue at hand here. The truth is that the only areas where this government can claim any success are where it has simply rebadged and reinvested in Labor policy—that is a policy of early intervention, not one of ever escalating penalties and not one of misleading the community about being tough on juvenile offenders by this ethereal notion of heavy discipline, military style boot camps and simply applying a bigger hammer to the problem.

I have been a strident critic of the government’s misinformation about boot camps since day one, before I was elected, when local LNP candidates in Central Queensland started rabbiting on about this topic. It is not just me that makes these sorts of comments. As I often do, I look to New South Wales and the tory government down there. I have commented previously, and in fact today, about the different approach the Premier of New South Wales takes to that of our current Premier in Queensland. It is chalk and cheese really. But I think it is interesting to contrast the opinions of the New South Wales Attorney-General, the Hon. Greg Smith SC. He obviously gets it. Last year he gave a fine speech at the Public Defenders conference in New South Wales about this very subject. It is not as though Greg Smith can be described as some sort of old-fashioned little ‘I’ Liberal. He is quite a hard core conservative, as his comments regarding marriage equality reflect. He cannot be dismissed as some sort of bleeding heart pinko or lefty!

I would encourage members of the House to get a copy of his speech of 16 March last year, because they will never hear that from this Attorney-General. While the data reflects the New South Wales experience, it is reasonable to expect a strong correlation to the Queensland situation. I would like to quote from the New South Wales Attorney-General’s speech because he gets it. On that basis, one can assume that his policy positions are informed by the best information available rather than the demands of political spin doctors and shock jocks. When referring to successful intervention programs, he states—

There is extensive research about the factors that increase or decrease a young person’s likely involvement in crime and the types of programs and interventions which are most likely to affect change. Research has shown that initiatives with the strongest chances of success are:

- A. Rehabilitation programs that target specific criminogenic risk factors,
- B. Programs which provide training in social skills, problem solving, negotiation, assertiveness, and critical thinking,
- C. Programs to re-engage young people with education,
- D. Functional family therapies,
- E. Cognitive behavioural therapy,
- F. Community employment,
- G. Drug treatment programs, and
- H. If all these fail, incapacitation of offenders who continue to commit crime at very high rates.

The New South Wales Attorney-General goes on to state—

Importantly, there is also strong research on what doesn’t work. These are the things we just shouldn’t invest in. These include programs sometimes known as scared straight or shock prohibition type programs. Boot camps with military style models, or juvenile wilderness programs, have equally been shown to be ineffective, as have community residential programs and rehabilitation programs with unstructured or non-directive counselling.

This speech by an Attorney-General from New South Wales demonstrates an appreciation of the problem at hand. Again, I encourage members to read that speech. I look forward to the day when I get a sense that everything that comes out of the mouth of our Attorney-General or Queensland’s Attorney-General is not just political attack dog stuff as we just saw.

Allow me to now address some specific problems that are so evident with this present legislation. When the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee called for submissions from informed stakeholders and the broader community, not one submission supported this legislation. There was overwhelming and universal rejection of the legislation as it stands from every quarter. The opposition was always going to oppose the legislation, as I reflected in my dissenting report. I must, though, as part of my dissent to the overall committee recommendation, note that it is impossible,

frankly, for any lay person to scrutinise the material put to the committee and come to the conclusion that the legislation has merit and should pass. It is absolutely impossible for a normal Queenslander to see how that evidence would support a recommendation that the bill be passed.

Apart from the material in the explanatory notes and the rather benign departmental material, there was absolutely nothing that could lead a normal person to conclude that this legislation had any merit whatsoever. I am not going to try to reflect on the obscurities associated with the previously referenced Blueprint for the Future of Youth Justice. However, an intelligent and reasonable person might ask this question: why is this legislation before the House in the absence of an overarching policy document? Surely after two years the mature, sensible thing to do would have been to publish and consult on the blueprint before this narrow, enabling legislation was put to this House. Surely that sort of sequence would allow members of this House to gain a contextual feel. Clearly, no is the answer from the government.

There is nothing unusual in this from a government that simply cannot communicate in the rational world. It defeats the entire mantra that this bill should not be considered in isolation when we have no context to measure it or without any context or evidence of what is in the blueprint. I want to talk in detail about some of Labor's major concerns with parts of this legislation before the House, and I will go through them in turn.

Removal of detention as a last resort: the bill proposes to remove the sentencing principle that prison or detention should only be imposed on a young person when there is no other less onerous sanction appropriate in all of the circumstances of the offence and the offender. That principle is commonly referred to as the principle of detention as a last resort. This principle arose from the common law and is also expressed in statute in section 150(2)(e) of the Youth Justice Act 1992. The bill will remove the statutory principle and override the common law principle. The explanatory notes state that—

The Bill displaces this sentencing principle for Queensland for all offences and for all offenders. This means that, in structuring an appropriate sentence for an adult or young offender for any offence punishable by imprisonment, the court is not required to have regard to any principle that a sentence of imprisonment or detention should only be imposed as a last resort.

Common sense would indicate that if you remove the principle that detention be used only as a last resort then more people will end up in detention. I refer to an article from the ABC of February 2012 where it reported—

Data from monthly Corrective Service Department reports shows that 6,836 prisoners are in custody while there is a built bed cell capacity of 6,827. It shows inmate numbers have been rising by more than 100 per month for the past few months.

Clearly, the prisons in this state are already full to the brim. Cramming more people in so the government can appear to be tough on crime for purely political reasons is just not feasible. During the public hearing on this bill I raised the fact that in evidence provided to the Carmody inquiry in August 2012 Mr Steve Armitage, who was the then Assistant Director-General of Youth Justice in the department, stated—

Research suggests that periods of incarceration, while providing the most serious consequences for behaviour and protecting the community from further offending for that period of time, have little effect on young people's future offending behaviour.

Since detention has not been demonstrated to be effective in preventing reoffending and is expensive to run—extremely expensive to run—the removal of the principle of detention as a last resort would not seem to be of any significant benefit to the community in terms of either cost-effectiveness or achieving the desired outcome of reducing youth offending. It is obvious that the government thinks it is desirable that more people should end up in prison—full stop.

The submissions and evidence collected by the committee at the public hearing regarding this particular change were absolutely scathing. Dr Damian Bartholomew, the Deputy Chair of the Children's Law Committee from the Queensland Law Society, put it very simply at the public hearing when he said—

... young people who go to detention are more likely to return to detention and, indeed, more likely to enter the adult criminal justice system. So sentencing young people to detention actually increases the likelihood of them returning to detention, of them entering adult jail and, of course, that means provides less protection to the community.

What the experts and the research tell us is the complete opposite of what the government is saying will happen. The government says that putting young people in detention earlier and more often will deter them from offending, whereas the experts simply say that detention opens the door to more serious and more frequent offending for young people. There you go. That is the contrast. There is no doubt that for some young offenders, based on the crimes they have committed, a sentence of

detention is the only appropriate course of action. Nobody suggests otherwise and certainly not the opposition, but the aim of this reform is to get more young people in detention sooner for less serious offences because the government thinks it will have a deterrent effect. Pontificating and supposing is not good enough for government. You have to rely on the evidence. I specifically asked the Department of Justice and Attorney-General at the committee's public hearing whether there was any evidence at all to support any of the measures that were being put forward in this bill. They could not provide any evidence whatsoever to substantiate what is in this bill.

Other organisations that have raised serious concerns and voiced their opposition to this particular change include the government's own Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, the government's own Anti-Discrimination Commission, the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association, Amnesty International, and the list goes on. I state very clearly that Labor opposes this measure because every indication based on the actual evidence we have—the facts—says it will do nothing to reduce the severity of youth offending or its frequency. In fact, the evidence points to the fact that it will make the situation much worse.

I now want to talk to the breach of bail offence. The bill inserts a new division 2 into part 5 of the Youth Justice Act 1992, making it an offence for a child to commit a further offence while on bail. It is my understanding that the new offence will be taken to have been committed where a finding of guilt is made against the young person in relation to that further offence. The explanatory notes state that the maximum penalty for the new breach of bail offence will be 20 penalty units, or one year's imprisonment—half the maximum penalty under section 29 of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 for breach of a condition of bail by an adult. The problems with the creation of such an offence have been outlined well in submissions made to the committee. It is highly questionable whether such an offence is necessary and whether it would have any practical effect. The more likely outcome of the new offence is further criminalisation of a child with increased likelihood of a child being placed in custody, thereby further entrenching the child in the criminal justice system. Again, in evidence given at the public hearing of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee the Department of Justice and Attorney-General was unable to point to any evidence whatsoever that this change would reduce the frequency or severity of youth offending. The Bar Association noted in their submission that—

The Courts are properly equipped to deal with offending whilst on bail currently and the utility of such a new offence provision in the *Youth Justice Act 1992* is likely to have no practical effect.

The Law and Justice Institute went further in explaining the way that the courts currently deal with offending by young people whilst on bail. They noted that—

The commission of an offence whilst on bail is regularly and appropriately taken into account by sentencing courts as an aggravating feature. The creation of this new offence is unwarranted and prejudicial to the rehabilitation of the offender, which has repeatedly been held to be in the best interests of the community and which is in keeping with the stated aims of the legislation.

Many submitters gave evidence to suggest that what was really needed in this area of bail was more bail support programs. In their submission, the Queensland Law Society said that the best way forward would be to—

... increase the number of bail assistance support programs in Queensland, particularly for repeat offenders. These programs should be able to link in and assist a young person to comply with bail conditions, such as providing accommodation and support to remain engaged with education.

This point became a recurring theme at the committee hearing. Representatives of the Anglican Church referred to the kinds of services needed as wraparound services, that is to say, services that provide comprehensive family support to ensure that children are well supported while they are on bail. That sentiment was echoed strongly by the representatives of Queensland Churches Together, who also appeared before the committee.

Now I wish to move to naming and shaming. The bill amends part 9 of the Youth Justice Act 1992 to limit application of the existing prohibition on publishing identifying information about a child the subject of proceedings to first-time offenders only. This means publication of identifying information about repeat offenders who have been charged with another offence will be permitted both during and after proceedings against them. The rationale provided by the government for pursuing this change is that allowing publication of identifying details of repeat offenders holds to account those children who fail to act on the opportunity and who persist in the course of criminal behaviour.

In most parts of Australia there are laws that prevent people publishing information which might identify a child involved in court proceedings. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice 1995, known as the 'Beijing Rules', refer specifically to a young person's right to privacy at all stages of the juvenile justice proceedings. Rule 8.1 of those Beijing Rules notes that this is in order to avoid harm being caused to her or him by undue publicity and by the process of labelling. Publicly identifying a child offender has the potential to jeopardise the rehabilitation of that child. It may give them a bad name of which they cannot rid themselves, irrespective of whether or not they are trying to turn around their lives or turn a new leaf. People could then exclude them and make assumptions about how they will behave in the future. This can affect, for example, their job prospects and their ability to positively engage with their community more generally. The inability to get a job or to otherwise be involved in positive activities is a risk factor for further offending which does not make the community safer or reduce crime. Consequently, it is widely recognised that young people who offend should not be stigmatised and labelled by being publicly named.

There is also very little evidence to demonstrate that the naming of young people prevents reoffending, which could be the only real justification for taking such action. Recent research conducted in the Northern Territory, which is the only jurisdiction in Australia where naming child offenders is permitted, presents evidence that naming and shaming can have the opposite effect, with child offenders—children—acting as though they need to live up to their tarnished reputations. Some children may even welcome the publicity as a badge of honour and value the immediate gratification of belonging to an outside group, cementing their antisocial behaviour rather than helping the child to move away from such behaviour. Unquestionably, the consensus view of the public submissions was that this proposal would simply stigmatise youth offenders and would not have the desired effect. In fact, many submitters pointed to the extensive evidence that such a proposal would increase youth offending. Given that provisions already exist, in fact, for the naming of offenders guilty of serious offences where it is deemed by the appropriate judge to be in the interests of justice, the opposition considers that the proposed changes are both unnecessary and unwarranted.

I now want to move on to making juvenile records available. The bill amends section 148 of the Youth Justice Act 1992 to provide that a childhood finding of guilt for which no conviction was recorded is admissible where a person is being sentenced during a proceeding for an offence committed as an adult. It should be noted that the circumstances in which a childhood finding of guilt for which no conviction was recorded is admissible in an adult criminal proceeding will be limited to the sentencing period only. Various submitters criticised this proposal as being unworkable and counterproductive. In their written submission, the Bar Association noted—

... this proposed amendment relates to prior juvenile offending of such a minor nature that the earlier sentencing court saw fit not a record of a conviction.

For a subsequent court to be able to take it into account achieves nothing and undermines the rehabilitative potential of the first "no conviction recorded" order. The proposed amendment will advance the interests of justice not one jot.

That is pretty strong language from the Bar Association. In their written submission, the Law and Justice Institute noted that—


... young people become stigmatised by the criminal justice system when they are labelled a "criminal." This labelling has a negative impact on a young person's offending trajectory; they are less likely to "grow out" of criminal behaviour and more likely to live up to that label through further offending. Therefore, stigmatisation results in increased recidivism and has detrimental impacts upon a young person's rehabilitation prospects.

They went on to say—

To address this issue in the youth justice system convictions are often not recorded. The non-recording of a conviction helps to avoid the negative consequences associated with stigmatisation. However, if all unrecorded childhood convictions are admitted against an adult during sentencing, then even unrecorded convictions may stigmatise youths. This will defeat the purpose of not recording a conviction against children.

It would, therefore, seem to be counterproductive to the idea of rehabilitation to allow unrecorded convictions to be considered in adult courts. I particularly note the Bar Association's view that unrecorded convictions would ordinarily be for extremely or very minor offences. Once again, we find ourselves in a position where the government's proposals do not make logical sense and are not backed up by expert opinion. Once again, when asked if they can provide any evidence whatsoever, any evidential basis on which this legislative change would work, the department officials were not able to provide any.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

 **Mr BYRNE:** I will summarise the Labor Party's position on this matter: Labor will be opposing this bill in its entirety. We have earlier mapped out those concerns about aspects of the bill and we have noted that of all the submissions that came before committee, there was not one single voice in support of this legislation. Indeed, there was overwhelming rejection of those elements of the bill by anyone who understood its implications. It is entirely unreasonable for this House to draw the conclusion from those submissions and the report that this bill has any merit whatsoever. We have also gone on to flag our direct concerns with elements and provisions of this bill and make the case that this bill should be rejected at all points. I will now deal with our specific objections.

The bill replaces Part 8, Division 2A of the Youth Justice Act 1992, which provides for a court to order in certain circumstances that an offender be transferred to an adult correctional facility on turning 18 or, on turning 17, where they have previously been held in prison under sentence or on remand. The proposed replacement for Division 2A provides that all offenders sentenced to a period of detention must be automatically transferred to an adult correctional facility on turning 17 if at that time they have at least six months left to serve in detention. The government has stated that it will expressly prohibit any merit based review or appeal of the chief executive's decision to make a prison transfer direction. Only the Supreme Court's review jurisdiction under Part 5 of the Judicial Review Act 1991, where the chief executive's administrative power is exceeded in the making of a direction, will remain.

The presence of 17-year-olds in adult prisons has been a controversial topic in Queensland for many years. The opposition acknowledges the concerns raised by various groups through the committee process about the appropriateness of having 17-year-olds in adult prisons. We have listened to the message, and we are examining ways for a future Labor government to resolve this issue and bring Queensland into line with the rest of the country. My understanding is that it is a relatively simple matter, and recent opinion is that all that is required for this change to be made is for the Governor in Council to fix the date by regulation. The presence of 17-year-olds in adult prisons is highly controversial, and Labor will be moving from that position over time.

In their submission the Law and Justice Institute has outlined the current state of play with respect to transfer as well as some concerns that surround these proposed changes. The LJI stated that—

Transfer orders are currently available on application to the Court at the time of sentence, or by the Chief Executive during the detention period, upon due consideration of all relevant factors. Consideration of factors such as age, unserved period of detention, availability of programs, good order and management and the impact on the child's mental health remain essential. It is difficult, if not impossible, to argue that an administrative, unreviewable, decision made by someone other than a judicial officer is sound policy given the real difficulties which exist in transitioning from detention to imprisonment.

Labor shares the concerns that the unreviewable power of departmental officials to make transfer orders will not produce a just or fair outcome when it comes to the treatment of young offenders. The Law and Justice Institute questioned the motives of the automatic transfer provisions and in their submission suggested that it was more about managing demands for places in detention centres by transferring 17-year-olds into adult prisons. This comes back to the fact that the number of people in detention and prison under this government has skyrocketed. Unfortunately, the number of people in prisons is not of itself a measure of success in making Queensland safer.

The bill also amends the Youth Justice Act 1992 to allow authorities to respond rapidly and appropriately when a child offender has absconded from a sentenced boot camp. The explanatory notes state—

At present, the Act does not include a power to seek a warrant to arrest a child who breaches a boot camp order by absconding from a boot camp centre, unless the child cannot be located or it is reasonably believed the child would not comply with a summons.

They go on to clarify—

An absconder must first be warned under section 237 of the *Youth Justice Act 1992* of the consequences of further contravention before they may be brought before a magistrate for a finding of breach of order and resentencing for the offence in relation to which the boot camp order was originally made.

It should be obvious to all that this proposed amendment is all about covering up the failures of the Attorney-General's boot camp policies. We have already seen two young people abscond from the Kuranda boot camp to which they were sentenced. This aspect of the bill is being proposed so that if any more escapes occur, it will be easier for the police to track down the escapees.

The committee's report is a masterful contortion of logical reasoning to reach a predetermined outcome, and it is an amazing example of wilful blindness. I struggle to see how anyone who participated in the hearings could come to the conclusion that the bill should be passed. One particular passage from page 3 of the committee's report is illustrative of the committee's reasoning. It states—


The Committee notes that many of the objections to the Bill relate to matters which will be dealt with in the upcoming *Blueprint for the Future of Youth Justice* (the Blueprint) which along with the Bill is intended to provide an action plan that will transform the youth justice system and break the cycle of offending.

As I said in Labor's dissenting report, the committee has relied on the government's unreleased and unseen Blueprint for the Future of Youth Justice to ameliorate the regressive and counterproductive nature of the proposed legislative changes. I do not think that this is wise or responsible in any way, shape or form. It is not a wise course of action from the committee. The objections to this bill cannot simply be wished away by a policy document that is yet to be revealed at some undetermined point—perhaps in the future—especially not one written by this government. Time and time again the committee in its report simply dismisses the concerns of the experts by referencing this yet-to-be-produced blueprint. I think that is because there is no way to logically refute the arguments that have been put against the proposals made in this bill.

As I said in the dissenting report, Labor is not willing to take on trust that the government's blueprint will comprehensively address or counter the issues that currently exist in youth justice, let alone those that will be recreated or exacerbated by this bill. The government simply cannot be trusted on law and order matters, and that has been evident over the last two years. They have proven over and over again that they are willing to sacrifice sacred legal or constitutional principles as well as good evidence based policy in their pursuit of base political purpose.

After the Redcliffe by-election, the Premier promised to listen more. I would urge the government to start with this bill, because there has been no evidence whatsoever since the by-election that it has been listening or in fact that this bill has any merit at all. Throughout the committee process every aspect of the bill was comprehensively rejected by experts and everyone who made a submission. The government will no doubt try to turn that around and say that these reforms have the support of the broader community as demonstrated by the survey results of the Safer Streets Crime Action Plan—Youth Justice, but just look at the figures that were cherry picked and placed in the explanatory notes to support the government's bill. Two of the proposals did not have majority support and the other two were carefully worded and did not ask whether people supported them but merely whether they thought they would be effective. In the face of overwhelming evidence that they will not achieve their stated objectives, the government's dogged pursuit of these changes can only have one explanation—it is for the political purposes that I alluded to earlier.

Labor comprehensively rejects this bill. It does not achieve the stated aims. All of the evidence is that it will make youth crime worse in this state. Let me put it very simply: if 20 people tell someone that they are naked, it is about time that someone checked their wardrobe. Every serious stakeholder looking at this bill has made it clear what the consequences of the bill will be and the government should accept the fact that it is entirely wrong with this bill.

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (2.41 pm): In rising to support the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, I note that this place has passed some historic legislation in the last couple of years. We have got rid of a waste levy. We have made sweeping changes to the planning act to get things going in Queensland. The Vegetation Management Act, which has cruelled my part of the world for too long, has had some sensible amendments made to it. But there is nothing more important to the people I represent than what this bill will do. After having listened to what I just had to listen to from the member for Rockhampton—and I will be getting on to that later on, I can tell you—a man who represents a regional Queensland seat, I am going to be reminding those people of his words for a long, long time. I can promise him that, because the people that we represent are under siege because of this: gangs of youths out of control. Because of gangs of youths out of control, people are living like prisoners in their own homes; they go into their front driveway and some little thug with a knife carjacks them in the driveway of their home. So do not come in here and talk about political ideology. This is about protecting the people that we represent—the people whom you get paid to represent. So do not come in here pushing your green ideological inner-city South Brisbane view, Bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Cunningham): Order! Minister, I would ask that you direct your comments through the chair.

Mr CRISAFULLI: My apologies, Madam Deputy Speaker. When a young girl loses her life on a road in the area that I represent in a car full of kids who have been through that revolving door that is our youth justice system, something has to be done. So do not come to me with political ideology.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am not taking the interjections at present, but I look forward to taking them shortly. I want to go through some of the changes contained in this bill and why they mean so much. The first change is to make juvenile criminal history admissible during sentencing of adult offenders. That is just so very important. It is so very important to break the cycle of the revolving door that is our youth justice system. The bill will allow repeat young offenders to be named through proceedings; open the Children's Court to the public to make things more transparent; and remove the principle of detention as a last resort.

Ms Trad: Disgraceful!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection from the member for South Brisbane, who said 'disgraceful', because if you ever leave GPO Box 4000 and go into the other part of the state and try to peddle that nonsense you will be ripped to shreds. The member for South Brisbane is completely and utterly out of touch—completely; completely out of touch.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will say one more time: when people I represent are scared to open their front door at night, that has nothing to do with political ideology. That has to do with safety. If a government is elected to do something, it does it. We said that we were going to get tough on this, and we are going to. I will remind the people of Queensland each and every day that those opposite came into this place and tried to make an excuse as to why this should not happen.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: They are weak on law and order, and it will haunt you in regional Queensland, Bill, for a long, long time. What is particularly pleasing for me is that recidivist motor vehicle offenders who have been found guilty of two or more motor vehicle offences in the previous 12 months will be sentenced to a youth boot camp order in Townsville. I want to acknowledge the Attorney-General, who has understood that this is an issue right across the state but particularly in my home city. Having the member for Townsville here today means a great deal to me and I know that he will speak with passion on this debate, as will the member for Thuringowa. This is a real issue across the state, but nowhere is it more prevalent than Townsville—nowhere. I have looked at some of the submissions—the ones that the member for Rockhampton talked about. He said that these submissions reflect the views of Queenslanders. Let me start with the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties—that reflective, august body of the feelings of the everyday man. It says—

This is because children are morally different from adults as a result of the fact that they do not have the same judgment skills, self-control and ability to know right from wrong.

So that means that when one of these young thugs gets a knife and decides to go and put it at the throat of somebody and take a car, they are apparently not able to determine if that is right or wrong. So when the families I represent shudder inside while some bugger has a screwdriver jimmying open a door, they can say, 'I didn't know. Nobody told me that that was not right. I just thought that was just the way that you go about getting belongings from somebody else.' Right from wrong is something that everybody knows. When you take something that someone else has worked for, you know that that is wrong—in the same way that the person who is inside the house knows what they are doing to them is wrong. Every Queenslander knows right from wrong. Suggesting that that is a reason why we should not get tough on these offenders is laughable.


The other submission that the member for Rockhampton referred to is the submission from Amnesty. It says that these changes 'represent regression away from well-established best practices in youth justice'. We have seen these well-established best practices, and do members know what is happening? It is a disaster. It is an absolute disaster. Everything that we are talking about—the apologists opposite me—is the result of 20 years of inaction, of doing absolutely nothing, of saying, 'Oh, poor little Sammy's had a really bad childhood so, as a result, Sammy, you can just keep doing that.' That is the problem. We are living with the problem now. This is the start of turning around a culture of saying to people, 'It is okay because you've done it a bit tough. It's okay because we don't want to offend you. It's okay because you don't know right from wrong.' This is the beginning of a turnaround, and a turnaround for the people that I represent. The irony is that it is a turnaround for the people that the member for Rockhampton represents—the very people who put him in this place. But

do members know what will be amazing? The member for Rockhampton will attempt to walk both sides of the street. He will come down here and, to try to keep the powerbroker sitting behind him happy, he will come in here and say, 'This is so terrible and we've offended the good people from Amnesty. We've made them all really, really upset, and the Council for Civil Liberties. This is horrendous!' The member for Rockhampton will come in here and say how terrible it is and then he will go back to Rocky and say, 'Yes, you know, it's really tough. Yes, we're going to clamp down on this.' The member for Rockhampton cannot walk both sides of the street on this issue. He simply cannot. I make the point that the Labor Party has learned absolutely nothing. This was the key issue in the election campaign in regional Queensland.

Mr Byrne: You didn't have a policy. You didn't know what you were doing.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We did have a policy and it included removing detention as a last resort. It included allowing repeat offenders to be named and shamed. It included breaking the back of a generation of limp-wristed, useless, weak, inept policies.

In the very short time that I have left can I conclude by saying the following: the changes have been made. The vehicle is in place for change. I put a call out to our legal system to please reflect the community views in sentencing. The tools that have shackled them have been removed. This nonsense of not being able to have criminal histories admitted is gone. This nonsense of detention being a last resort is gone. I say to the legal fraternity, I say to our judicial system, to please reflect the views of Queenslanders, because today in this place the Labor Party sure as hell has not.

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (2.51 pm): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, because it relates to a number of matters that certainly concern the people of the electorate of Ipswich and, I dare say as my colleague is sitting next to me, the people of the electorate of Ipswich West. I have been to forums such as Neighbourhood Watch meetings. I have spoken to shopkeepers. One in particular is Jason, the owner of two chemist shops in Ipswich. It causes him a great deal of angst when young offenders break into his store and steal, only to see them in the mall the next day as if they are immune to our legal system. His frustration reflects a great community concern, such as the concern of people who attend Neighbourhood Watch meetings, about youths who come into a neighbourhood—and on this particular occasion it was Raceview—to do over house after house and then leave only for a few of them to be caught and for them to be again on the streets. The words spoken by the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience resounds in almost every electorate—other than in perhaps the electorate of Rockhampton. But it is a matter of listening to what people are saying.

This bill is not about youth offending per se. We know that the evidence is that the incidence of youth offending is decreasing. It is made very clear in the explanatory notes. Something which surprised me when we had witnesses attend the public hearing—and on that point the member for Rockhampton indicated this—was that those witnesses did not have anything positive to say about the bill. One witness suggested that we introduce counselling, that the offender and the victim see each other. I truly feel that that was a misunderstanding of what this bill is about. As I have said, the incidence of youth offending has decreased. This bill addresses recidivism—those repeat offenders with whom we need to deal. It is quite obvious from the tenor of the bill that that is exactly the issue that is being addressed.

There were a number of submissions to the bill. There were sweeping statements made in the submissions from the Bar Association and the Queensland Law Society, one of which the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience touched upon. I must say that I just do not see the logic of the argument that was submitted by the Anglican Church of Southern Queensland that youth have limited cognitive skills, maybe brought about by a developing intellectual brain capacity—they have brain immaturity. Other witnesses expressed views about developmental immaturity. I am at a loss to understand what that really means. Of course, all youth have those things. But life is not so complicated that because of this immaturity young children—babies for that matter—youth, cannot tell the difference between right and wrong. Do we send our children off to counselling when they do something wrong? I do not think we do. I think we provide that child with not only a positive pattern but at some point in time we prevail upon a deterrence. That is what our courts do. However, our courts have been tied to a set of principles, one of which is that detention is a last resort. It is not a fetter that the courts need. I am not suggesting for one moment that detention has to be the first consideration, but the courts have an arsenal at their disposal when dealing with youthful offenders.

We understand that, for a first offence, a youthful offender deserves to be considered for a rehabilitative course. It might be that he meets his victim to understand the full implications of what he has done. It may be that he pays recompense. He may have to be put on probation or on some other course. We understand those things. But, unfortunately, the world is not necessarily a rosy place. There are youthful offenders out there who are street hardened for whatever reason. I accept all of those reasons. I accept that they come from dysfunctional families. I accept that their parents may be alcoholics or drug takers. I accept that their dysfunctional lives have been permeated by a lack of role models, that family violence is a factor in their lives, that they have been reared by people who had limited parental skills. I understand all of those factors, but at some point in time our youth need to consider the difference between right and wrong. They may not have the ability to be able to control their impulses, but that is what the courts are there for—to be able to identify that. Knowing about the previous convictions of youthful offenders is an interesting point. It is for a sentencing court to get the full picture of that youth or that adult who is before them. They need to understand the pattern of behaviour. They need to understand what needs to be changed.

So we know all of these things. We have myriad programs and the courts have myriad weapons at their disposal to have these young people put in a position where they can change their behaviour—and some have. The evidence clearly illustrates that. I reiterate that the evidence is that the incidence of youth offending is decreasing. Our problem is at the other end of the scale, where we have youthful offenders stealing and unlawfully using motor vehicles sometimes two, three, four, or five times. We have youth who are breaking into houses and youth who are causing violence. In Ipswich there is a minority culture of 20 or so youths who are picking on and beating up people. Those types of offences are prevalent. That behaviour needs to change.

Courts consider many things when imposing sentence. They consider rehabilitation, which I suspect is forefront when sentencing youth offenders. We do not want youth offenders dealt with in a way that might solidify their behaviour. There are other factors and it is for the courts to determine the merit of each of these factors. Rehabilitation is one factor, but deterrence is effectively the backbone of our legal system. We do not reward people for doing wrong things; we deter them. We also consider securing public safety. The public are entitled to be secure in their homes. Detention is one means by which we protect the public. Another factor when imposing sentence is protecting the community standard. The local *Queensland Times* covers Ipswich West as well as Ipswich. The fact that we are going to have open courts, subject to the children's magistrate deciding otherwise, means that not only is the offender going to be named, but also other youth will have an understanding of what the penalty is if they are repeat offenders.

I understand the submissions by those who rely upon the human rights provisions. There are rights in respect of not only the offender but also other youth who are entitled to know what happens in a Children's Court and what the penalties are. They need to understand what the consequences of their actions will be. After all, that is what child raising is all about. For most of us it has probably been effective. Clearly, our legal system is evolutionary. It is the case that courts are always adapting. In the newspaper today we are having a conversation about the inclusion of past convictions of offenders when it comes to a court case. It is an interesting conversation. We have it already, of course, with similar fact evidence, but it seems that now our judiciary are discussing it in a wider context. That is what our court system is about. Nothing stays stationary.

I appreciate the argument put forward by submitters to, and witnesses of, the committee as to the recidivism of Indigenous youth. It is always a matter deserving of special attention and consideration. It is certainly a matter that deserves programs. There are many factors that affect Indigenous youth outside the cities, such as remote locations, education, access to drugs and the availability of jobs, and that is why the blueprint is something that needs to be considered in due course. The factors in this bill stand alone. They are not dependent on a blueprint. It is something that will follow. These provisions are what our community requires. Did our committee members attend as witnesses? No, they did not. In a committee's consideration one will always find that the people who submit and the people who appear as witnesses are the people who have a stake in the outcome. That must be fully understood. It ought not to be said in this House that they are in any way representative of our community because they are not.

If the opposition, as it says today, now so strongly opposes this bill then one has to ask the obvious: in the \$80-odd billion that has been spent, how much went on programs? If it is that important, how much was spent on programs? I do not know that there was any great thrust of money into the youth problem. This data and these statistics have been around for quite some time. Recidivism has been prevalent for a considerable period of time—certainly before our government


came to power. Yet members will see that very little has been done, if anything at all. That is for the community to decide. They are the ones who carry the judgement on whether anything was done before the bill before the House at this moment.

A matter that has come to some prominence is the no-conviction record being used in sentencing as an adult. I fail to understand some of the submitters who I thought would have put some value to this. This is one issue that could have been conceded. We are asking for a judicial officer to view what offences had occurred for which there are no convictions, because the whole idea when sentencing is to look at those factors that I mentioned earlier, such as deterrence, community standards and rehabilitation. How else can one find out the pattern of behaviour other than by knowing what the convictions are? I am at a loss to understand why that is opposed. At the public hearing not one witness made any concession at all on anything. It is understandable because they all had an interest. They all had been part of the programs. I think there was some confusion. I do not think they really understand what is happening in the community at the other end, as the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience has mentioned. Being confronted by a youth with a knife and your life passing before you is a daunting prospect, if anybody has ever had to suffer it in their lifetime; one that brings on many nightmares. There are two sides to the story. It is not always the case that we get two sides in the committee process. Most of us know that. The position is that open courts in some circumstances are reasonable in order to ensure that youth understand and know, through newspapers, what the standards of the community are. That is a basic sentencing principle.

In relation to the automatic transfer of detainees when turning 17, there is a little more to this in the sense that one can think about a 17-year-old going in amongst hardened criminals when, in fact, the position is they are isolated away from the hardened criminals. Let us look at both sides of the coin. In youth detention sometimes we have youth as young as 10 years of age—let us say 11 or 12 years of age—with a 17-year-old. In that case one would mount the same argument: that is just as bad as putting a 17-year-old with older people. If you actually drill down into the argument, the 10-year-olds are actually separated. It is wrong for me to use the argument because what happens in the adult prison happens in youth detention. It is easy to gloss over the subject. It is so easy to put out the superlatives and gloss over it and preach ideology about what happens to youth.

In my opinion, this bill is balanced. It is an expectation of our communities that we do something about changing the behaviour of youth offenders. Our communities expect legislators not to sit idly by, as has happened in the past whereby someone who was caught stealing was given a slap on the wrist, but there was no deterrence factor involved. The reality of life is that our community expects a lot more from us. Our citizens understand the predicament of some young offenders. If asked, some would say, yes, they see detention as a reasonable outcome for a stealing offence. However, the position is that we have that veil. We have the court system operating fairly and impartially. The courts need to have all the options available. Certainly, removing detention as a last resort is just the removal of a fetter. The courts still have full discretion within which to consider their position.

On the topic of the youth crime that permeates Ipswich, my community has told me enough is enough. On many occasions, people have told me that something needs to be done about it. What this government is doing is what the community expects of us. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.10 pm): Today I rise to speak to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. At the outset, I commend the Attorney-General for bringing this legislation to the House. As the member for Ipswich and the Chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee has said, this is balanced legislation. I acknowledge my parliamentary colleagues on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. We have been an incredibly busy committee, but we thoroughly enjoy the work that we do and we thank the Attorney-General for all of the work that he sends our way.

Mr Bleijie: More to come.

Miss BARTON: I thank the Attorney-General, and I really do look forward to it. I thank the secretariat of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for the work that they have done in helping the committee prepare its report. I also thank those who took the time to make submissions on the bill.

As the Attorney-General, the member for Ipswich and the Minister for Local Government have said, the pattern of youth offending in Queensland is changing and the community expects governments to respond. It is incumbent on us as the government to respond to what the community asks of us. In recent times, more offences have been committed, but they have been committed by

fewer offenders. Clearly that indicates that recidivism is an ever-increasing problem. In 2012-13, 50 per cent of the offences were committed by 10 per cent of offenders. This government is committed to breaking that cycle. The current responses are inadequate. We will make sure that we can help young people, as well as restore confidence within our communities and meet the expectations of our communities. I believe that in communities right across Queensland there is an accepted obligation for people to take responsibility for their actions. I do not believe that that responsibility should start at 18. The Minister for Local Government touched on whether or not someone is capable of knowing right from wrong. I believe a 17-year-old is capable of knowing right from wrong. I believe that a 15-year-old is capable of knowing right from wrong, as are a 13-year-old and a 10-year-old.

Mr Powell: My six-year-old knows.

Miss BARTON: I take the interjection from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection: his six-year-old knows right from wrong. Well before six years of age I knew what was right and wrong, because that is what my parents taught me. I am sure that all members of this House would agree that if you do the wrong thing you need to take responsibility for your actions. We all know that for every action there is, indeed, a consequence.

I am a big believer in deterrence being a key factor when we respond and react to criminal activity across Queensland. That is why we need to work with the community to stop young people and others from going down a criminal path. The rates of recidivism concern me, which is why I am very happy to see that the Attorney-General has introduced this legislation. In the same vein, this bill forms part of the Blueprint for the Future of Youth Justice in Queensland, which will be released later this year. The blueprint will focus on early intervention and diversion, responding to causes of crime, improving youth detention services and also working with community organisations to get the best outcomes.

I am sure that everyone in this House would agree that it is incumbent upon us to work with our local communities to make sure that young people are not committing crimes and are not facing a period in detention. In its two years in office, this government has shown that it is very much committed not only to helping young people in our community but also to making sure that we stamp out criminal activity and that we respond to criminal behaviour in a way that the community appreciates and expects. For example, one of the ways that this government has been particularly focused on youth crime and juvenile justice issues is through its boot camp program. I have had the pleasure of visiting the Gold Coast boot camp. It was a little bit wet and a little bit muddy, but it was an incredibly pleasant experience for those of us who visited. It was an opportunity to see how this government is working with community organisations to help at-risk youth from going down a path from which, in many cases, there is no return. I look forward to discussing later in my contribution how we have expanded the boot camp program in this amendment bill.

A number of issues are addressed in this bill, such as the naming of repeat youth offenders, the opening of the Children's Court, a new offence if you commit a criminal activity whilst on bail, if at 17 years of age there is more than six months of your sentence left to be served you will be transferred to an adult prison, and the principle of detention as a last resort no longer exists. Some people are concerned about the naming of repeat youth offenders. However, to those people I say, think about your community and what it is that that community wants. I believe that the naming of repeat youth offenders will not only boost community confidence but also act as a deterrent for recidivists.

In the public hearings, concern was raised about the opening of the Children's Court. I am a very big believer in the importance of our community seeing that justice is being done. One of the ways we can ensure that the community is confident in our justice system is through the availability and the accessibility of our courts. I appreciate that there are some circumstances where it may not be appropriate for a court to be opened, for example, if the accused is someone who is in care. However, there are mechanisms by which both the defence and the prosecution, if need be, will be able to apply for the court to be closed, for example, in such a circumstance.

The introduction of the new offence for offending whilst on bail is a critical measure in this bill. Earlier, I spoke about how people need to take responsibility for their actions and how important that is. This is really in the same vein. People in our community are sick and tired of repeat offenders and recidivists being given a slap on the wrist. It is incredibly frustrating when you see someone who has already been given a slap on the wrist committing another crime and getting another slap on the wrist. This is about making sure that young people in our community are accountable for their actions. Why should it be any different at 16 than it is at 19? To me it does not make any sense. I commend the Attorney-General for the new offence that has been created in this bill.

The member for Ipswich and Chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee touched on the transfer of young people to adult prisons at 17 years of age when there is more than six months left on their sentence. Some people have raised concerns about 17-year-olds being in an adult prison. I have concerns about the possibility of a 22-year-old being in a youth detention centre with someone who is 13, which potentially could happen. At 16 years of age you could be sentenced to a period that would see you stay in detention until you were 21 or 22. I think that there are relevant concerns about a 22-year-old being held in the same youth detention facility as an 11-year-old, a 12-year-old or a 13-year-old. The member for Ipswich addressed some of the concerns that people have about separation.

The other issue of concern that has been raised by a few people is that the principle of detention as the last resort is no longer. Quite frankly, that does not bother me. What bothers me is that we were hamstringing judges and saying that they did not have a full suite of options available to them. Ultimately, what we want to be able to do is empower judges to be able to make the right decisions that not only send a deterrent message to the community and punish the person who has committed the crime but also make the community feel safe. If that means that a 15-year-old who has committed a number of crimes is sent to a juvenile detention centre then that is what should happen. I am happy to say that I am okay with giving judges the option to send repeat juvenile offenders to jail if that is what we need to do to keep our community safe and to send the community a message.

It bothers me that the opposition seems not to be concerned with keeping our community safe but instead kowtows to the activities and actions of the past that clearly proved ineffectual. They have to have been ineffectual because that is why we have seen recidivism rates, particularly with regard to juvenile offenders, increase significantly over the past few years. It is time we did something about it.

I made reference to the public hearing and the submissions the committee received. The committee received 25 written submissions. Of those, we called representatives from nine organisations to appear at a public hearing. We also had the Department of Justice and Attorney-General appear before the committee.

When one reads the submissions and has a look at the transcript of the public hearing there is a consistent acknowledgement of the problem. But what there is not is an alternative. People appeared at the public hearing and said, 'There is a problem and something needs to be done about it. But what you are proposing is not going to work. I don't know what will work. Really, as an organisation, perhaps that is not our responsibility. What I am here to do is tell you that we should not even try what you want to do. You need to think of something else.' It cannot continue to work like that. At some point governments need to step up and give something a shot. I have full confidence that these measures, in accordance with the blueprint that will be released later in the year, will go to great lengths to reduce the rate of youth offender recidivism in this state.

It frustrates me that people would come to a committee and say, 'There is a problem. We have identified the problem. You have come up with the solution. We do not like it, but we are not going to offer you any alternative.' That particularly frustrates me. These are organisations that seek to work with youth offenders and yet they have no alternative on how to help young people in this state.

The committee made two recommendations. I acknowledge that the Attorney-General has tabled the government's response to those. The second recommendation stemmed from the amendments that he earlier foreshadowed to the community. There was a matter for consideration that the committee raised which stemmed from correspondence that we received from the Chief Magistrate regarding amendments to the Youth Justice Act and the Justices Act with regard to appeals.

I want to touch on the amendments that the Attorney-General has spoken to. I note that he has circulated the amendments and the explanatory notes in the chamber. The first amendment that I want to speak to relates to the matter for consideration that we raised which stems from the Chief Magistrate's letter to the committee. His Honour Tim Carmody, the Chief Magistrate of Queensland, believes that an appeal or review of a magistrate's decision should be on an error of law and not result in the rehearing of the original matter and also that findings of fact should be left to a trial judge. I publicly thank His Honour for raising these issues with the committee. I welcome the Attorney's amendments that will be moved in the consideration in detail stage.

I believe that this will further empower the learned magistrates that we have across Queensland. These magistrates are incredibly busy and they are hearing a significant number of matters. Anything that we can do to appreciate the intellect and experience that they bring to the bench and that further empowers them is, I think, a good thing.

There are a number of amendments that will be moved in the consideration in detail stage, but I think the other amendment that really deserves to be mentioned, and which is linked to the second recommendation of the committee, relates to the Attorney-General's moves to deal with recidivist vehicle offenders in Townsville and across Queensland in prescribed areas.


As outlined in the explanatory notes, in recent years the Townsville region has been experiencing a significantly high number of repeat unlawful use of motor vehicle offences. The Townsville community is increasingly frustrated. I would like to place on record my thanks and appreciation for the work of the members from the Townsville region—the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience, the member for Townsville and the member for Thuringowa—and their advocacy for their communities. It is those three members and the others in the surrounding regions—the members for Burdekin and Hinchinbrook—who have stood up for this community and who have made sure this government is hearing the concerns of Townsville community and acted. I will not speak too much to that amendment because the Minister for Local Government has canvassed it broadly in his contribution and I know that the members for Townsville and Thuringowa will be contributing to this debate later in the day.

This amendment bill is designed to respond to the increasing problem of youth offending in Queensland. It is not just happening in Townsville. It is not just happening in Ipswich. It is happening across our communities—across the length and breadth of this great state. It is incumbent on us as a government that seeks to protect and empower its communities to do something about this and respond to this issue.

The Attorney-General said in his second reading speech that 30 per cent of youth offenders in Queensland are committing 75 per cent of crimes. That is shocking. I am sure that all members of this House are very concerned to see figures like that. That is why this government is standing up and doing something about repeat juvenile offenders in this state and youth offenders generally. It is an opportunity for us to help people so that their lives are not ruined, so that they can make for themselves a better future than the one that lies at the end of the path they are going down.

Communities right across Queensland have great expectations that our government will make their communities safer. That is what we are doing. We have seen time and time again the Attorney-General introduce into this House legislation which seeks to protect and support our communities. This is just another piece of that great big puzzle.

The Queensland government is very much committed to supporting the young people in our state who need our help. We are also committed to making sure that Queensland is the safest state in Australia in which to raise a family. I thank and commend the Attorney-General for introducing this legislation to the House. I look forward very much to supporting it in the consideration in detail stage.

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (3.27 pm): Before I make a contribution to the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill I want to address some of the suggestions and some of the comments made by the member for Mundingburra in his address on this bill earlier today. I must, on behalf of my constituents and particularly those who have been subject to violent crimes and general crimes, take offence at his imputation that crime does not happen in the postcode of 4101. I want to place on this parliament's record that people in my electorate are just as subject to violent crimes as anyone else in this state. My office deals with a number of complaints routinely.

Humans have been doing heinous things to one another for millennia. Humans have been doing terrible things to one another. What we have done as a civilised society is grow and learn and take from research and findings what is the best way to turn around recidivist offenders; what is the best way to turn around people, young people particularly, who are at risk of turning into hardened criminals. What this bill does is fly in the face of decades of learning.

I note that the member for Mundingburra did refer to learned individuals when he made his hysterical address earlier today. He referred to them to ridicule them, which is consistent with what this government does. It ridicules the science, it ridicules the evidence, it ridicules the facts. On that point, I want to commend the very thorough contribution made by my colleague the member for Rockhampton and add my voice to the many outside and inside this parliament condemning this bill.

This bill is yet another example of the short-term thinking, evidence-free policy zone that the Newman government inhabits and for which it is now infamous. Far from making Queenslanders safer, this legislation will ensure our justice system takes in wayward kids and turns out hardened criminals with limited prospects, destined to reoffend. I join with organisations like the Queensland Law Society; the Queensland Bar Association; the Anglican Church; the Uniting Church; Sisters Inside; Bond University's Centre for Law, Governance and Public Policy—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms TRAD: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am not taking the juvenile Attorney-General's interjections. I ask that you call him to order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for South Brisbane.

Ms TRAD: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker—Griffith University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice; James Cook University's Comparative Youth Penalty Project; the Anti-Discrimination Commission; and the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian in raising concerns with the approach this government is taking.

No doubt there are young people who commit serious crimes and they should face punishment commensurate with their offending. We do not resile from that on this side of the House. This bill does nothing to tackle the worst offenders who could already be locked up and named by the courts. What this bill does is remove the differentiation that exists between punishments handed down to the worst juvenile offenders and those handed down to minor offenders. Surely the aim of a civilised, modern society should be to turn these young people just starting down the path of offending around—to create productive members of society out of kids who have lost their way—but they will not get that chance under this LNP.

Imposing harsher punishment as a means of preventing recidivism is make-believe nonsense. The Australian Institute of Criminology—not a bleeding heart socialist organisation; the Australian Institute of Criminology—

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for South Brisbane.

Ms TRAD: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I know every time I mention some sort of institute, university, research or evidence those opposite go off their brains and that is because they cannot accept learnings, facts, evidence, science. They do not like it. They do not like it and they do not want to listen to what they have to say. The Australian Institute of Criminology has specifically found that receiving a custodial sentence does nothing to deter a young person from committing further offences. The Queensland Law Society says that this legislation 'is not going to resolve any of the issues' and study after study has shown that custodial sentences in fact increase the likelihood of reoffending.

The government wants to lock up even minor offenders and leave them to intermingle with our worst, most intransigent young offenders in detention centres that will no doubt become a 'college for crims'. Research suggests that associating with delinquent peers increases the chance of offending both because of the spread of deviant attitudes and because they teach each other techniques and opportunities for committing crime. Queensland's youth justice centres will become production lines, turning rebellious teens into intractable criminals with no respect for the law and the skills to put their criminal attitude into practice.

This bill would put Queensland at odds with every other state and territory in Australia. Surely there is a reason every other Australian jurisdiction requires that detention be considered as a last resort for young offenders. Furthermore, this bill removes all restrictions on the 'naming' of young offenders charged with an offence if they have been found guilty of a previous crime, no matter how minor either of the matters are. These are not necessarily repeat offenders. While they have been charged with a second offence, there is no guarantee they will be found guilty. In fact, our justice system is predicated on the fact that a person is innocent until proven guilty. So where is the evidence that this measure is needed? Where is the evidence that this measure will work? I think we know the answer to that. It does not exist.

This bill will leave even the most minor offenders with a bad name or no job or housing prospects. Naming young people is not going to deter criminal behaviour—in fact, just the opposite. The evidence is clear that unemployment and poverty are the key drivers of criminal behaviour and there can be no doubt that 'named' young offenders are going to have an incredibly hard time finding employment and rental accommodation in this age of Google at employers' and landlords' fingertips. Even if they do not turn to reoffending, this will be a cohort of young people who will likely, given known research, need more government support and assistance than children and young people who have a stable family environment and significantly more life opportunities.


I have been very appreciative of the courage shown by the member for Capalaba in sharing with us and all of Queenslanders his life story and his turbulent and dysfunctional childhood and the activities that he engaged in as a delinquent young person because of his background experiences. I

do wonder whether his life would have turned out differently if these laws had applied to him, if these laws had named and shamed him as a young person, and whether in fact he would be in this House making a contribution given his terrible background and his life and time involved in crime. Would he be in this House making a contribution if these laws were in place when the member for Capalaba was a young man? I do not think he would be.

Why should Queenslanders trust this government on youth justice when it has made such a hash of its boot camps? Why should they trust this government when it says it wants to rehabilitate young people when it has axed the youth justice conferencing program, a program that has a 98 per cent satisfaction rating among participants including victims and was regarded by the Children's Court as having—and I quote Children's Court President Judge Shanahan—'a substantial rehabilitative impact on youth offenders'? Why should Queenslanders believe this government when it takes evidence and facts and smashes them, when this government smashes the programs delivering exactly what Queenslanders need and what young people need in order to leave a life of crime?

Ideologically driven laws that invite both concern and condemnation from those whose job it is to implement them, laws that fly in the face of comprehensive and consistent evidence and laws that abandon key principles in responding to young people at risk and in need of rehabilitation are laws that will fail, are laws that will harm and are laws that will cost all Queenslanders—both financially and collectively—in the end. Madam Deputy Speaker, I urge all members to vote against this bill.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (3.37 pm): I rise to contribute to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 introduced by the Attorney-General, the honourable member for Kawana, on 11 February 2014. As the Attorney-General highlighted in his explanatory speech, this bill forms part of a broader set of comprehensive reforms to the youth justice system. Encapsulated in this bill are a number of objectives with a primary focus on addressing the serious and escalating problem of repeat youth offenders who are making life miserable for citizens in our society. This was evidenced last financial year with the number of cases dealt with in the Children's Court rising by more than 10 per cent and the number of offenders increasing by more than 20 per cent. It would appear, therefore, that the do-nothing approach of the Labor government has certainly not done anything to curb these figures.

Importantly, the amendments included in this bill seek to break the cycle of repeat offenders and prevent our youth from spiralling into an undesirable and dangerous path leading to a life of crime. This will be achieved by a number of means including, but not limited to, creating a new offence for committing an offence while on bail; allowing repeat offenders to be publicly named throughout proceedings; making juvenile criminal histories admissible during sentencing of adult offenders; and removing detention as a last resort to give the court greater discretion.

A core responsibility of every government is to protect those most vulnerable—our children. It is a topic that has attracted my attention and enticed me to read countless papers written by academics and medicos throughout my adult life. Words like 'early intervention' and 'good parenting' peppered those pages and continue to do so in recent studies. My early career as a paediatric nurse brought home the critical importance of giving kids a decent start and a loving home environment. I saw numerous heartbreaking instances where family relationships had broken down or were sadly lacking.

Many models have been tried over the years with varying degrees of success, which is why the Newman government has spent much of our two years governing this great state consulting with citizens and organisations about issues such as these and many others that affect people in their everyday lives. It is a credit to this government that it not only consults widely but also adopts a genuine whole-of-government approach. I commend not only the Attorney-General, who has brought this bill before the House, but also the police minister, the Hon. Jack Dempsey, and the child safety minister, the Hon. Tracy Davis.

Today's child faces many more challenges than those born 20 or so years earlier, and many, many more than those born 50 or so years ago, as was recollected by *Sunday Mail* columnist Terry Sweetman last weekend. Terry's political views and mine are frequently at odds. However, he struck a chord when he wrote—

At age 13, life was simple. Parents spoke, children jumped. Rebellion, disillusion and confusion were words you might stumble over in a spelling bee ...

While his article was about the tragedy of youth suicide, it applies to a broader range of pressures affecting our children. Kids today live in a tech-controlled world where social media, advertising and peer pressure are tempting them from all angles, and the effects can be devastating. Cyberbullying is a growing threat that has pushed some vulnerable young people to self-harm or contemplate suicide, and I am sad to say that a number succeed. Others are the bullies themselves in both real and virtual scenarios. Parents have a really tough job steering their kids through the maze of distraction and enticement.

Honourable members may remember the savage attack of an off-duty police officer at Coolangatta on 19 November 2007. Constable Rawson Armitage and his girlfriend, Michelle Dodge, were set upon by a gang of youths aged 10 to 20 as they enjoyed a night out. In this despicable and entirely unprovoked attack on two innocent citizens, Michelle had a clump of hair violently torn from her head and Rawson was brutally bashed and left for dead. The incident was captured on CCTV and showed an 11-year-old child climb onto a paling fence and jump onto the defenceless Armitage. Not surprisingly, the viewing public were outraged. I recall vividly the viciousness and callousness of that attack—one that shocked our tight-knit community as much for its severity as for the young age of the perpetrators. In a speech to this House on 1 September 2010, I acknowledged ‘the shameful lack of parental supervision that permitted these youngsters to be out on the streets kilometres from home during the wee hours of the morning’.

It is with deep sadness that I see teenagers being lured into criminal gangs whilst still young and vulnerable adolescents, encouraged to ditch education for crime and thereby severely limiting their future potential. And, yes, it is happening in my neighbourhoods. I have confidence the Newman government’s tough new criminal motorcycle gang laws will drastically reduce the number of our susceptible youth being cajoled or bribed into joining feeder gangs. Unfortunately, antisocial behaviours have become more brazen and more dangerous, and youths are taking bigger risks with their own and others’ lives.

Rather than adopt a bleeding heart, do-nothing strategy, as we hear from Labor members opposite, we recognise that a tougher stance is needed to deter our youth from going down this path—a path that very rarely has a happy ending. Listening to the denials from the members for South Brisbane and Rockhampton merely reinforce this premise. Parents should not live in fear of wayward, sometimes out-of-control children stealing from them or harming them or other family members. And society needs to know that something is being done to stop the worst youth offenders and, where possible, rehabilitation is being offered at the earliest opportunity. Our suburbs and entertainment precincts deserve to be protected from these young thugs, which is why this government has responded to calls from communities and violated shopkeepers across the state to put a stop to this abhorrent behaviour.

I am supporting the tough measures in this bill for all of the above reasons. These proposed laws will protect young offenders from themselves and society, and strike the right balance between providing an opportunity for offenders to reform whilst also protecting the wider community from their unsavoury actions. I strongly believe this bill goes a long way towards achieving that balance.


I would like to acknowledge the great work of the Elanora police beat—namely, senior constables Kurt Foessel and Dave Simmons—alongside youth engagement officer Laci Christiaen who are making a real and positive impact on the lives of youths in the Currumbin electorate, thanks to support from this government. Project Booyah is a four-month venture aimed at disengaged or at-risk teenage girls. This is the first all-girls Project Booyah, and there are currently 11 students participating in a range of personal development and leadership activities including attending TAFE one day a week.

These officers also run a number of programs in our local schools targeting those who are at risk of disengaging with the community. Some of the classes include ‘Challenge to Change’—a drug and alcohol education program—and ‘BIF’, boxing is fun, which incorporates boxercise with a positive message regarding health, nutrition, anger management and violent relationships. They also administer KREW on Friday nights which involves a range of activities and incorporates positive messages on how to make good choices when confronted with certain situations in high school. These are just a few of the initiatives underway, and I congratulate the team for the significant influence they are having on the youth in Currumbin.

This government is making significant inroads into curbing violence and addressing law and order issues that face all of our communities. Our Gold Coast youth boot camp is another example of a positive step towards rehabilitation. On the Gold Coast we are seeing some seriously impressive

results, with assaults down 16 per cent, robberies falling by 32 per cent and break and enters down 26 per cent. These positive changes are a result of a government prepared to make tough decisions in the best interests of society combined with a hardworking, dedicated police presence.

Unlike those opposite, who are in complete denial and do not even recognise the great work that is being done by this government, I am very proud to be part of a government that is unashamedly committed to cleaning up our streets and ensuring that Queensland is the safest place to live and raise a family.

 **Mr CHOAT** (Ipswich West—LNP) (3.47 pm): I take pleasure in rising to contribute to this extremely important debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. Over the past two years this House has debated and passed legislation that is making a real difference to the law and order of this state. Every day I speak with people in my Ipswich West community who want to know why so many of the sentences handed down in our courts and reported in our local papers seem so lenient. Quite frankly, it is a difficult question to answer as I am every bit as angry as many of them when I read time and time again about minimal punishments in the paper. Often I speak with people who have been the victims of crime and they relate their experiences to me and of how cheated they feel when those who have inflicted the pain, loss and damage on them get just a slap on the wrist.

The laws already passed and, indeed, the ones we are debating today, are tough and for good reason. Over the years we have seen the legal system change, and members of the community could be forgiven for believing the system was bending over backwards to accommodate the needs of criminals while giving scant regard to their victims. Few other areas of law elicit so much debate as the area of juvenile crime. This is an area which needs real and decisive action on our streets, in our courts and, indeed, in this parliament. Today we heard in this place that the Attorney-General and the Premier have a plan to give local communities a say in the way we approach liquor laws and the important issue of alcohol and drug fuelled violence.

Experimentation with alcohol and drugs is often the first step for some of our youth on the path to a life of crime, and it is most definitely one of the more pressing social matters in our society today. This is an issue that must be addressed and the community has to have a say. We need to examine all areas which are the root of crime in our communities—areas like illicit drug use and trade impact on and are largely targeted at young people, destroying lives in every way possible.

Unfortunately, juvenile crime spiralled out of control under 20 years of Labor in Queensland, and it has been no accident. Over time successive failures by the Goss, Beattie and Bligh governments saw laws watered down as part of a 'go soft on crime' mentality. The time has come for things to change. The Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 is a proactive way to ensure a better and safer future for the victims of crime and to also deal with perpetrators.

There are strategies to divert those who can be directed back onto the right path and to appropriately punish those who thumb their nose at the law and at our community through repeat offending and breaching bail conditions. As a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I have given much consideration to this bill and have been privy to much of its content from all perspectives. Importantly, I have taken the issues at the core of this legislation out into my community to gain an understanding of my people's views and experiences so that I could clearly understand their expectations and what is ultimately in the community's interests.

The Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 was introduced to the House on 11 February 2014 and referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. On 13 February the committee wrote to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General seeking advice on the bill. We also invited stakeholders and subscribers of the committee to lodge written submissions. The committee received written advice from the department and 24 submissions, all used by the committee in its deliberations. On Monday, 3 March a public hearing was held where the committee took evidence from a number of invited stakeholders followed by representatives of the department. The information provided was of interest. However, I felt that much of the evidence given was not in keeping with the public sentiment I have witnessed firsthand and seemed to try to argue that the system as it exists is meeting the community's needs and expectations. That could not be further from the truth both in my view and in the overwhelming view of my people.

One witness tried to say that somehow young people up to the age of 24 cannot be held responsible for their actions because their brains were not properly developed. However, when I asked that person at what age a child knew right from wrong, a specific answer could not be given. Give me a break! I am the father of three children aged two to 16. They are not always perfect and they do make mistakes and often poor choices. The thing is that they do know right from wrong from

a very early age. It is my view and experience that children as young as eight not only know right from wrong, but also they can consider well the consequences of their actions. I am not saying that you go and condemn a child of eight for a silly or even short-sighted decision—certainly not. However, there is a necessity to teach these young people about personal responsibility and consequences. Children should be made accountable for their actions at every stage as part of life learning, and the home is the best place to start with that. I have been well known for expressing my views in my community about the use of sensible discipline by parents as part of a balanced strategy and, yes, as I have said before, sometimes a good smack can go a long way when warranted.

At some stage even good people make poor decisions. Getting back to children, sadly, they do not all grow up with a good sense of the consequences of making bad decisions and sometimes, even despite the best efforts of parents and carers, some go off the rails and get involved in crime. With help, I believe society can intervene and save many of these young people from going beyond the point of no return. Strategies like the boot camp option for young offenders as well as other policies which provide a way to effectively intervene and build self-respect, self-confidence, skills and knowledge are the way to get troubled kids back on the right track.

Just this week I attended my One Mile Neighbourhood Watch. We had a great information session from our Ipswich PCYC and Pro-Drive Ipswich about their terrific Breaking the Cycle program, which is making a tremendous difference to young people who might be marginalised due to not having a responsible adult to take them through their 100 hours driving under the current learners permit arrangements. It is programs like these that are needed for diversion, not the courts. These great strategies are real diversional programs—just not in the conventional sense—and they do make a real difference. When we are dealing with young people who clearly do not want to participate in opportunities to be rehabilitated once they have been in the legal system or where there are repeat offenders and perpetrators of serious crimes, these young criminals should and must be detained. No amount of touchy-feely nonsense will change some of these young criminals. We simply have no choice but to punish them through detention whilst protecting the community from their wanton, antisocial behaviour. In particular, where a young person is found to be continuously repeating criminal acts, there comes a time when they must simply be locked up to put a stop to the behaviour and, dare I say, to punish them for it.

I also believe that in serious cases there is justification for naming and shaming offenders as I believe that in most cases the prospect of this will act as a deterrent and it sends a message to them that the community is really serious about crime. We have heard so much over the years and here in this chamber about the nonsense of stigmatising people. I can remember the extreme nonsense wherein some social lunatics were trying to say that the act of a teacher marking a child's schoolwork with a red pen would do irreparable damage and cause them harm and stigmatisation—most likely people wearing white lab coats. I believe we have moved on from that and we are now willing to accept that there are some who simply do not wish to play by society's rules.

During the hearings one witness stated that people had a right to feel safe in their homes and that businesses should be able to operate without the added burden of crime, yet she still wanted to continue a soft approach to young perpetrators of such crimes. Unfortunately, we just cannot have it both ways. Something has to be done, and I am confident that these laws about which we have heard much detail today will deliver positive change and, in time, fewer young people are going to be going into a life of crime. The witness I spoke of and her organisation had not bothered to speak to a single small business person or resident. I questioned them on that and pursued them and they were not able to state that they had actually bothered to speak to one single representative of the wider community, which I think is very sad.

The bill has six main policy objectives to enhance Queensland's youth justice system and law reform agenda as follows: permit repeat offenders' identifying information to be published and open the Children's Court for youth justice matters involving repeat offenders; create a new offence where a minor commits a further offence while on bail; permit a minor's findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded to be admissible in court when sentencing a person for an adult offence. It is interesting. I cannot help but go back to the information that we all would have seen on the *60 Minutes* program on Sunday night about the Morcombe case. At the age of 18 that criminal monster very seriously sexually abused a seven-year-old. He was located in the place where he met that seven-year-old as a result of criminal behaviour. If the judge who sentenced that person to just two years for the abomination perpetrated on that poor fellow, whom we saw interviewed, had had information about what that person had been doing, they may have been able to come to a better decision. I believe they may have been able to do something about that person who was obviously on his way down a very dark road and, sadly, we have seen where that eventually led.

The bill also provides for the automatic transfer from detention to adult corrective services facilities of 17-year-olds who have six months or more left to serve in detention. We have heard members saying, 'You will have these people thrown into the adult detention centre.' They are not going to do that. It is not just a case of when they turn 17, they will be thrown in that day. Every consideration will be given. Most of the people will, hopefully, learn through their experience in juvenile detention and will never end up in an adult prison unless of course they deserve to be there. It also provides that, in sentencing any adult or minor for an offence punishable by imprisonment, the court must not have regard to any principle, whether under statute or at law, that a sentence of imprisonment in the case of an adult or detention in the case of a minor should only be imposed as a last resort. I think that is one of the fundamental changes. I believe that our judges will now be unshackled and will be able to make decisions relative to the individual who is before them at the time. Finally, it will allow minors who have absconded from sentenced youth boot camps to be arrested and brought before a court for resentencing without first being given a warning.

I am certain that the community in North Queensland who saw the two individuals abscond from the boot camp needed more than just a warning. The bill also makes technical amendments to the Youth Justice Act; amends the Children's Court Act 1992, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Act for particular purposes; and makes minor and consequential amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and of course the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009.

We have heard honourable members recount some very interesting situations in their communities, and I will too. A storekeeper in the great little town of Lowood happened to see two individuals, a 20-year-old and 15-year-old, pushing a baby in a pram. They then loaded hundreds of dollars worth of groceries into the pram and arranged for the 15-year-old to push the pram out of the store. Unbeknownst to them they were on CCTV camera, and the police were called and the two were apprehended. It was interesting because the 20-year-old immediately said to the police, 'You can't touch her. She's 15. She took the stuff out of the store, not me.'


Mr Judge: That is rubbish! Complete drivell!

Mr CHOAT: You would not know because you were not there! Because the 20-year-old had loaded the stroller up with those items, she was actually in a lot of trouble. The interesting part is that when the 15-year-old and her grandmother went back to the store to pay for the hundreds of dollars worth of items that were stolen, the shopkeeper was absolutely horrified and astonished by the attitude of this 15-year-old: she could not have cared less; she laughed when asked to apologise; she had absolutely no remorse. I worry about the third person involved—the little child in the stroller who was being used as a cover for the so-called covert actions of those two. What sort of a life is that child going to grow up with when people like that are in control of their future wellbeing? It is very, very sad. It just goes to show that that 20-year-old thinks that the legal system with regard to youth justice in this state is such a joke, that she was willing to actively use the 15-year-old to get away with a crime. She thought if they got caught nothing would happen to them because the girl who was with her was only 15. 'That is all good, so I am going to get away with it.' That was a folly on her part, because she has been charged. They are the sort of people that we certainly do not want in our great Somerset community at all, not in Lowood, not in Fernvale and definitely not in Ipswich either.

I commend the Attorney-General and his department for this legislation because I know that when these bills are passed, I am going to be able to look my people in the eye and say, 'We have put the laws in place so you can feel a little bit more protected and feel as though you are getting some justice.' Because, unlike the member for Yeerongpilly, I actually listen to my local people and I value them. I am not about to run out on them and go off on some 'scallyjant' to so-called greener pastures. I am a stayer and I listen to my people. I value their views, and I take great pleasure in taking their advice. There are a lot of people in our community who have had to grin and bear the mistakes of the past 20 years of state government in Queensland and live with those things and suffer, and now they get a sense that things are improving. Small business people know that they are going to be able to do something to protect their businesses, and I am not just talking about CCTV cameras and tens of thousands of dollars worth of equipment that these people see as their last line of defence. There will be laws that will grab the perpetrators and hopefully set them on the path of not reoffending. But if they are hell-bent on reoffending they will certainly end up behind bars, where I believe they belong.

I am really pleased to support this bill. I will listen with interest to the debate as it goes on. I am pleased to be a part of a government that is standing up. We have heard members of the opposition talk about following ideological paths and populist views. Do you know what? I listen to the people in

my community, and the vast majority of people believe that when it comes to law and order, this government is getting results and doing what they want. I will not shy away from that. I take the view that I listen to my community and I act for them. I am their megaphone, if you like, and I take it very seriously because they are great people. They do not ask for much; they just want a fair go. They do not want to be molested by these lunatic juveniles that are wandering the streets. They want to go about their business, go shopping, get on the bus and go home without being robbed and bashed by people who are just, in a lot of cases, doing it for kicks. I certainly support this legislation, and I look forward to it passing and becoming law in this state.

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (4.05 pm): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. In commencing this contribution I would like to place on the record my appreciation to the police who work in the community and are at the coalface in terms of these and other offences. I also place on the record my appreciation for their tolerance and patience in working with offenders, whether juvenile or not, and who feel a sense of frustration if sentencing is not appropriate according to the views of the community.

I would also like to pay tribute to the wonderful individuals who work with young people at the PCYCs constantly trying to establish a positive interface between youth and the Police Service and endeavouring to intervene in a lot of young people's lives where perhaps the influence from home is not as positive as it ought to be. I think there is a new name for the school Adopt-a-Cops who also are endeavouring to establish positive relationships between students at particular schools and the police in their area. Many of these police officers who attend schools regularly get to know some of these young people who are in need of extra support, and they use that as a mechanism to develop a relationship with young people in an endeavour to steer them in the right direction.

However, the responsibility for a child's training ultimately rests with the parents. We need to empower people to be good parents who are able to discipline their children, especially when they are keen to see them grow up to be law-abiding, considerate and thoughtful people. It has been said in some of the debates here that children of 14 or 15 years of age have an underdeveloped sense of right or wrong. I believe some who made those submissions to the committee hearings have a strong scientific or studied background in that age group. But I would have to say that from a logical point of view, kids learn right from wrong at a very young age. They may not understand the intricacies of their behaviour or the detailed lawfulness of right or wrong, but as they grow they do get to understand what is expected of them by their parents, families and communities. I think the number of children who would reach their early teens without some understanding of what is acceptable behaviour would be in the minority. Even if they come from dysfunctional homes, they would learn what is right and wrong by the reaction of the broader community to their behaviours.


I would like some clarification from the minister—and it may be clear, and I apologise if I do not have a proper understanding—but previous speakers have said that juveniles aged 17 who have more than six months of their sentence remaining to be served will be transferred to an adult correctional facility. The comment has been made that they will be separated from the other prisoners, and I would be most interested in your clarification on that.

There has also been discussion about sentencing creating more offenders or more hardened offenders and that removing prison as a last resort will not have an impact in a positive sense and would rather have a detrimental impact. Recidivists have abused the principle of prison as a last resort. There is certainly generally within the community, whether it is accurate or not, a perception that—and I almost quote people—these young ones think they can get away with murder. The principle of prison as a last resort was included in our legislature for good purpose. The intention was to recognise the value of young people and to incarcerate them when all other avenues had been tried. I would again seek clarification on whether the principle of prison as a last resort will still be available to sentencing judges in relation to young people who perhaps are first-time offenders or who, as second- or third-time offenders, have a reason, if you like, for their offending—that is, that their background, their home circumstance and other issues will be taken into account or can be taken into account by the sentencing authority at the time of the court case.

I understand that the people who appeared and made submissions to the committee at its hearings are not just a bunch of left-wing do-gooders. I do not think you can include the Australian Institute of Criminology, the Anglican Church, the Bar Association and the Law Society in that category. However, I also recognise that in my community there is a strong sense of frustration in relation to repeat offenders who are young. There is frustration and anger about the youth of people who are offending. There is frustration about seeing young kids aged nine, 10 and 11 out on the streets at one and two o'clock in the morning, and the question can reasonably be asked: why are

they not at home? I am also interested in the minister's response in relation to the naming and shaming issue. Again, if I ask those in my community, they would say resoundingly that this legislation is good.

I remain concerned, however, that we do not pass legislation that will make young people more inclined to offend or, in offending, more inclined to be more violent. So I will be listening to the contributions of both government members and non-government members in order to understand more fully the implications of this legislation. I am, however, cognisant of the fact that if the question was asked of my community whether they believed this legislation was good they would say yes, and that weighs greatly on my mind in relation to the vote which will have to be taken at the end of this debate. I look forward to the minister's response.

 **Mr DILLAWAY** (Bulimba—LNP) (4.13 pm): Today I rise to contribute to the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. To put this bill into context, it is firstly important to note that in 2012-13 approximately 10 per cent of all young offenders were responsible for 50 per cent of the offences committed. I congratulate the Attorney-General on the introduction of this bill to the House that amends the Children's Court Act 1992, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Act. I acknowledge the work of my colleagues on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, the research team and those who participated in the committee process through providing written submissions and those who appeared at the public hearing. This bill is part of a broader set of comprehensive reforms being undertaken by the can-do Newman government's commitment to deliver on youth justice in Queensland. The primary aim of the reforms is to provide a system that is able to effectively respond to youth crime, hold young people better to account for their actions, and to deter them from future offending.

Current responses to youth offending are inadequate to address the seriousness of the offences being committed. The amendments contained within this bill respond to strong community expectations by providing for, firstly, the publication of identifying details of all repeat young offenders; secondly, opening the Children's Court when hearing matters involving repeat offenders in order to provide transparency in decision making; thirdly, creating an offence for breach of bail where a young person commits an offence while on bail; fourthly, allowing all childhood findings of guilt to be admissible to courts on sentencing adults; enabling the automatic transfer of 17-year-olds from youth detention to adult correctional facilities; omitting and ousting the sentencing principle that detention is a sentence of last resort, and the bill has the same effect with regard to the sentencing of offenders aged 17 years and over, thereby ensuring the youth justice system is not more onerous than the adult regime; and, finally, allowing children who abscond from a sentenced youth boot camp to be immediately arrested and returned to court for resentencing.

Members may notice a repeated key word throughout the listed amendments—the word 'repeat'. I want to emphasise that we are targeting repeat offenders, not kids who make a silly mistake and learn from it. I strongly support the Attorney-General in his aim to balance the scales of justice by making repeat offenders accountable whilst ensuring first-time offenders have optimal opportunity to get back on the straight and narrow. We are giving offenders an exit of the crime highway and the chance at a more positive, productive life while at the same time prioritising the safety and protection of the community.

A number of submissions to the committee expressed concerns about the naming and shaming of repeat youth offenders as a result of a broad range of what-if situations. The committee was satisfied with the departmental response to this concern by clarifying that the bill equips the Children's Court with a broad-ranging discretion to prohibit publication of repeat offenders' identifying information or if an open court is not in the interests of justice. For example, if the court is of the view that this could impact adversely on the offender, on a victim or a sibling or other family member of the offender or if it could unduly jeopardise the court process, including by encouraging an offender to see the court process as an opportunity to live up to their tarnished reputation or to gain approval of their peers, the court will have a very wide discretion to exercise these powers in a way which takes the submitters' concerns into account.

The need to create a disincentive to children offending while on bail is clear from the fact that in 2011-12 alone 290 young offenders committed a further offence while on bail for an indictable offence. This implementation was supported by some 66.3 per cent of respondents to the government's Safer Streets Crime Action Plan—Youth Justice survey. The Newman government has already made progress on its reforms with the sentenced youth boot camp trial, the introduction of a mandatory graffiti removal order and an increase to the maximum penalty for serious graffiti offences. The blueprint for youth justice is due for release later this year following extensive community

consultation with the Safer Streets Crime Action Plan—Youth Justice survey which, I would like to point out, received overwhelming responses. The focus of the blueprint will be to reduce the number of offenders and prevent reoffenders. It will outline the government's approach to transforming the youth justice system to one that leads the nation, is supported by our community and holds young offenders accountable.

We refuse to adopt the slap-on-the-wrist approach of the former Labor government which has created a generation of arrogant repeat offenders who are very well aware of what they can get away with. I have experienced firsthand the frustration of this approach in my own electorate of Bulimba where there have been incidents of repeat youth offenders and the victims of their crimes are at a loss as to why they are not held accountable for their actions. In many cases, the repeat offenders were out on bail and yet continued to undertake the same brazen criminal activity that saw them before the courts in the first or the second or even the third instance. In parts of my electorate like Seven Hills street after street were actually held under siege. Houses were put up for sale because residents could no longer take the fact that a repeat offender was living down the street from them and time and time again that repeat offender would either break into their house, break into their car or threaten them with other offences.

So what did they do? They installed extra security such as CCTV cameras or security grilles. I consider that, in my part of Brisbane in the electorate of Bulimba, above and beyond what my community should have to endure. We live in Australia. We live in Queensland. We live in Brisbane. We do not need to have a situation where our suburbs and our streets are under siege. During this period I also heard time and time again the frustration of the officers of the Queensland Police Service at both the Morningside and Carina stations who were responsible and who had to make continual arrests and charge the same youth offenders for the same offences that they were originally charged with.

This issue was also reinforced through the results of my own Bulimba Biggest Community Survey that I held during 2012 where a staggering 83 per cent of respondents expressed concern about the level of youth crime. Likewise, in the Safer Streets Crime Action Plan survey over 4,000 respondents, mostly victims of crime, expressed their views with emphatic responses to most of the proposed reforms. Today, I would like to highlight some of those for the House. More than 75 per cent of the respondents were either victims or had a family member who was a victim of crime and 65.9 per cent of those believed that giving courts access to an adult offender's juvenile criminal history would be quite effective or very effective. As I referred to before, 66.3 per cent agreed to creating an offence for breach of bail conditions, half agreed with naming and shaming and 58.4 per cent supported the automatic transfer of offenders to adult prisons when they turned 17.

Our government has listened to the strong viewpoints of Queenslanders and has taken on board this feedback. These responses have provided the framework for the youth justice blueprint. In stark contrast to the former Labor government, we are committed to breaking the cycle, stopping the revolving door of youth crime and changing the culture through a fresh approach. The number and seriousness of youth offences by repeat offenders has been growing at an alarming rate. We have heard from members who have already spoken that, although the number of youth offences has declined, the number of repeat offenders is rising. As part of these reforms, this bill focuses on enhancing the consequences for young offenders who resist the opportunities afforded to them and persist on a course of criminal behaviour.

This legislation is all part of a comprehensive action plan that has been very well considered, analysed and discussed to address the prevalence and impact of youth offending in our community. This bill is the start of the reform and we need to take into consideration that many of the submissions provided to the committee asked that we take other programs into account. I know that the Attorney-General and his department and our can-do government will ensure that we have a comprehensive suite of reforms to deliver on our election promise to make Queensland the safest place to raise a family. I understand that the blueprint will include strategies for reform across a number of focus areas, including early intervention and diversion, responding to causes of crime, managing demand for youth justice services, improving youth detention services and, importantly, providing effective investment to non-government organisations.

Once again, I would like to commend the Attorney-General for leading these initiatives under the Newman government's youth justice reform. On this issue, Labor failed Queensland. Patience is not a plan or a policy that resonates with the members of my community; they want action. Therefore, I am proud to be a member of a government that refuses to close its eyes to the problem of youth

crime and hope that it will go away, that will acknowledge that repeat offenders are not deterred by a slap-on-the-wrist approach and will deliver for Queenslanders and their local communities in making our streets safer.

In summary, this bill effectively enhances the punishment for repeat offenders whilst also recognising that first-time offenders should be given the opportunity to get back on the straight and narrow. These changes may be tough, but they are fair, they are necessary and they, in fact, meet the expectations of the members of my community. I commend the bill to the House.

Mr JUDGE (Yeerongpilly—PUP) (4.24 pm): What a lot of drivel we have just heard! On 11 February 2014 the Attorney-General introduced the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. The bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for consideration. Against expert advice—and I will repeat that: expert advice; some people with information, inside knowledge, understanding, comprehension of the cause of juvenile crime, reported research—the Newman government members of the committee, the majority, each and every one of them, except the two non-government members, the member for Nicklin and the member for Rockhampton, just rubber-stamped it. We have become used to expecting that. Everything that goes before committees gets rubber-stamped because no-one on the committee has the backbone to stand up and listen to the evidence that is coming before them. What a bunch of spineless people!

This is yet another appalling bill that has been created by Queensland's worst-ever law officer, Queensland's most hated Attorney-General ever, and a hated man in Kawana from what I am hearing—

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. I find the comments personally offensive and I ask the member to withdraw unequivocally.

Mr JUDGE: I withdraw. Submissions to the committee closed on Wednesday, 26 February 2014. The committee held a public hearing on the bill on Monday, 3 March. The committee heard invited witnesses give their views on the proposals being advanced in the bill—experts; ordinary people; people who care about victims but people who understand the causes of crime; people who care about victims but who do not want to see more victims; people who want to stop young people from committing more crimes because they get institutionalised, stigmatised and marginalised. The research proves that that causes young people to commit more crimes and if they commit more crimes they create more victims.

Mr Choat: Rubbish.

Mr JUDGE: It is that simple. But some people in this House, like the member for Ipswich West, would not have a clue. Based on the overwhelming evidence presented to it by many experts—people who care about victims, might I add, but who also understand the complexities of youth offending, including the causes of recidivism—the committee should have responsibly reported that the bill not be passed. But they rubber-stamped it, because none of them had a spine. It is an ideological and immature approach to law-making not to adopt evidence based positions that, in this case, requires an understanding of the causes of crime and recidivism.

Mr Choat interjected.

Mr JUDGE: I have heard the member for Ipswich West talk about his children. Has he ever been to Woorabinda, an Aboriginal community? Has he gone out there to see how those children are brought up?

A government member interjected.

Mr JUDGE: I would know. They live in the worst possible circumstances and they are being failed by the Newman government, by the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and by the federal government because the children in those communities are suffering. They are being let down. Those children are growing up around physical and sexual abuse and they are going into towns such as Rockhampton and Townsville at one o'clock in the morning because their parents have systemic problems. Those children are committing crimes because of the circumstances of their environment—because of the failures of government to respond to the issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, who make up the majority of the youth in custody in Queensland. Those are the facts that members should take into consideration.

It is a disgrace that you come into this House to represent your community underinformed, underdone. You have no idea. The Attorney-General has no idea.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Member for Yeerongpilly! I would ask that you direct your comments through the chair.

Mr JUDGE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am sorry, but the Attorney-General would not have a clue. He is a bloke who has never had a real job. I note that he has copied a cheating and gambling bill that I have introduced. I do not know how he got his law degree. He probably copied the bloke next to him in his exams. He has no idea whatsoever. God help us! He may say, 'God save the Queen' every morning but I say, 'God save Queensland from this bloke.' I will dumb this down to help the LNP members on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I will dumb this down to help the Attorney-General.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr JUDGE: Just listen for a moment, Attorney-General, and I will explain something to you. It is very simple. If the Attorney-General's laws contribute to increasing recidivism it will increase offending behaviours and that will lead to more victims of crime. It is that simple, but the Attorney-General does not get it. He has heard from many well qualified and experienced people and has chosen to ignore them. He has a political agenda. He does not have a public agenda. That is a disgrace. He is here for his political career not for his community.

For the record I will table appendix A, the list of submissions made to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee; appendix B, the list of witnesses at the public hearing; and appendix C, the list of additional submissions made to the committee.

Tabled paper. Extract from a report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, 'Appendix A—List of Submissions' [4669].

Tabled paper. Extract from a report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, 'Appendix B—List of witnesses at Public Hearing' [4670].

Tabled paper. Extract from a report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, 'Appendix C—List of Additional Submissions' [4671].

There is overwhelming evidence against this bill. The LNP members on the committee have sat there and not heard a word. I think the member for Ipswich West confessed to smacking his children. How is that going? The cumulative information before the committee overwhelmingly warns the Attorney-General and the Newman government against the approaches being proposed under the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. For the record, children who commit serious offences do not get slapped on the wrist, as the Attorney-General would have you believed. As a former police officer and a detective who specialised in child protection and juvenile justice for many years, I can tell members, based on real life experience, that the Attorney-General's claims are simply false and misleading and typical of him.

In his summing up I ask the Attorney-General to confirm whether he has made public all the submissions received in relation to the Newman government's inquiries and surveys including via his ministerial office—not just to the committee but via his ministerial office. Has he released all the submissions made in relation to this bill? If he has not, he has not informed the House and he has not enabled proper debate. He needs to answer that question. I see that the Attorney-General is wearing Palmer United Party colours today. He is doing that because he wants to minimise his association with the LNP. That is what happened at Redcliffe. There was not one photograph of the Premier on the how-to-vote cards. The Attorney-General is trying to minimise his association with the LNP already.

Mr WATTS: I rise to a point of order. I would like to find out if membership of the Palmer United Party is relevant to the bill.


Mr Hopper interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Member for Condamine, I am capable of making an adjudication on the point of order without your commentary from the sideline, thank you very much. It is not relevant and I would ask that the member, in his time remaining, return to the long title of the bill.

Mr JUDGE: The Premier may think it is okay to give the member for Kawana some legal experience as Attorney-General, but Queensland is suffering for it. I have taken statements from more victims of crime than the Attorney-General and I am confident that I have spoken to more victims and interviewed more offenders than any member in this House. I have also supported many victims through medical examinations in the middle of the night and difficult court proceedings. My first priority has always been protecting people from becoming victims. I spent two decades of policing protecting the community from becoming victims. I fear for the inevitable victims as a result of the stigmatisation, marginalisation and institutionalisation of youth offenders who will be created by the

Attorney-General and Newman government's ideological draconian laws that ignore the obligations under the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child. The bill does not protect victims because it would ultimately result in more serious offending, more grave outcomes and more victims.

The Attorney-General must grow up and take a more mature response to law making. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee must stop acting as his rubber stamp. I have made my position clear about protecting people from becoming victims. I make it very clear to the Attorney-General in advance that I will not tolerate any attempt by the Attorney-General to mislead the House that I am not here to protect victims. I morally cannot support this ill-informed, damaging, dangerous bill.

 **Mr JOHNSON** (Gregory—LNP) (4.34 pm): I am very surprised at the contribution made here this afternoon by the member for Yeerongpilly, a man who has upheld the duties of a police officer in this state and understands full well what the justice system is all about, especially when it comes to youth justice. The member for Yeerongpilly made reference to the draconian laws that we are introducing here. That is the problem: the draconian laws are the ones that are leading the kids in this state into trouble every day. The situation is that the Attorney-General has consulted with the people in this state. Of those surveyed, 65.9 per cent believe that giving courts access to an adult offender's juvenile criminal history would be 'quite effective' or 'very effective'; 49.9 per cent agreed with removing barriers to the naming and shaming of child offenders; and 47.8 per cent agreed with removing detention as a last resort for young offenders. Most of these young offenders run riot from the day they can walk. There is no doubt that discipline starts at home.

For too long in this society the goody-goody-two-shoes have been paying attention to the 'poor buggler me' syndrome; he had a bad upbringing. As a kid I got my fair share of wallops. If you had a mother like I had, you would have respect all right. At the end of the day that is what is the matter with society today. The member for Yeerongpilly and other people who want to oppose this legislation do not have any idea at all of what this is all about. This is about trying to bring these young people back in line. It is about trying to encourage them to be good citizens and uphold the law, not violate the law and continue to break the law. It is about trying to look after them and give them opportunities. Whilst it might be a bit tough in places, there are certainly deterrents in this legislation. Those deterrents are about trying to make these people aware. I remember years ago in Quilpie when the coppers told me one day, 'Vaughan, you get out of town. We don't want to see you for a week.' I did not come back for two weeks. I was terrified of them. I am still terrified of them. The louts today are not terrified of police. They are not terrified of anybody. They have no respect for police, their elders or each other, so how are they going to have respect for somebody else and their property? They have none whatsoever.

As my old dad always said, sometimes you have to be cruel to be kind. This is one of those situations. It is not about being cruel to be kind; it is about us knowing what the law is. It is about upholding the law in the best traditions of the Western democracy that we are used to and not seeing kids run riot. I have been over to some European countries, Asia and China. You do not see this type of activity or violence there. You do not see kids snubbing their noses at their elders and behaving like tuppenny ha'penny dropkicks. At the end of the day this is about trying to get the show back on the road. If we are going to get this state back on the road, we have to get our young people on the road with us.

The policy objectives of this bill are to permit repeat offenders' identifying information to be published and open the Children's Court for youth justice matters involving repeat offenders. I think that is a very good initiative. It is putting those young people back through the youth justice system. It will create a new offence where a child commits a further offence while on bail. Last week we saw the worst case of violence against a human being by that mongrel, depraved, idiot who has been sentenced to life. I hope that one day the Attorney might get it reversed so that the key is thrown away. If we continue in this vein all we will do is breed more of the same type.


We have to do something about it, which is exactly what the Attorney-General and the Newman government are trying to do. We are trying to put respect back into the community. We are trying to put respect back into society so that your wife or your kids—your son, your daughter, or anyone for that matter—can walk down the street at midnight and know that they are going to be safe, that they are not going to be bashed or robbed. I hope that our community of Queensland, Australia, can return to the way it was when I was a child: the place was safe, you could leave your car or your house unlocked, and a kid in the street would call you 'Mister' or 'Missus'. Today, the kids will call you anything. I have heard kids call the police some horrible names. That is precisely why we have the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 before the House today.

What I really like about this legislation is that it provides for the automatic transfer from detention to adult corrective service facilities of 17-year-olds who have six months or more left to serve in detention. If that is not a deterrent, I do not know what is. When I was the shadow minister for police and corrective services, I visited many correctional facilities throughout the state. I can tell the House that they are not pleasant places to be. I remember visiting the Stuart prison with my good friend the member for Burdekin. We were in the remand section. The general manager asked if we wanted to engage with the prisoners. I said, 'Yes, I do, if they want to engage with me'. One bloke came up to me and said, 'Mate, I'm in here for three months. I don't know why I've got three months. My girlfriend was losing and I took her to hospital'. I said, 'Mate, there'd be no police officer in this state and there'd be no court in this state that would fine you for taking your good lady to hospital if she was losing.' At the end of the day, I walked outside and asked the general manager, 'Why is that bloke in here if he did a good deed for his lady?' He said, 'He's in here because he bashed her, that's why.' That is what we are trying to eliminate here. We are trying to get some sanity and some credibility back into the community so that we do have respect for women, we do have respect for each other and young people have respect for their elders—their parents, their grandparents and everyone else.

This is a very good piece of legislation and, at the end of the day, it will be a real deterrent and it will make people aware. I think that every schoolchild in years 11 and 12 should be made aware of their responsibilities. When I was a kid of 12 or 13 years of age, I knew what I was about. I knew what my responsibilities were. You knew right from wrong and you knew what it meant to do the wrong thing. I am still terrified of doing the wrong thing. I live in fear of doing the wrong thing. However, those people have no comprehension of what fear means. They have never been subjected to it. The only ones who are subjected to fear are the ones they continually victimise, by bashing them, denigrating their property or whatever.

This bill will allow children who have absconded from sentenced youth boot camps to be arrested and brought before a court for resentencing without first being given a warning. This is what it is all about: two strikes and you are out. We have to let go of this business about 'poor bugger me'. This is 2014, Queensland, Australia, and it is a democratic and free society. This is a land where we know what the law is and we uphold it. I think what happened last week to that certain person should be an example to all people in this state, regardless of who they might be. The consequences of the laws in this state, whether you are a 14-year-old, a 13-year-old or a 17-year-old, must be upheld. The Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill before the House today is a very good piece of legislation and will do precisely that.

I say to the Attorney-General, do not err on the side of caution, because we see examples of this every day. The minister for family services and the Minister for Police are present in the chamber. I point to the budgets in those two portfolios. There is an enormous cost in running those two departments. Other than the minister for family services, nobody—and I mean nobody—would understand the difficulties faced by her department. On a daily basis she sees some horrible things, because of the people whose behaviour we are trying to address in this legislation. Those people are making people's lives a misery; they are continually snubbing their nose at the law and at society in general. In two or three years, Queensland will be a better place for having legislation such as this. I applaud the Attorney-General and I applaud the government for bringing it before the House today.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.44 pm): I rise to support the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I thank all of the people on the committee and the people who made submissions to the committee. We need to step back a little bit and consider what we are trying to achieve here. We are trying to create the safest place to live and raise a family. In the LNP, we want Queensland to be the safest place to live and raise a family. Is this legislation harsh? Yes, this legislation is harsh. It is firm but fair. Why does it need to exist? It needs to exist because 60 per cent of the offenders we are talking about in this legislation have been to court five times or more and 30 per cent of offenders account for 75 per cent of the crime. That is who we are talking about here.

An honourable member: Ask yourself why.

Mr WATTS: I take the interjection and I do ask myself why. I say what is needed is a sensible whole-of-government approach where we might look at, for example, education and literacy. We need to make sure that children in prep to year 3 get a solid education in literacy. We have front loaded the spending into schools to make sure that children in P-3 meet the minimum numeracy and literacy standards. It is a whole-of-government approach, because we want the safest place to live and raise a family.

This bill looks at a small tranche of offenders who consistently find themselves back in court. Sixty per cent of offenders are back in court five times or more and 30 per cent of offenders commit 75 per cent of the crime. That is who we are talking about here. You have to ask yourself how we have arrived here. I heard the submissions of people who suggested that we wait a little bit longer, that we keep doing what we have been doing and that the solutions are somewhere just over the rainbow. I know it was St Patrick's Day this week, but I do not think there is a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow and I do not think there are any solutions at the end of the rainbow either.

We need to ensure that people who consistently offend are treated to the full extent of the law, that they are no longer a danger to other people in the community and that they are no longer committing offences that will affect the lives of other people in the community, again, through the context of a whole-of-government approach. Of course there will be support for people and of course there will be education available to people. Of course all of those things will be happening. Obviously the blueprint that will be coming forward will include early intervention and diversion. There will be opportunity to respond to the causes of crime. We will be improving youth detention services and we will be working with community organisations to get the best outcomes. However, first, you have to deal with the people who keep coming back.

I heard the member for Rockhampton saying that people keep coming back to prison and that there is no evidence that this will solve the problem. Some of that evidence was gathered when bouncy castles and gaming centres were available in the detention centres. Some people have come from the worst, most deprived circumstances and they arrive in a facility that has bouncy castles and gaming consoles. When they have served their time, they are sent back onto the streets and into the very difficult circumstances that they came from. I am pretty sure I know what I would do given the choice of bouncy castles and gaming consoles, or the circumstances I came from.

Clearly, we need to set up a system that will be able to deal with the pattern of offending. The pattern of offending has been changing. Proportionally, there are fewer young people offending, which is a good thing. That is a great thing. However, those who are offending are doing so more frequently. Again, half of all offences were committed by approximately 10 per cent of young offenders. That 10 per cent is not meeting the expected community standards. Clearly, the revolving door of justice that they have been shown has not worked.

I believe that we need to look at a new approach. I believe that some of the elements of this bill outline that new approach. Let us have a look at some of those elements. The first is publishing identifying information of repeat offenders and the opening of the Children's Court. There are some people who would say that that should not happen. The bill amends part 9 of the Youth Justice Act to limit application of the existing prohibition on publishing identifying information about a child the subject of proceedings to first-time offenders only. Here we are again. We will protect first-time offenders. First-time offenders are defined in the bill. If someone is coming through the revolving door, and the judge sees fit to do so, the court can be open. The bill amends the Youth Justice Act to enable matters relating to repeat offenders to be heard in open court.

The bill provides the court with discretion to hold some or all of a proceeding in relation to a repeat offender in closed court, where the court considers it is in the interests of justice to do so. There we are: firm but fair. The panic merchants and the people who want to keep everything secret and out of view of the public have no need to panic. They have to have some confidence in the judiciary. This bill has confidence in the judiciary to know when it will be in the interest of justice to hold proceedings in closed court.

There are a couple of other areas of the bill that I think are worth commenting on. One is creating a new offence where a child commits a further offence whilst on bail. Again, we have heard that this is going to be a terrible thing. I know that the people in my electorate of Toowoomba North would certainly believe that if someone has allegedly committed a crime and is out on bail they would not be committing another offence and if they did for it to be taken into account.

If someone is out on bail and they commit another offence, I believe that should be regarded as an additional offence. Some people have said that this will punish people twice. In the hearings it was alleged that we were rubber stamping things, but we were taking evidence, asking questions and gathering information to prepare a report. In regard to this issue, the department stated—

An offender will not be punished twice for an offence committed on bail. Rather, the orders made against an offender subject to the new provisions will be expected to reflect both the seriousness of the substantive offence and the circumstances in which it was committed.

Again, I reflect on my community in Toowoomba. They would expect that if someone is out on bail for an offence and they committed another offence that they would have more respect for the law. If we go back to the percentages that I spoke about earlier, we can see that the people we are talking about have no respect for the law. Some 60 per cent of offenders have been in court five times or more. Some 30 per cent of offenders account for 75 per cent of crimes. We have to do something about this. The Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 will do something about this.

Another area of the bill is transferring certain 17-year-olds from detention to adult corrective services facilities in certain circumstances. If someone receives a sentence the judge knows full well how old they were when they committed the offence and how old they are when they are being sentenced. The judge will know that the law provides that if their sentence is for six months or more beyond their 17th birthday the offender will be transferred to an adult corrective services facility.

Clearly again, with a little bit of confidence in the judiciary, we can see that, when sentencing, a judge will be able to take into consideration that they will be transferred to an adult prison. Where should people who are 17 plus be? They certainly should not be in detention centres with 12-year-olds. I support transferring them. I have great confidence in the judiciary to decide whether a sentence that was handed down that would take a person six months or more beyond their 17th birthday was appropriate at the time of sentencing.

What else do we have in this bill? We have a situation where, in certain circumstances, when sentencing offenders we no longer look at detention as the last resort. This bill expressly excludes this sentencing principle, both at common law and under statute. Effectively, this removes the need for a court to consider that a sentence of imprisonment for adults or detention for young people should only be imposed as a last resort and where no other sentence is appropriate. This will give courts the flexibility to craft sentences which better reflect the severity of the crime being punished, communicate the community's denunciation of offending, deter future offending and appropriately protect the community from offending.

In other words, if someone is going through this revolving door and constantly being let back out to commit another offence, another offence, another offence, another offence and another offence—and I specifically say it five times because 60 per cent of offenders have offended five times or more—they can be detained and appropriately so. They do not have to keep looking for other options. However, there will be other options available and they will be revealed when the blueprint is released.

I acknowledge the concerns expressed by submitters about the number of child offenders in the criminal justice system who are in custody on remand. The committee is pleased the department anticipates removal of the sentencing principle may free up the sentencing process, resulting in children spending less time in custody on remand awaiting sentencing. The committee anticipates the blueprint will include remand reduction measures which will work in concert with the bill's proposed amendments.

We need to remember that the police are hard at work. Certainly, in my electorate of Toowoomba North the police are hard at work. They are frustrated by the fact that repeat offenders get slaps on the wrist and insufficient sentences. They have to deal with the same problems again and again, sometimes whilst the person is out on bail. Whilst the police do a great job, they do it in difficult circumstances.

I would also like to join with my colleague from Gladstone and congratulate the PCYC on the fantastic job they do in trying to stop some of these young people from offending. We must remember that the people we are talking about come out of difficult circumstances. These are people who do not have a good family background necessarily. Something I think is very valuable for society to nurture and grow is strong families. They do not necessarily have a good educational background. Programs such as Flexischool, which is under the auspices of Centenary Heights State High School in my electorate, gives young people the opportunity to get the education they need. We have chaplains in our schools. They are someone whom people can go and talk to. We have the PCYC out there trying to provide. There are lots of people who are trying to help these young people but they need to reach out for help.

The 60 per cent of offenders who have been in court five times or more need to learn that if they do reach out for help and do not take what is on offer to try to mend their ways and choose a different direction then they will be punished. When they get there they will not see a bouncy castle or gaming consoles. There will be consequences for their actions that they have inflicted on the

community. We should support these children who come out of difficult circumstances, but there comes a point where they need to take responsibility for their actions. They need to understand that there are consequences for their actions.

The bill amends key components of the Youth Justice Act 1992 to specifically target repeat offenders. Again, I reiterate that we are talking about repeat offenders. The bill will allow repeat young offenders to be publicly named throughout proceedings. This will not apply to first-time offenders, as I have discussed. The bill will open the Children's Court to the public to create some transparency in the youth justice system. Maybe some of those people have only been to court once. They might want to go along and have a look at what happens to someone who has been to court a few more times under the LNP government and its changes and they might then make a decision to go down to the PCYC or talk to their school chaplain or enrol themselves in Flexischool and choose a different direction rather than reoffend. I think transparency in the youth justice system will be good. I note that judges have the ability to not open the court to the public if they do not feel it will serve justice in the best way.

The bill will create a new offence for committing a further offence while on bail. This proposal will target repeat offenders and seeks to hold them accountable in relation to their legal undertaking not to reoffend while on bail. We as a community do not expect people to get bail on the principle of innocent until proven guilty to allow them to go out and commit a similar offence again and for them to turn up back at court having committed a similar offence while on bail. I think that having this as an offence and making sure they know it is an offence and that it will be an additional offence to whatever else they have done is very important.

Further, the bill will make juvenile criminal histories admissible during sentencing of adult offenders. I think this is very important. This will allow childhood findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded to be admissible to courts upon sentencing adults and will allow courts to have a complete understanding of a defendant's offending history. I think the community expects this. In the light of recent events, I would say the community demands this. I think it is very important that when sentencing, after guilt has been established, people's criminal histories are able to be referred to. I think the idea of being able to do that going forward and looking back at someone's past, back to their childhood, is very important. And remember that the judiciary still can make a determination as to whether they wish to include some of those details or not, but the fact that they can I think is a good thing.


I have spoken about the transfer of 17-year-olds from youth detention to adult prison if they have six months or more remaining to serve. I think that is a good thing. The bill also removes the principle of detention as a last resort which, again, I think in certain circumstances, if we are talking about high level repeat offenders, is a good thing.

For me, I think the bill looks at many things that are missing in the current regime. If the current regime is so wonderful, as attested by members here today, then why do we have 60 per cent of the offenders being back in court five times or more and why do 30 per cent of juvenile offenders account for 75 per cent of the crime? These children clearly need to be removed from the circumstances they are in. I think some good diversionary tactics will become available through the blueprint, but in the meantime we cannot as a society allow everybody else to suffer while these people just go on reoffending, reoffending, reoffending, reoffending and, yes, for a fifth time, reoffending. There needs to be consequences for people's actions. This bill makes sure that they are held accountable for their actions.

This bill also needs to be read in light of other things that the government is doing. As I said, we are doing a great deal of work around education, to make sure that people's numeracy and literacy is improved. We are fixing up schools so that students can be proud of the schools that they are in and they can have an opportunity to learn in a nice environment. That was a \$300 million backlog left to us by Labor, along with their \$80 billion of debt. I am sure that if we did not have to pay the \$450,000 of Labor's interest bill every hour we would be able to have some other diversionary tactics and some other programs in place. But, unfortunately, you cannot do things if you do not have money.

I support the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to make sure that the police in my area know that they will be well supported and that we, as a government, will not tolerate reoffending. I certainly support the PCYC and the Flexischool and other organisations in my community who try to help these people break the cycle of repeat offending. I think that the bill is firm—definitely firm—but fair and does consider our community from many perspectives including making sure they feel safe in their own homes.

(Time expired)

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—PUP) (5.04 pm): This legislation is not just a step back in time; it is the type of legislation that was struck down progressively now over 200 years ago in the English parliament and subsequently endorsed in every state parliament of Australia. These are laws relating to children and juveniles in our legal system. There is far too much of a reliance in this legislation on hearsay, gut feelings and bloody-mindedness on the very vexed issue of youth justice. There is no real reliance on facts, data or international and interstate research that should have guided this legislation. Additionally, the minister seems to be taking great delight in driving through legislation that not only will achieve nothing along the lines of the various aims that he has stated it will achieve but will destroy much of the progress we have made in managing youth justice in 140 years in Queensland alone.

I can state this on the basis of evidence provided by the University of Queensland research paper, which I will table here today. This legislation seems to be largely appeasing rednecks and ignorant minorities whom I doubt are even generous LNP donors. It attempts to redefine age-appropriate laws on the basis of 'we know best', not because it is correct and the LNP can do it. If you believe speakers like the member for Mundingburra, he would have you all believe that residents in the suburbs are really under siege and that the changes to these laws are going to change both this world and that beyond the Brisbane CBD. His speech was all about fear and the fact that we need to be fearful in our homes. It is a false premise. Legislation must be proportionate and not responding to subjective and qualitative information from people who do not know what they are talking about. You write legislation for the majority; you do not write it for the minority.

Honourable members, these are the facts that you have not been told. Sixty-three per cent or nearly two-thirds of all offenders in custody are Indigenous in the 14- to 17-year-old age group, yet between 2005 and 2012 the percentage of the 10- to 17-year-old age group—that is, Indigenous people in Queensland—only increased from 6.2 per cent to 6.4 per cent of the total population. Those statistics are from the paper I am presenting here, and I table that.

Tabled paper: Queensland Parliamentary Library research brief, dated 13 March 2104, titled 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) youth statistics' [\[4672\]](#).

These are confirmed statements from library research on the topic. If this group is not already marginalised, then this legislation will marginalise them even more so. If this is the Queensland response to the federal Leader of the Liberal Party and leader of the government, Tony Abbott's, Closing the Gap policy, then to combine the stigmatisation and marginalisation will not close any gap; it will increase it. I have a 20-year history involved in corrective services with those serving custodial sentences in Queensland. Increasing recidivism amongst offenders increases when you take them into custody. It is worse in young offenders. It is the same globally.

The other one-third of the offenders—and remember that two-thirds are Indigenous—currently serving a custodial sentence are a very select group who are part of the 8,000 children currently in foster care in this state. There are some whose behaviour is so unacceptable that unfortunately nobody will even accept them in a group home, and of course they do offend multiple times, and that was highlighted by the member for Toowoomba North. But these children come into the realms of the courts for a variety of reasons because they are very, very affected children. They are young and they are basically on their own. There is a very small group of children, less than two per cent, who are usually very poor and hungry. Some are from other countries and their parents are non-permanent residents, and unfortunately they come into the spectrum as well. These are the facts; they are not statements based on gut feelings.

In a similar vein I have prepared a table—and I table it now—where I go through each change under this legislation we are debating today and list why each one is wrong on the basis of evidence and proven research, both in Queensland and throughout this country.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Response to Proposed Reforms to Queensland Youth Justice' [\[4673\]](#).

I do not want to go through every one of them. The tabled document speaks for itself. There is also international evidence. A longitudinal study of 59 juvenile offenders in the US—it is a most comprehensive study—found that 60 per cent of the juveniles who spent time in an adult prison mostly return to prison within three years of release. In a 2005 statement by the US Department of Justice a reported 21 per cent of victims of sexual violence committed by prison inmates were young offenders under the age of 18. I repeat: 21 per cent were under the age of 18. That is what the government is intending to do with this legislation. Honourable members should note that only one per cent of all US prison inmates were juveniles. That group also has the highest suicide rate of all inmates in US prisons; the most recent statistics show that juvenile offenders are 19 times more likely to commit suicide compared to youth in the general population. These youth—17-year-olds and

under—in the adult prison are 36 times more likely to commit suicide than the juvenile population. I repeat: 36 times. If the government wants to increase the number of suicides, this is the way to do it. If it thinks that is going to get rid of the problem, I can tell it that it will not; it is going to maximise it.

I now turn to the member for Ipswich and chair of the committee, who should know better. He made the correct observation that offending behaviour by young people is declining. That should tell members that our system is working. What members should know is that the reporting of youth offences by the media is increasing. They are reading more about the offences, but they are not being told that the overall rate of offending is declining. It does not justify the offending behaviour, but it shows that things must be proportional, and this is not a proportionate response. It does not make it any more correct and far too many members have risen to their feet and stated things which are untrue.

What the member for Ipswich refuses to acknowledge is that his point that the bill confronts the issue of recidivism is not right. He says that it will reduce recidivism when all the evidence—globally and within the country—states that contact with custodial sentencing increases recidivism. He is wrong on the evidence. Furthermore—

Mr Berry interjected.


Mr Judge: That's Australian.

Dr DOUGLAS: It is in Australia as well, member for Ipswich. Furthermore, the nature of the offending behaviour becomes more extreme according to the nature of the custodial sentence or detention, if one wants to choose that word which is what has been mentioned today. All members want is outcomes. How does that address the member's concern about victims and their rights? However, it is the best way to address the legitimate rights of everybody when we actually approach this sensibly. If we follow the member's logic, we will reverse the trend of the decline in the offending behaviour and, by default, we will have more victims. In other words, this legislation will increase it and, on his logic, he thinks that is the right thing to do. Does that mean that generating two wrongs justifies one right? I do not think it does.

The majority of changes proposed in this legislation will take us on a path backwards not because it is not appropriate to address the issue of offending behaviour in any group but because of what the current legislation provides, which is causing youth offending behaviour to decline. What we need to be doing is giving our courts and those administering justice the discretion they need to discharge their duties and not impede their activities. To send a message to both this group and the wider community that we are going to treat marginalised groups even more severely than we already do is to invite them to challenge and fight us for the rights of those who cannot defend themselves. This is logical.

Correctly, the member for Ipswich talked about some of the homes that offenders come from. He said that it is just one factor and it depends on how we deal with offending youth. I have to admit that I could not quite follow all of that. Basically, many of these people commit robbery with violence so easily in certain situations because they are in a very marginalised situation, and that has not been presented by the majority of speakers. It has also not been said that the rate of incidence is actually declining. The legislation is disproportionate on the basis of fact. It is inconsistent with our community values and international agreements regarding the rights of the child. As one who has seen intergenerational groups through our prisons, which is unfortunate, I ask: why do members want even more people to join those in custody? This legislation is as simplistic as those who genuinely believe the widespread application of boot camps will generate behaviour change in offenders, and I have had a lot to do with them. I can tell honourable members that they are only for a very small group. To submit one group to this sort of bill is a nonsense. Members should not support such offensive legislation. The public will not support it.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.14 pm): I rise this afternoon to speak in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Bill 2014. I would like to congratulate the Attorney-General for recognising and addressing the serious shortcomings within our justice system, which is that of adequately holding young offenders accountable for their actions and particularly the need to target repeat offenders.

It is alarming to learn that in 2012-13, 10 per cent of all young offenders were responsible for 50 per cent of the offences committed. Imagine how frustrating it must be for the magistrates to see the same young offenders back in their courtroom again and again. The Newman government has

made it clear that reforms to the youth justice system are a priority as part of a wider law and order focus for this government. At the last election we promised Queenslanders that we would increase community safety, and we have remained committed to that goal. The Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 introduces a number of key changes to the Youth Justice Act 1992 to create transparency in the youth justice system and increase accountability of offenders. This includes the publication of repeat offenders' names, a new offence for reoffending while on bail and removing the principle of detention as a last resort.

Last week, I asked some of my Facebook followers and some of my constituents whether they supported changes to the youth justice system and last week the need to hold young offenders accountable for their actions. The post generated a huge amount of conversation and a number of opinions and perspectives. One Facebook user said of her involvement with the youth justice system that, 'It was a complete farce. Everything seemed to revolve around hiding the young person's behaviour from the judge during numerous hearings.' Another person noted their frustrations with the lenient bail conditions for youth offenders, saying, 'I can't wait for the new laws. Maybe the young people might learn a bit of respect.'

There is an overwhelming sense in the community that the youth justice system in its current form is inadequate. It is too easy for youth offenders to reoffend without harsh penalty and there is a lack of support for those who genuinely want reform. However, rehabilitating young offenders should be a holistic approach, not just a government approach. In my electorate of Southport and the wider Gold Coast there are some amazing community organisations who are supporting vulnerable youth offenders and those at risk of offending. I want to draw attention to some of those organisations because they do some great work. They share some of the frustrations and they, too, understand that an important part of the process of rehabilitation or turning young people around is the need to provide accountability and support but with a particular emphasis on accountability and teaching them to take responsibility for their actions.

One such organisation within the Southport electorate is YHES House, an organisation that has been led by Anne Ellis for many years. They run numerous support programs for young people on the Gold Coast. They run education programs. They provide support services to homeless young people. They provide referral and other assistance programs to young people. They do some absolutely outstanding work in this space. One of the things that they put a lot of time and energy into is working with young people to remould and reshape their future and understand the need to take personal responsibility.

Another organisation on the Gold Coast with multiple locations but one particularly in Southport is Arcadia College. The principal and director of that organisation, Andrea Lee, is a remarkable woman. She has an absolute driving passion to work with young people who, through all sorts of circumstances, have ended up on the wrong side of the law or in difficult circumstances. They run special school programs for young people who would not fit into a normal school environment. They work with young women who have become pregnant and do not have the traditional support of their families or partners, and they also work with young people who have ended up going through the justice system at some point and who need specialist care and attention.

Another group that has just come on the radar within my electorate is led by an outstanding young man called Marco Renai. His parents have been businesspeople on the Gold Coast for many years, and he now runs a series of different fitness programs and a gymnasium down on the coast. He and a group of businessmen have started running some challenge programs for young people that are a little bit like the boot camp programs that our government has implemented. It is widely recognised that if you can take young men aside and spend time working on their health and fitness, if you can challenge them a bit and if you can get in their ear and earn their trust and respect, then even the most troublesome of young people become candidates for a turnaround. The program that Marc has been running with great volunteer support down on the coast is a program called Men of Business, which challenges these young people to rise up, step up and become real men and to understand what it means to be manly and what it means to show strength and courage in respect of themselves.

The vision that Marc has is to create some special centres. He wants to build a gymnasium with some business enterprises around it. The vision is almost to create a surf club-like environment where some of these men could stay and be part of the program. At the moment they run three-month programs where these young men come and go, but they want to create a residential based program as well. The vision that they have in this space is exciting, but the thing that Marc and his team of

volunteers emphasise with these young boys who have got themselves on the wrong side of the law is the concept of personal responsibility, which again is a strong theme that comes through in this new legislation.


There are some amazing people within the church that my wife and I attend, METRO Church on the Gold Coast, who run some really innovative and special youth programs within the Southport electorate on Friday nights and weekends. Ben and Sabrina Peters, the volunteer youth leaders who have worked for some five or six years within that youth program, are taking many kids off the street and working on their life skills and the need to change their thinking and to step up and take personal responsibility.

There are many troubled young people across the state. In my previous role as assistant minister to Minister Davis, in the first 12 months of this government I had the privilege of travelling around this state and visiting some of the residential care facilities and some of the other organisations across Queensland that provide specialist support to some of our most marginalised young people. Without a doubt there are many young people out there who need specialist care. There are many young people transitioning from childhood into early manhood and teenage-hood who are wrestling with their sense of self-worth and their identity and who come from very challenging and traumatised backgrounds. What I learned through that time is that some of the programs that the previous government was running which had been developed to deal with these issues really were not hitting the mark.

Through the Carmody report it is exciting to see some of the reforms that are being proposed moving forward in child safety, particularly with the focus on transition from care for young people. I believe that this legislation sends a message to those young people that we as a government are serious about them stepping up and taking responsibility for themselves. We are serious about the fact that you only get so many chances in life. While I certainly believe in the principle of grace and wanting to get alongside young people and support them, I will be the first dad in the room to remind my kids of the importance of them taking responsibility for their actions.

This has been something that both my wife and I have been very passionate about for many years. We lived in Broken Hill for a number of years, and we bought the old convent with a group of businesspeople there and converted it into a youth centre where we ran specialist programs for young people from all around Australia. We created businesses to create employment opportunities, and one of the principles that we taught these young people was that they needed to step up and take responsibility in a normal work environment.

The changes to the youth justice system proposed in this bill support not only offenders but also their families to address the causes of their offending. We want to create a responsive justice system which focuses on early intervention and diversion, and I am proud to stand in the House this afternoon and support the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. I commend the Attorney-General and the Premier for their commitment to community safety and their unwavering approach to getting tough on crime in this state.

 **Mr HATHAWAY** (Townsville—LNP) (5.25 pm): I rise today to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. At the outset I thank the Attorney-General for introducing the bill and the committee for their report and supporting the passage of the bill through this House.

It is a welcome relief for the Townsville community, where the need for a refocus on youth crime has been—and remains—a key issue for my constituents. Indeed, I welcome that it was Townsville where the Premier received a petition on juvenile crime from our constituents during the first community cabinet for the Newman government in July 2012. At this point I note that it is this can-do government that is listening to the community and already has introduced many law and order initiatives right across the spectrum of the Crimes Act and other legislation, but also including new initiatives such as the at-risk intervention and sentence youth boot camps.

Juvenile crime is having a devastating impact on my community in Townsville. This impact is not just measured in property and vehicles: it is having an impact on people's livelihoods; their ability to work or to get to and from work; to get to and from school; to feel safe in their homes and on their streets. It is also having a serious impact on personal safety, not only on law-abiding citizens in my community but on the lives and safety of young offenders. What do we know of the effectiveness of law and order under the previous administration? We know that 20 years of Labor's limp-wristed approach to crime has resulted in a culture amongst our youth of disrespect for police and the law. We are seeing young juvenile offenders believing they are above the law and reoffending time after time. Not only that, but we see these brazen juveniles brag about their crimes on Facebook.

Regrettably, there is not a day that goes by that we do not hear of young juveniles breaking into homes and stealing cars. Many of the offenders are mere teenagers, but we also see some as young as 10 taking these cars for joyrides, speeding through the streets and either dumping the vehicles or crashing them. Unfortunately, it is not just the property cost to the victim; these crimes are costing lives. In January this year in Townsville, an 18-year-old mother of two—who I was advised only turned 18 in December last year—was killed after the stolen car in which she was joyriding collided with a parked vehicle. At the time of the incident this young woman was on parole for stealing cars.

I note throughout the committee's report that a number of submissions and witnesses to the public hearing spoke about the overrepresentation of Indigenous juveniles in our youth justice system. While they are entitled to their view, they should also listen to the leaders of our Indigenous communities, particularly around Townsville, who at the time of this young woman's death were calling strongly for change and that enough was enough. Sadly, this most recent death has had little or no impact on offenders. Indeed, they were out again the next night joy-riding in stolen cars. We heard the Attorney-General today when introducing his amendment speak of a more recent incident where four juveniles in a stolen vehicle crashed into the side of a fuel tanker on Saturday morning. I refer to an article in the *Townsville Bulletin* dated 17 March 2014, which states—

A stolen car was crashed into a fuel tanker by four young joy-riders early Saturday morning, leave a 14-year-old boy in hospital while his 'mates' remain on the run.

The boy, who is in a stable condition at Townsville Hospital, was injured after he and three other juveniles were involved in the crash at Hyde Park.

The young driver of the stolen vehicle and two other youths fled the scene of the crash, leaving behind their injured mate, and they have yet to be located.

I table a copy of this article for the record.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 17 March 2014, titled 'Kids crash stolen car into fuel tanker' [\[4674\]](#).

It is obvious to us that the outcome of this incident could have been far worse, and we could have potentially had four juveniles involved in a serious conflagration. The community are telling us that they are fearful and utterly sick of recidivist juvenile offenders who demonstrate no concern for safety or respect for themselves, the wider community and our police.

I would like to give you some examples of the challenging young offenders we face in Townsville. Male A, a 17-year-old, was recently arrested by police after exiting a stolen vehicle which, I might add, was only stopped through the deployment of road spikes. The offender appeared in court and pleaded guilty to unlawful use of a motor vehicle. The punishment was a 40-hour community service order with no conviction recorded, and he was released a day later. A summary of this person's history includes—and you should note that this history does not include warnings or intercepts given by police or charges that may have been withdrawn as part of the prosecution process or case conferencing—unlawful use of a motor vehicle, 28 counts; break and enter, 12 counts; tainted property, two counts; stealing, 10 counts; assault obstruct police, three counts; fail to stop while driving, two counts; and unlawful entry of a motor vehicle, one count.

It is my understanding that at no time has this 17-year-old male had a conviction recorded. It would appear that his cautions, reprimands, probations, community service and minimal times of incarceration are having no effect. However, he was disqualified from driving in July last year for 12 months. The period of this individual's offending spans from December 2011 to the present. Let me give the House another example. Female B, a 15-year-old, has continued to reoffend for over two years.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hathaway, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Auditor-General's Report, Referral to Portfolio Committee; Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (5.30 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved that, pursuant to standing order 194B, the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 14 2013-14 titled *Results of audit: local government entities 2012-13*, tabled on 18 March 2014, be referred to the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee for

consideration; and that, pursuant to standing order 136, the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on the Construction and Tourism (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 13 May 2014.

MOTION

Newman Government

 **Hon. TS MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.31 pm): I move—

That this House:

- Notes the Newman LNP Government has failed Gold Coast residents by:
 - reneging on its 'Contract with the Gold Coast' commitment to cut the cost of electricity prices;
 - implementing a capital works freeze on major construction projects for the region;
 - reneging on its election commitments in relation to the proposed Boral quarry at Reedy Creek;
 - amending body corporate laws so that they disadvantage many unit owners;
 - forcing the council to bear the burden of beach restoration works ahead of the busy tourist season; and
- Calls on the coast's nine LNP MPs to stand up for their local communities instead of kow-towing to the Premier.

The LNP has abandoned the Gold Coast. It has wiped its hands of it. It promised Gold Coasters the world and now it has walked away from them. Even before the Treasurer used the local newspaper to announce his infrastructure and jobs freeze, the LNP had simply laughed in the face of Gold Coasters who trusted them at the last election to do no more than deliver on the promises it made.

The only thing worse than the Premier's abandonment of the Gold Coast is the fact that the nine LNP MPs down there have stood by and done nothing to protect the interests of their electorates. What Gold Coasters find particularly galling is that the Premier and his MPs did not just talk about their promises; they put them on paper. In their contract with the Gold Coast—which I note no member seems to talk about these days, such is the level of credibility it now holds—the LNP made clear its promises to the Gold Coast. But it is clear that these contracts are not worth the paper they were written on, and nowhere are they as worthless as they are on the cost of living.

This government promised the people of the Gold Coast that it would cut electricity prices. What has happened? There will be a 22.6 per cent increase this year and a 13 per cent increase next year—fail! It promised to cut the cost of water—fail! It promised to cut taxes—fail! I guarantee members that the Premier will not be pulling out the contract with the Gold Coast community at the community cabinet this weekend because he knew when he was signing it that he had no intentions of delivering on it.

What is the latest example of the LNP going back on its word to the people of the Gold Coast? We must look no further than the Treasurer. This is a Treasurer who told all of Queensland before the last election that he had a plan to pay down debt without selling assets. Yet we know that he is travelling around the state having his closed door meetings and setting his \$20,000 a month taxpayer funded spin doctors to work, and last week he landed on the Gold Coast. Like he is doing around the rest of the state, he told them that he has run out of ideas so he has to sell off assets. But what else did he tell them? He put a political gun to their head and said, 'Unless you allow me to get away with my broken promises on asset sales, I will freeze infrastructure spending on the projects your community needs.' He is willing to put at risk construction jobs, put at risk economic activity, put at risk the future growth of the Gold Coast just so he can get away with going back on his word.


According to the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, which had the good fortune of talking to the Treasurer—AKA 'Mr Freeze'—about it, these projects include things like widening the M1 and more investment in the Gold Coast light rail. But according to the *Bulletin*, Gold Coasters can feel safe because the Treasurer said that no Gold Coast assets are up for sale. That is the same thing he said to all Queenslanders about asset sales before the last election, before he flogged off \$4 billion worth in the last two years alone. That is the same thing he said to the people of Brisbane before trying to sell off a third of the Royal Brisbane Hospital, and it is the same thing he said to communities across the state before selling \$50 million worth of education facilities. The people of the Gold Coast know that this Treasurer cannot be trusted to keep his word on anything, especially asset sales.

Another area of growing concern on the Gold Coast is the LNP's hypocrisy when it comes to the proposed Gold Coast quarry. Before the 2012 election the then Leader of the Opposition, the member for Callide—who earned 100 per cent of the salary but did not do any of the work—along with the then LNP candidates for Burleigh, Currumbin and Mudgeeraba made solemn promises that an LNP government would do everything in its power to stop the construction of a new quarry at Reedy Creek on the Gold Coast by Boral. However, since the election it has become clear that those promises were simply cheap words from a party that was willing to say and do anything to get into government. Now it is in government, it has discarded its promises to do what it can to stop the project and has rolled over to big business demands.

By going back on their word, these LNP members have not fought for their communities and the Deputy Premier has gone back on his word. From the self-confessed tactical liar this should not come as a surprise, but it has come as yet another major disappointment to the Gold Coast people. Just under two years ago the people of the Gold Coast put their faith in the LNP with the election of the 10 LNP MPs—now nine of course—but there may as well be no MPs down there, such is the value of the representation that they give their constituents.

Under the LNP, infrastructure investment is being frozen, taxes are increasing, front-line services such as health and education are being cut or potentially sold off, the environment is being neglected, war is being waged on the local council, doctors are threatening mass resignations and the Premier is doing nothing to stop it. The Gold Coast does have the Commonwealth Games to look forward to, but the Commonwealth Games minister is more interested in fighting with her LNP colleagues about which photo she is in and brawling with the mayor than doing what is right for the Gold Coast. People on the Gold Coast have been let down by this Premier and they have been let down by their MPs.

Labor has always stood by the people of the Gold Coast. Our infrastructure achievements alone speak for themselves—the Gold Coast University Hospital, the Gold Coast light rail, the widening of the Pacific Motorway, the completion of the Robina Hospital, the Robina Stadium, the Carrara Stadium, the Tugun bypass and the Gold Coast convention centre. These are just some of the billions of dollars of investments in infrastructure on the Gold Coast by Labor governments. We will continue to listen to the people of the Gold Coast and work constructively with them to build a brighter future for them and their families.

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (5.38 pm): This Newman LNP government has failed on yet another of its infamous election contracts with Queenslanders, and this time it is its contract for the Gold Coast. Page 4 of its contract has the heading 'Cutting the cost of electricity'. The contract states—

The LNP will act to address the Gold Coast's rising household energy bills.

On this part of the contract the LNP government has recorded a resounding 'F' for fail.

This year electricity prices are increasing by a record 22.6 per cent, or \$268 on average, and are set to rise by more than \$190 next year. Before those opposite interject with their misleading claims about the carbon tax and solar, I point out that, if only the carbon tax and solar policies were impacting on prices, this year the increase would be just three per cent and not a record 22.6 per cent. Similarly, in the next financial year the increase would be just three per cent from a carbon price and solar, not 13.6 per cent. These are the independent figures from the Queensland Competition Authority. This year's electricity price increase includes a rise in the fixed cost or service charge for electricity of 92 per cent, or \$88. The fixed costs are set to go up again next year by another \$121, or 66 per cent. That means that even if people turn off their lights and try to save power they are still going to get slugged by the Newman government's power price slug. This increase in the fixed cost of electricity will generate extra revenue of \$421 million over two years. In response to a question on notice, the Minister for Energy and Water Supply has claimed that that increase is to keep the variable price of electricity low and pointed to an increase in the variable price of five per cent the next financial year. The minister's answer skilfully avoided the record-breaking 16 per cent increase in the variable price of electricity this year.

In April 2012 the Premier said that a pricing model that increased fixed costs was—

... robbing Peter to pay Paul, and we weren't going to agree to that—

and—

... the gain for some households ... was the pain incurred by a whole lot of others, and particularly, disadvantaged low-income households.

According to the Queensland Competition Authority, for a frugal single elderly person consuming lower than average electricity, their bill will increase by 27.9 per cent this financial year, which is higher than the average 22.6 per cent. That means that those who can afford it the least and who are trying to do the right thing are being hit the hardest by the Newman government's power price increases. It also means that the increase in the government electricity rebate for pensioners is likely to be less than their actual increase in bills as it is based on the average increase. So, while the Newman government rakes in the revenue from increasing the fixed cost of electricity, it is not providing commensurate support for the households who need it the most—and do not get me started on what the LNP's contract promised for water bills on the Gold Coast. It is enough to say that it has not reduced the cost of water on anybody's household bills.


Not only has the LNP fundamentally failed on its cost-of-living promises; it has failed in its election contract on infrastructure. Page 6 of the contract for the Gold Coast states—

We'll seek stronger community input, and plan better to map out the future and provide the infrastructure that the Gold Coast needs.

I am not sure where this community input came from when the Deputy Premier decided that he was going to announce the push for a cruise ship terminal and an integrated casino on the Broadwater with the potential to destroy the Gold Coast's priceless surf breaks, or who on the Gold Coast was consulted about the infrastructure budget being cut by \$91.6 million last financial year as set out in the budget papers. There was not any consultation on the sale of hospital land at the Gold Coast, and it would be safe to assume that that will not be the last example.

Last week the Treasurer showed up at the Gold Coast claiming to seek community input, albeit as part of his invite-only, closed-door asset sale lecture tour. What did the Treasurer have to tell people on the Gold Coast about delivering future infrastructure for the region? He told them that he would be 'Mr Freeze'. It is interesting to see all the LNP MPs line up to take credit for the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project or the Gold Coast University Hospital while simultaneously condemning Labor's debt that they used to fund it. While the Treasurer travels around making alarming claims about debt and an interest bill of \$450,000 an hour, he fails to mention that, under his watch, debt is increasing by more than \$830,000 per hour, or by \$14.6 billion over two years. The Treasurer is happy to cut the ribbons at projects funded by his increase in debt while simultaneously blaming Labor for it. This Treasurer is slowly starting to learn that you cannot have your cake and eat it too. For the record, Labor never recorded an interest bill of \$450,000 per hour. To say otherwise is false.

The Gold Coast's 10—sorry, make that nine—LNP MPs after the member for Gaven saw the light and said to all of those people over there, 'Yes, you can leave the cult' certainly have a lot of explaining to do to their electorates about why this contract with Queenslanders should be torn up. I can guarantee members that they will not find the Premier being able to find a lawyer anywhere who will help him out with breach of contracts, because no-one wants to talk him. It is a contract that would make a great direct mail piece for the next election campaign should these MPs want to get another turn at the election.

 **Hon. MF McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (5.43 pm): I move—

That all the words after 'government' be deleted and the following words inserted—

has been and will continue to deliver for the Gold Coast region.

This morning when I listened to the notice of motion moved by the member for Mackay about electricity prices I thought, 'They have a policy!' So I dug down deep into the ALP web pages and the web page of the member for Mulgrave to look for a policy on energy and water. And guess what I found? Zero—except, of course, the words, 'Please be patient.' That is the policy for energy and water supply from the Labor Party.

We are not going to take lectures from the ALP in regard to electricity, water, hospitals, roads or any other factor that makes a government sustainable. Labor has left the power sector in absolute carnage and destruction. I say to members to never forget that in the five years before Labor lost power electricity prices increased by 83 per cent. I refer members to the following passage from *Hansard* of 28 September under the heading 'Electricity, Full Retail Competition', where Peter Beattie stated that the—

... saving for most households could be \$150 or more a year.

That was if we had full retail competition, which he then put into effect. He said in 2005 that the saving would be \$150 per year. It was simply a disaster. That was an unmitigated lie that Peter Beattie made in this House. Under the Labor Party, we saw increase after increase in power prices. Not only that, I can remember energy minister after energy minister for the ALP standing in this House washing their hands of increase after increase. Yet the members opposite have the gall to come into this chamber and try to lecture us about power prices!

Between the years 2006-07 and 2010-11 the Labor Party increased the debt of Ergon, Powerlink and Energex by \$13.3 billion, which we are paying off today. There is an interest component each year of \$500 million because the Labor Party could not face the simple truth that it was gold plating the network. Because of that, every Queenslander is paying. The Labor Party gold plated the network and then supported the carbon tax. How many times have we stood in this House and said to them, 'Get on to your senators and get them to unwind the carbon tax.' They will not do it.

But there is one member in this House who has had the chance to vote down the carbon tax, because at the time that member was in the federal parliament. On 10 occasions the current member for Redcliffe stood in the House in Canberra and spoke about the carbon tax. She said—

I rise to speak in support of these clean energy bills, and I do so as a proud member of the Gillard Labor government.

A proud member she was, even though the carbon tax imposed upon the people of this state more debt, more pain and more suffering. The QCA, which my colleague across the chamber is so willing to quote, also has made the following points—

With the carbon tax removed the typical household would save \$116, the average family of four would save \$174 and that would go up to \$240 for a family with four children.


The QCA stated further that businesses would save seven per cent and 10 per cent on their power bills.

This side of the House supports the 44c rebate under the Solar Bonus Scheme. There is no question about that. But that will cost every member in this House \$276 in the year 2015-16. In July 2013 I wrote to each member of the ALP and the Leader of the Opposition in October 2013 asking, 'Give me the data that shows exactly what the cost is going to be,' and they have done nothing about it. I table that.

Tabled paper: Bundle of correspondence from Hon. Mark McArdle, regarding the solar bonus scheme [\[4675\]](#).

The simple fact is that the members opposite did not do their homework. That rebate is costing every Queenslander \$276 per annum. If that is not the case, I call upon the members opposite to table the documents to prove that they received the relevant advice. Dr Malcolm Roberts of the QCA commented that the Solar Bonus Scheme was, 'One of the worst forecasts you will find in recent history.' That forecast rests at the feet of every member of the Labor Party.

(Time expired)


 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.49 pm): I rise to second the amendment made by the Minister for Energy and Water Supply. Those opposite talk about this government not delivering for the Gold Coast. Let us talk about one of the very first things that we did for my constituents when we came into power: we reduced stamp duty for the principal place of residence, a saving of up to \$7,000. Why is that important for the people of the Coomera electorate? Because the Coomera electorate is the fastest growing electorate in Queensland. It has an incredible number of new residents and thousands of new homes. Many of those homes are owner occupied. Those opposite say we are not delivering. We have delivered thousands and thousands of dollars of savings in stamp duty alone.

To support the argument that I have the fastest growing electorate in Queensland, let me pose this question to all members: where else in Queensland, or indeed Australia, have we delivered five new schools in the last five years? From Ormeau in the north to Pimpama and Coomera in the south there have been five brand new schools: Ormeau Woods State High School, Coomera Rivers State School, Pimpama State Secondary College, LORDS school—a private school—and Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School. Let us reflect on the fact that the state makes a very big contribution to the building of private schools.

But wait, there is more. In the last five years Ormeau Woods State High School has moved from stage 1 to stage 3 and it is just about complete. We are nearing completion of stage 2 at Coomera Rivers State School. We are about to commence stage 2 at Pimpama State Secondary College, which is in its second year of operation. We have exceeded the number of students in the school by something like 30 per cent of the original target so we have started the second stage which

will deliver capacity for something like 900 students by the beginning of next year. We have seen the commencement of a further stage at Helensvale State High School to accommodate year 7 students. This weekend I will represent the Minister for Education at the completion of stage 4 of the LORDS school. And stage 2 of the Mother Teresa Catholic Primary School has been completed. Where else, may I ask, do we have that type of construction?

Those opposite say that we are not looking after the people of the Gold Coast. Where else do we have two new schools under construction due to open in 2015, taking the total number in six years to seven new schools, with numerous extensions done to each and every one of them and there is talk of an additional one to open in 2016? That is a significant investment, I am sure all will agree. It is certainly an opportunity for us to reflect on the total investment being made by this government in the northern Gold Coast region. I no longer receive the complaints in relation to policing on the northern Gold Coast that I used to get time and time again. We now have a police force on the northern Gold Coast that is able to do its job. They have the number of people in place to allow them to do their job. We have three new commuter trains coming through in the morning and four new commuter trains in the afternoon. And those opposite say we are not delivering for the people of the Gold Coast. Under the rule of those opposite we were going to have a 15 per cent increase, a 15 per cent increase, a 15 per cent increase—no, it is not a broken record; that is what the figures were going to be: increase after increase because of the spending of those opposite. We have halved those increases. It is 7.5 per cent rather than 15 per cent. I wish I had an hour to deliver what this government has delivered to the northern Gold Coast, the adrenalin capital of not only Queensland but Australia.

 **Mr BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (5.54 pm): I rise to contribute my small piece to this debate. The people of the Gold Coast should be distressed at having had so many ineffective Gold Coast MPs who seem powerless to represent their own communities because they cannot stand up to the Premier who has clearly broken his contract with the Gold Coast. In fact, we have had one defection, the LNP's instability on the Gold Coast has been reflected on regularly in the media, some LNP members are clearly having their preselections threatened and another version of political fratricide is occurring that some from the outside speculate is being orchestrated by the LNP to destroy its own member.


I would bet that many of the LNP speakers here will ignore the debate of the motion and rant bikie PR spin to cover the broken promises and the cost-of-living issues on the Gold Coast. The LNP contract for the Gold Coast states that the government will lower the cost of living for people on the Gold Coast. Everyone knows about the broken promises on the coast and the cost-of-living issues in relation to electricity, but I want to highlight how the disastrous body corporate legislation passed a year ago has had a flow-on effect on the people paying these levies on the Gold Coast. At the time I said that the legislation was a Robin Hood type of bill in reverse: it takes from the people and gives to the rich. How right I was. In a recent cry for help to the Premier a Gold Coast resident stated—

As a result of the so-called equality principle being applied to my building, my body corporate levies went up 33 per cent for my one-bedroom unit on the ninth floor whilst the penthouse owner had their levies drop by 76 per cent.

Everyday Gold Coasters have been deceived by this government. Imagine if the LNP went to the election and promised to drive normal people's body corporate levies up by 33 per cent while reducing the cost of living for millionaires by 76 per cent. The LNP has been exposed as people who govern for millionaires living in penthouses while they condemn everyone else to living in the outhouse. The author then goes on to state that his unit is now unsaleable because of these LNP laws. These laws inflate the cost of living of retirees and young struggling families on the Gold Coast. I took great pride in voting against that legislation to record my protest on behalf of the Gold Coasters who I met when I travelled to the Gold Coast on numerous occasions. I listened to their concerns and advocated on their behalf after they could not get any action from their local LNP members. Over a year ago the Attorney-General spoke about the review of the body corporate levies. The Attorney-General sat on this review for months. I suggest that this review was designed to buy the LNP time until after an early election because they know what poison this issue is on the Gold Coast for unit owners.

I return to the contract with the Gold Coast where it says the LNP will 'empower local governments in the Gold Coast region to improve front-line services and give local people a real say in the future direction of their community'. If that is true, why is Minister Dempsey at war with the Gold Coast City Council over the emergency management fire and rescue levy? If that is true, why are front-line rural fire brigades threatening to close down and stop fighting fires? To have a tory state government's agenda completely crushed by a tory local government tells us something is desperately wrong with the state government. It is an extraordinary situation when the government is

at war with its own people on the Gold Coast to the point where the mayor says that there is no point in meeting with the minister to sort out the issues. To allow any risk to people's homes by creating a situation where Gold Coast fire stations and brigades close means the minister has failed on the Gold Coast, as have the members of the LNP who represent the Gold Coast. In July last year I warned the minister that this issue with the council was real. Each Gold Coast LNP member who speaks tonight should outline what they have done to get the police minister and the Premier to do the right thing and sort this issue out. Mayor Tom Tate has identified what I have been saying all along: that the levy is nothing more than a new tax. It is simply a tax grab because all the money collected does not go to front-line emergency services. It is time that the LNP members on the Gold Coast stood up to the Premier and started representing their communities.

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (5.58 pm): As a proud Gold Coaster, I am pleased to be standing in the House this afternoon to support what our government is doing and delivering for the people of the Gold Coast. I support the amended motion that has been moved by the honourable member for Caloundra. Before we espouse the amazing achievements of this government in the very short time of just two years, let us take a quick look at Labor's track record. It is worth having a little peak-a-boo at it. When they were in power they had no interest in the Gold Coast. In fact, I would say that they are feigning interest now. After all, theirs was the government that left us with a legacy of debt and uncontrolled spending, and we are cleaning up the mess and applying some fiscal responsibility at the same time. There is a saying in tourism: promise good and deliver great. Under the grinning Beattie and the gushing Bligh, it was: promise the world and deliver little, except a great big, fat debt. Let us also look at how many questions have been asked of me about tourism, events, small business and the Commonwealth Games.

Mr Stevens: Who is the shadow tourism minister?


Mrs STUCKEY: I do not think there is one. There have been over 500 opportunities, but can honourable members guess how many questions I have been asked? I have been asked only a handful of questions. What about ministerial representation on the Gold Coast during the era of Labor governments? How many ministers came from the Gold Coast? For a little while, we had one from Southport. Under the LNP, there are two ministers and two assistant ministers from the Gold Coast. That is a sign of commitment to the Gold Coast.

Let us also look at some of their expenditures that we are now trying to clean up, such as Labor's \$7 billion water grid. The Tugun desalination plant in my electorate is a white elephant with more episodes than *Days of Our Lives* that is continuing to suck so many dollars out of government coffers. While we are on water, eight pieces of legislation arose from their 2006 to 2012 water reform. That is eight pieces of legislation in seven years that were designed to confuse and abuse consumer trust. Let us look at what we have done for waterways, such as the Currumbin estuary and others. Under Labor, there was no responsibility accepted and no authority given. On the other hand, the Newman government moved very swiftly to establish the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, which is now able to guide the future of our waterways.

Of course, we must not forget the soaring cost of living under Labor. The people of Currumbin indicated that that was their biggest cause for concern. There were the 11 years it took to build 4.1 kilometres of railway line from Robina to Varsity Lakes at a cost of \$324 million, but guess what? They built it 100 carparks short, so people were fined as soon as they started to use it and there were no bus connections to take them anywhere either. Of course, the Tugun bypass is Australia's most expensive seven kilometres of road, costing some \$543 million.

Let us take a quick look at tourism, which was neglected under Labor but nurtured by the LNP. It is up \$1 billion on figures for September to September last year. The Gold Coast airport just recorded its best-ever January. The Gold Coast Airport had 571,000 passenger movements, which is a 3.2 per cent increase on January 12 months prior. Of course, there are the airlines we are bringing in: Scoot, Qantas has returned, AirAsiaX, Tiger and Virgin. In our calendar year we have 18 major events on the Gold Coast supported by my department. We have 18 regional events also supported by Tourism and Events Queensland in my department. We have struck a \$15 million partnership and advertising campaign to boost visitors to Gold Coast theme parks. As far as small business goes, we are cutting the suffocating 92,000 pages of red tape that that lot over there imposed on them. And the Commonwealth Games are on time and on budget, no thanks to any of the work you ever did.

Madam SPEAKER: Before I call the next member, I ask members to please address their comments through the chair.

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (6.04 pm): This motion should not have been necessary and I am rising to support the motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. If there was any evidence that this motion should not be necessary, then the evidence is clearly the amendment moved by the government. One would have thought that they would have included just one project initiated by the LNP government on the Gold Coast. One would have thought that they would have included one project or one new budget allocation. In defence of their performance, one would have thought that they would have put one successful self-initiated project in the amendment, but they have not because they do not have one project or one funding initiative under the LNP state government. I table the amendment as exhibit A in our defence.

Tabled paper: Hon. Mark McArdle's motion to amend the private member's motion on 18 March 2014 [\[4676\]](#).

Honourable members interjected.

Ms TRAD: There is no pat on the back. One would have thought that, after two years in government, they would have been able to deliver on an election commitment for the Gold Coast. However, maybe they are spending so much time in the theme parks that they are not doing enough work in their electorates.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members! Pause the clock. I ask members for a little less noise across the chamber.

Ms TRAD: I know that being an LNP member is akin to living in dream world, but the real job is actually out on the streets, talking to constituents, talking to the local council and getting things done for your community, such as addressing the problem of beach erosion. We know that the LNP has repeatedly stated that tourism is one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy.

Government members interjected.

Ms TRAD: They do not like hearing it. The LNP has claimed that the Gold Coast is the jewel in the crown of Queensland tourism, and I have to say it is a great tourist attraction. I did say to the member for Coomera that the theme parks on the Gold Coast are nationally renowned and not just state renowned. What did this government do when beach erosion—

Honourable members interjected.


Madam SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, one or two people interjecting when the member is taking the call is usually allowed in the course of debate. However, there are too many people interjecting and the noise is getting out of hand.

Ms TRAD: In relation to beach erosion, nothing could provide a starker contrast of the difference between Labor and the LNP. In 2009, Labor committed funds and assisted the council to repair Kirra Beach. The mob over there talk big on tourism and talk big on supporting tourism, but when tourist operators came to the minister and said, 'We want your help', she rapidly put her head in the sand.

Let us talk about the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project. That project has provided vital jobs for Gold Coast residents. It did not happen overnight. Labor committed to the project. It committed funds to the project. What did the LNP do? They voted against it. They voted against it, but they are there cutting the ribbon. They are there, talking up the project. They are there, cutting the ribbon despite it being an iconic project funded by the debt that they complain about. They are there, cutting the ribbon with their big grinning faces, saying, 'Look at how clever we are!' Labor built the Robina to Varsity Lakes rail extension. Labor duplicated the track between Ormeau and Coomera at a cost of \$20 million and Labor built the Tugun bypass at a cost of \$543 million. No doubt, the transport minister and the Premier will be there to cut the ribbon when the Gold Coast Rapid Transit project officially opens and they will not be talking about the debt that funded it.

They should be the nervous nine: nervous about how they will be treated by their electorates at the next election. Let us assess their record. The member for Mudgeeraba: no more needs to be said. The member for Broadwater: already listed as a non-performer ready to be ditched. The member for Currumbin: that mob did not have enough confidence in her to lead the debate tonight. She had to sit there and accept a mid-tier place on the speaking list and they had to get someone from the north coast to lead the debate. Their performance is not good enough and Gold Coast residents—

(Time expired)

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.09 pm): It certainly gives me great pleasure to rise tonight to speak to this motion before the House—a free kick from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition about the Gold Coast city which I love very dearly and have supported greatly. In government it has been an absolute pleasure to achieve for the Gold Coast. We will continue delivering for the Gold Coast.

It is amazing to note that what has had the biggest impact on the Gold Coast is business confidence. That has only arrived since the LNP claimed government in Queensland. It has improved again since the LNP took over as the federal government. The Gold Coast is all about confidence in business development which is born on the back of private enterprise and not the Labor way of force feeding public dollars into it. It is all about private enterprise on the Gold Coast and it has been incredibly successful. This government has helped wherever we could. Along with the Gold Coast City Council we have tipped \$15 million into tourism to get tourism numbers up. As the Minister for Tourism has already said, that has been working fantastically well since the LNP took government.

Queensland is the No. 1 state when it comes to the construction industry. The green shoots are finally there on the Gold Coast now that we have got rid of the Labor dregs out of our city. It is amazing to note that Bashful, Dopey, Grumpy, Sleepy and company over there basically do not even know where the Gold Coast is.

If we run through the recipe of previous Labor luminaries on the Gold Coast, we come across Phil Gray, a former member for Gaven, who sued a poor little old lady—one of his constituents—for saying something horrible about him. Then we have former member for Gaven Robert Poole, the member for Thailand. He was another Labor luminary and absolute genius appointment. We could recycle Peter Lawlor and bring him back at the next election. Old Pete would be really pleased. He lost his ministerial tourism position after five minutes and he was from the Gold Coast. Then we have others such as Di Reilly and Peta-Kaye Croft. They were major contributors to the Gold Coast economy—not.

Just last week I opened the 11th Masters Home Improvement store at Robina with its 12,000 square metres of floor space for shopping. They said to me, 'We are so glad the LNP has cut the red tape for small business and all the licensing fees.' When we think about it we cut stamp duty for those building a home by \$7,000. This may mean that Masters can sell some DIY products around the place. On top of that, we have raised the payroll tax threshold so that small business does not have to pay as much in payroll tax. Labor is all about tax, tax, tax.

We have seen the LNP provide funding to upgrade the Gold Coast Turf Club's member facilities to a magnificent standard. We have seen enormous education initiatives with the introduction of independent public schools. I say well done to the education minister. This measure has been absolutely embraced. It is all about the confidence those on the Gold Coast have in the government which has resulted in positive moves for the Gold Coast economy.


One of the biggest moves the LNP has made—and amazingly the Labor Party actually supported this but has since flip-flopped, which is not amazing—is the removal of criminal bkie gangs from the Gold Coast. One of the biggest things it has delivered is a safe place for tourists to visit and a community where people feel happy and comfortable. That is what the LNP has done. The poor old Labor Party have no idea what position they have on the matter. They flip-flop today and tomorrow. Unfortunately, unless we recycle those fabulous luminaries of Labor on the Gold Coast, such as Phil Gray, Robert Poole, Peter Lawlor, Peta-Kaye Croft, Di Reilly, Christine Smith—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr STEVENS: We have nine members on the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast—

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Once again, there are too many interjections. While there is often a lot of heat in the debate on the 5.30 motion, the noise is too great and your interjections are not being taken. I call the Leader of the House.

Mr STEVENS: The Gold Coast recognises that the LNP is doing wonderful work for the Gold Coast. It is continuing the preparation for the Commonwealth Games. It is continuing light rail. It is continuing to improve police numbers and reform law and order. We are going to fix the party houses shortly. There will also be a complete review of the body corporate laws. We have the Gold Coast University Hospital reducing waiting lists. This LNP government is loved by those on the Gold Coast.

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—PUP) (6.15 pm): The truth could not be further from what has been stated by the member for Mermaid Beach just now. Small business is indeed the engine room of the economy of the state and the nation, and certainly the Gold Coast. Small business on the Gold Coast is suffering. I support this motion because of what is really going on.

The greatest evidence, if anyone needs it, is in my electorate of Gaven, which has been mentioned by the member for Mermaid Beach, who ran for the seat years ago. It has the highest number of bankruptcies in the state—one in 246. Do members know what the increase is in his electorate? It has gone up by 34 per cent in the last year under the LNP. These figures are the fourth highest in the nation. In second place is Southport, and then in third place is Coomera. What do members think is going on out there? It is absolutely terrible. Do members know? It all comes back to three letters in this state—L-N-P. If no other statistic tells you anything it is that statistic. That is what is really going on. Simultaneously, the average income of Gold Coasters has fallen by a third. Those statistics are from the library and they are available to everybody.

In spite of the \$1 billion that has been spent largely by the Commonwealth on the light rail system, we have seen the vast bulk of our tradesmen having to commute at this time—that is, post the GFC—to Ipswich, to outer Brisbane and to the north side of Brisbane. In the absence of FIFO we probably would have gone into a massive recession and things would have stopped all together.

In contrast to what has been stated here, we have a massive supertower started in the city, they have proposed new tunnels and they have indulged in all sorts of road projects in Brisbane. This is in spite of the Gold Coast having a population of three quarters of a million, nine seats and three ministers—two ministers and an assistant minister. They have not done anything. They have not contributed to what needs to go on. The poor council is in a terrible situation because it is badly run. It has got itself into a \$600 million net debt. It cannot expend money on footpaths, potholes and roads and the state will not spend a cent on them either.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: I ask the member to pause. Pause the clock. It has been happening wherever the debate has been coming from around the chamber, but there is too much noise and your interjections are not being taken. I call the member for Gaven.

Dr DOUGLAS: What they have spent their money on is a ridiculous cruise ship terminal. They have driven ahead, in tandem with the council, I admit. They have spent an absolute fortune on a whole lot of things that have contributed nothing and hung everything on their heads as though this is the panacea for the state. Of course it is not going to work. It never was going to work. The various people who were previously in government knew it, as we in the then National Party and then coalition did in opposition.

Despite all this, the government comes along and demands a \$100 million upfront payment from a council that did not have any money at all and the government knew it. The council then basically cut services even further. When you combine that with rising electricity charges and rising water charges for domestic and commercial suppliers, this has maximised the pain for average Gold Coasters. This is LNP policy in action on the Gold Coast.

At the last state election many people in my electorate—and I have a very earthy constituency—voted LNP for the first time in their lives, trusting that the LNP would honour its promises. They were far too trusting.

Government members interjected.


Madam SPEAKER: Order, members! Pause the clock. I call the member for Gaven.

Dr DOUGLAS: Thank you, Madam Speaker. When disaster struck on the Gold Coast—and I knew there was a lot of flooding happening elsewhere—we could not even get money for our beaches. Even though it is crown land and it was for the tourists, no, it had to be paid for by the council.

The Reedy Creek issue was mentioned. This quarry—and the member for Currumbin and the member for Mundingburra know this—was retrofitted into a residential area. It was retrofitted. That is what the LNP delivered, and the Deputy Premier said he would push the approvals through.

When you are a member you have to support your community, and the LNP members representing the Gold Coast are not putting the Gold Coast first. They are putting the interests of the leader and the Brisbane seats first and they have to stop it. It has to stop because the Gold Coast is a big engine room of our economy and we need it.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (6.20 pm): It is my great privilege to rise to conclude this debate after listening to the former member, the member for Gaven, who, as I understand it, called his constituents ‘bogans’. That

is what he had to say about his constituents just a couple of months ago. As for those eight opposite, if they are so confident about how they stand up for the Gold Coast, come down and take us on at the next election. Come and take us on. Give up your own seats and come and take us on. But they will not be able to do that, unlike the Palmer United Party—and the member for Gaven will face the challenges that he deserves in Gaven.

It is my great pride to be the Minister for Education, Training and Employment on the Gold Coast especially because of what we have been able to deliver. All members in this House know that over the last number of years we have had a number of schools and principals who have been getting \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year for maintenance. The schools in my electorate have received more than \$1.3 million for maintenance in the last two years. Under those opposite, they got a pittance and we had a \$300 million maintenance backlog. That is what we had from those opposite. Through the Great Results Guarantee, \$1 million has been given directly to school principals because we rely on them to get the results and the outcomes and not rely on ideology, which is what those opposite do. There has been more than \$9.7 million in capital funding in the last two years in our schools, with extra prep teacher aide hours, and \$1.2 million in Community Learning grants in Education, Training and Employment in the last year.

But we have heard a lot from those opposite about what it is that we have done for the coast. The university teaching hospital and light rail have been delivered by this government, and we are proud to have delivered it on behalf of our community. Last week we heard from those opposite that we just had to look for patience in terms of our economic stability and returning the economy to where it should be. But when it comes to policy—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Pause the clock. There are too many interjections from my left and they are not being taken. I call the minister.

Mr LANGBROEK: We heard that when it comes to economic matters we just have to rely on patience. When it comes to policy matters from those opposite all we get is recycling. It took 409 days for those opposite to come up with their first policy, and it was a recycled policy. In government they had a program called Get Set for Work; now they have brought in a policy called Get Ready for Work. That was one recycled policy. That was after 409 days. The other recycled policy they had—it is only the second one we have had in education—was that we should have single-sex classes and/or schools. They had 20 years and they actually did try to bring it in in some schools, whereas we left it to our principals to decide whether they are the things that they want to achieve and to decide that based on the results they get. So there is the difference.

When it comes to the most significant issue that we have seen on the Gold Coast in the last two years—that is, law and order—what did those opposite do in the last 14 years about law and order? They did nothing while the bikie gangs took over the city. While they took over locksmiths, tattoo parlours and cafes, those opposite did nothing. They paid lip-service while we were having armed robberies at the rate of one a day. Whilst those opposite were bleating about those issues and doing nothing, this government under this Premier brought in legislation that has made a great difference to the people of the Gold Coast. That is why I reiterate my offer, my invitation, to those opposite who would not have the guts to come down and take us on in the Gold Coast. They will not have the guts to do it because the Gold Coast knows what Labor members are. They know that they are all show. They are all show and they have nothing else, whereas on this side we are delivering. We are delivering in health, we are delivering in education, we are delivering in community safety and we are going to make sure that we deliver—

Mrs Stuckey: And tourism.

Mr LANGBROEK: Tourism is a great example. I hear my honourable cabinet colleague the member for Currumbin behind me speaking about the benefits from the best summer season in years that we have had in Surfers Paradise and on the Gold Coast. There are still challenges but they are challenges that we face because of the debt burden left behind by those opposite—\$450,000 an hour in interest payments alone. It was those opposite who left that behind. It is not patience that is going to fix the problem. They will say anything on the eve of an election. In fact, often they do not say anything at all. We will make sure that we put out our costings and that we deliver for the people, and we will make sure that we get returned at the next election, as we were in 2012 proudly on behalf of the Gold Coast and all of Queensland.

Madam SPEAKER: The time for the debate has expired.

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

AYES, 67:

LNP, 67—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Crisafulli, Davies, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Johnson, Kaye, Kempton, King, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Pucci, Rickuss, Robinson, Ruthenberg, Seeneey, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young.

NOES, 10:

ALP, 8—Byrne, D'Ath, Miller, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

PUP, 1—Douglas.

INDEPENDENTS, 1—Wellington.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

Madam SPEAKER: Ring the bells for one minute.

AYES, 67:

LNP, 67—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Crisafulli, Davies, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Johnson, Kaye, Kempton, King, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Pucci, Rickuss, Robinson, Ruthenberg, Seeneey, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young.

NOES, 10:

ALP, 8—Byrne, D'Ath, Miller, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

PUP, 1—Douglas.

INDEPENDENTS, 1—Wellington.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House notes the Newman LNP Government has been and will continue to deliver for the Gold Coast Region.


Sitting suspended from 6.35 pm to 7.35 pm.

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 632, on motion of Mr Bleijie—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr HATHAWAY** (Townsville—LNP) (7.35 pm), continuing: Previously I was talking about a case study regarding female B, a 15-year-old who has been charged with 22 counts of unlawful use of a motor vehicle, several break and enters and a total of 26 other charges. At no time has this 15-year-old female had a conviction recorded. Last year both A and B were sentenced to three months detention for stealing cars and other charges to be served by way of an immediate conditional release order. Just over two months later the female youth was sentenced to three months detention to be served concurrently with the previous order. On that occasion they pleaded guilty to three counts of stealing cars.


I now turn to male C, a 14-year-old. I am reliably informed that male C's history includes cautions, youth justice conferences, notices to appear and arrests for offences such as unlawful use of a motor vehicle, 18 counts; break and enter, 15 counts; other related and unrelated charges, 17 counts. At no time has male C, a 14-year-old, had a conviction recorded. It would appear that his cautions, reprimands, probations et cetera and minimal periods of incarceration on remand have had no effect. The period of offending spans from August of last year through to January this year, just six or seven months.

Male C, the 14-year-old, appeared in Townsville Children's Court and pleaded guilty to two counts of stealing cars, two break and enters and three minor charges including a breach of bail. These numbers have been included in the aforementioned statistics. Even taking off those numbers, he had a substantial history prior to that appearance. What was the penalty? It is my understanding that no conviction was recorded on all charges and he was given nine months probation. He had been given nine months probation in October last year for similar offences. So in effect male C, 14 years old, got nine months probation on top of nine months probation handed down only three months prior.

All the members who represent the Townsville region, including me, have been inundated with emails and phone calls from residents and victims calling for the government to get tougher on juvenile crime. Like others around the state, Townsville residents have been telling the Newman government that they are fed up with these young repeat offenders. That is why early last year the government conducted a review of the Youth Justice Act and as part of that review sought the views of Queenslanders on proposals to strengthen responses to youth crime. Thousands of people responded to the Safer Streets Crime Action Plan survey. More than three-quarters of the 4,200-odd respondents were either victims or had a family member who was a victim of crime. A total of 65.9 per cent of respondents believe that giving courts access to an adult offender's juvenile criminal history would be quite effective or very effective, and 66.3 per cent agreed with making it an offence for a child to breach his or her bail conditions. Half the respondents also strongly agreed with the provisions for naming and shaming young offenders.

In February I attended a rally in Townsville where about 100-plus victims of crime rallied to show their support for the Newman government's youth justice reforms. Further, I also welcome the Attorney-General's amendments foreshadowed during this debate that effectively create a new category of orders, a boot camp—vehicle offences—order that prescribes by regulation the geographical location of Townsville given our unprecedented levels of unauthorised use of motor vehicles. I note in the Attorney-General's explanatory notes to the amendments that nearly 90 recidivist offenders have been found guilty of committing unauthorised use of a motor vehicle more than two times in my city in the last financial year alone. The community feedback we are receiving on the ground proves what the Newman government has suspected all along, that Queenslanders are sick and tired of repeat offenders who are a product of the former Labor government's 'slap on the wrist' approach. Despite the vacuous rhetoric from the troglodytes opposite who thought their system was working, we know it was not. We also know their position now. It has been the position of their previous administration that for the last two decades failed Queenslanders and, indeed, failed Queensland youth. In contrast, we are a government of action, a government that is willing to try new approaches in order to effect change and in order to protect the safety of all Queenslanders, including our young offenders such as A, B and C.

I thank the Attorney-General's department for introducing this bill and know that it will be well received by the Townsville community. Accordingly, on behalf of the Townsville community, I have no hesitation in providing my strong support for the passage of this bill and the Attorney-General's amendments.

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (7.39 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 and offer some positive initiatives used in past times to engage with young people and divert them from their offending ways rather than sending more and more into detention, which can leave them open to association with more serious offenders, or to boot camps, which to date have yet to be assessed in the long term and which I believe may have little effect.

At the outset, I wish to acknowledge that there are some offenders who, unfortunately, are required to be locked up for the future safety of community members due to the level and severity of their crimes. While we as a society recognise certain crimes must elicit a term of imprisonment, it is imperative that within the youth detention centre education, training, counselling and, where it is appropriate, involvement in cultural activities be central to the daily program. It is a known fact that early intervention is the key to turning lives around and young people who are at risk or those who have found themselves on the wrong side of the law can be diverted back on to the right path if they are plugged into an appropriate program.

However, this government has ripped many thousands of dollars from many of our youth services such as BoysTown, Youth and Family Services, The Spot, Career Keys and many others in the Logan area. Similarly, all over this state organisations working with young people have found their services decimated and staff put off, with young people now at risk of running afoul of the law rather than be engaged in what were very successful youth programs. Gone are the days when young

students at risk of dropping out of school could be re-engaged in the Get Set for Work or Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs at BoysTown. I have attended countless graduations involving students from our local high schools and their vocational education teachers to see students back at school re-engaged or alternate education, training or work placement. It is long-term engagement which has lasting results.

As car theft has been one of the oft mentioned crimes committed by juveniles and, sadly, one that has led to the deaths of many young people on our roads, I would like to pay particular tribute to a program which won national awards called the U-Turn Program. Take a group of young car thieves; I remember one who had 43 charges against him. The YMCA shed at Slacks Creek was the venue, and a group of 12 or so young men were involved in each course. An insurance company would supply two vehicles which they had written off, and over a period of 16 weeks or so youth workers and automotive trade instructors specially selected for their ability to work with young people would work with the participants to restore the vehicles. This entailed bodywork, upholstering, engine restoration and all that was required to get the vehicles back on the road. Yes, it took a little while to engage some of these young men, but by graduation the comments and speeches of many of them indicated changed lives and changed attitudes. The fantastic aspect of these graduations was the gifting of the two vehicles to two people whose cars had been stolen and who had no insurance. One young mother I recall related the hardship of walking her younger child to kindy and then the next to school before catching a bus to her course at TAFE. It was always very moving to hear these stories and then to see them accept the key to their new vehicle. I know many of the young men who graduated said it was the first time they had been given a certificate and felt the pride of hearing a 'well done' from their now friendly mentors. Many of these young men were then plugged into apprenticeships in the automotive industry; some were employed in various workshops or parts retailers; some returned to study, often at TAFE or one of our flexi schools. Removing detention as a last resort would simply fill our detention centres to overflowing and many of these young men would not have had any chance.

Another program which had been operating in the Logan area in the last term of the Labor government was the P200 program. I remember joining the committee on one of the sessions where sitting around the table were representatives from education, child safety, police, communities, health, youth justice and cultural workers. They discussed two young people, one of whom had been very difficult and had been hard to engage with; however, the youth worker who was tasked with walking the journey with this young person—and it was a young woman with a very sad history and a very dysfunctional home—reported significant progress. Yes, some young people will require a long period of time to have their lives turned around. They may have long-term drug issues to deal with, and we need facilities to assist them through that. You are ignoring every piece of evidence and advice from experts who know and understand youth crime and recidivism.

Youth conferencing had a very positive effect on many young people. It not only impacted the person responsible for the crime, but often had a very emotional and healing effect on the victim. This program no longer exists, and so both the perpetrator and the victim miss out. A program similar to this is now operational in our adult prisons called the Sycamore Tree Program. It is certainly changing lives, and I would recommend that members on the government's side attend a graduation to hear from the prisoners who have taken part in this worthwhile program. It is offenders listening to victims as they relate their stories and the impacts of crime.

I have heard the PCYC mentioned during this debate, and I wish to pay tribute to the work that they do right throughout our state. In Logan City, Sergeant Rachel Whitford and Sergeant Mel Cowie operate fantastic programs with their many workers and huge band of volunteers. Theirs is a significant program in the field of early intervention. The many hundreds of young people who have contact with our PCYC certainly have the most positive investment in their future.

Since this government came into power, so many of the positive programs that have been developed over the years that have truly had a positive influence on the lives of so many and that of many young people have been swept aside. So much of this is a result of having a purely economic focus rather than being people focused. Members opposite, you may only understand that in reality when the results of the next election are revealed. I believe this legislation is going to have the exact opposite effect than that which you propose. I will be opposing the bill.

Interruption.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! Before I call the next speaker I would like to recognise Mr Matthew Mead, Governor of the state of Wyoming, First Lady Carol and their children Mary and Pete who are in the gallery. You are all very welcome and in your native tongue, 'Hey all, y'all!'

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading


Resumed from p. 645.

 **Mr YOUNG** (Keppel—LNP) (7.48 pm): I rise to support the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. As a member of the Youth Justice Reference Group in the central region, I applaud the policy objectives of the bill. The Attorney-General has already made significant inroads into youth justice reforms with very measurable results. In our region we have seen a substantial reduction of those who commit offences, down by 28 per cent for those on youth justice orders. Under Labor, Rockhampton had a very sad history of large numbers of young people on youth justice orders, with many of those with a history of reoffending without any fear. Two infamous cases come to mind. One is the case of youths breaking into a hotel to steal alcohol, being caught and facing court, only to reoffend the very next night in the same clothing at the same address by the same security camera, obviously showing no fear to reoffend. The other case was that of a young man whilst under bail conditions smashing into 20 cars to steal, getting caught, facing court and showing no remorse. But what is the cost to the community—to the mums and dads who worked hard for their cars and their assets, only to have them damaged by a person who has no concept of punishment?

We heard the member for Rockhampton state this government's desire to fill detention centres, yet the member does not attend any Youth Justice Reference Group meetings nor engage with our PCYC early intervention boot camp. The boot camps and early intervention boot camp, along with the great work of the Youth Justice Reference Group, are designed to keep these people from reoffending or starting a life of crime, with the sole intention of keeping them from a custodial sentence. I struggle to see how the member for Rockhampton can comment on youth justice issues when he has no involvement at any level locally in Rockhampton. Youth crime prior to the change of government in Rockhampton in 2012 was the most burning issue in Rockhampton, more so than any other town in the region. The member for Rockhampton is treating the people of Rockhampton with contempt by stating in his speech that he would oppose this very important legislation.

The Attorney-General, the police and the youth justice group have made great inroads into young people who may or are involved in crime. As I stated earlier, youth justice orders are down by almost one-third. In an earlier speech I mentioned the great results that our police are having in the Rockhampton region. Robbery is down by 44 per cent—a great result—and the data would suggest that 75 per cent of robbery offences in the Rockhampton region were committed by youths, break and enters are down by 23 per cent, there has been a massive 31 per cent reduction in sex offences, a 12 per cent reduction for the unlawful use of a motor vehicle and an eight per cent reduction in stealing from a motor vehicle. The pivotal role that our Crime Stoppers teams provide along with the police Tactical Crime Squad and input from the Liquor Accord group are seeing outstanding outcomes in my region. For the first time in many years we are hitting back with great results and I place on the record my appreciation to the Attorney-General for his hard work in addressing youth crime in the region.

Will Cordwell, the publican from the Ascot Hotel which has been the victim of many break-ins, is a valuable member of the Youth Justice Reference Group and the only non-government member of the team who provides a wealth of knowledge in the management of these youths on orders. When I entered parliament I met with the senior police in Rockhampton and developed a 13-point plan for youth justice and sentencing, and I say with great pleasure that we are ticking off the key points of that plan with great results. There will always be crime. We do not live in a perfect world, but we need to change the thinking. We need to consider the victims of crime and the cost to society generally. The amendments and policy objectives in this bill will enhance and strengthen our reforms to youth justice. I again thank the Attorney-General and the police minister and their staff for their hard work to make Rockhampton and the rest of the state a safer place.

 **Mr COX** (Thuringowa—LNP) (7.53 pm): Tonight many members have spoken in opposition to this bill and I am absolutely bemused but possibly not surprised that most of the focus has been on the fact that this bill in part is directed at youth offenders. However, I do not think the likes of the member for Rockhampton once mentioned the victims, and this bill is about the victims—the victims of the crimes that the people of Thuringowa every night and every day have to deal with. The chair's foreword in the report states—

The Committee's task was to consider the policy outcomes to be achieved by the legislation, as well as the application of fundamental legislative principles—that is, to consider whether the Bill had sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals, and to the institution of Parliament.

I commend the committee and the committee process for achieving that record. Before I go any further, I want to personally thank the Attorney-General for all that he has done for the people of Townsville with not only this bill but other work, visits and attention he has given our city. My job is to be the ear of the people of Thuringowa and to present those views to ministers. This minister has listened and I thank him for it and the people of Townsville thank him for it. When this bill was first introduced, Torhild Parkinson, who is a member of Townsville Crime Alerts and Discussions, personally came to Brisbane to thank not only the Attorney-General but also the Premier in anticipation of this bill and this day.

I turn now to one point of clarification and one recommendation the committee made in its report which the Attorney-General is addressing, and I thank him for that. The point of clarification is that the committee requests the Attorney-General to detail in his response to this report the diversionary programs and sentencing options available to offenders by judicial officers, government agencies and other complementary organisations that may be relevant for first-time offenders. The Attorney-General already pointed out in his speech earlier today that this bill is only a small part of addressing the youth crime situation of this state. Most importantly, I point out that the committee's recommendation No. 2, which the Attorney-General has addressed, states—

The Committee recommends the proposed amendments circulated by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to deal with recidivist vehicle offenders in Townsville be included in the Bill and that amendments be made in the consideration in detail stage of the Bill's progression through the Legislative Assembly.

That is a very important part of this bill from a recommendation by the committee, and I again thank all of those on the committee and the Attorney-General for taking that on board. I also want to thank the policemen and women who are out there every day in my city who deal with youth offenders. Many hours are taken with these offenders when those officers should be out undertaking other duties rather than just dealing with young offenders who, in the main, are repeat offenders. There is a small group in Townsville who are known repeat offenders and some 35 per cent of the population of the Cleveland Detention Centre have been there five times.

As part of the government's six-month action plan, in January last year the government delivered the first step in this process—that is, boot camps. Townsville and Cairns have now received a sentenced boot camp, which is different to those in other parts of the state which are early intervention. It is important that we remember that that was the first step we took after coming to government. It was a commitment that we made at the election. We have done it. We stuck by it and, again, we got full support from the people of Townsville and Thuringowa who presented a petition at the first regional cabinet to the Premier. While that petition was not in a format that could be presented to parliament, I thank the Premier for presenting that petition through other means at the time. With regard to consultation of this bill, it is said that we have not listened to the so-called professionals.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr COX: It is a big club, member for Whitsunday. It must be a huge club, but it is a very secret club because I do not know where they have been for 20 years. When Labor was in power, where were all of the experts then? Today I have not heard one actual solution from those sitting opposite in the ALP, from those sitting beside me in the PUP or any other member opposing the bill, and I am sure there is a speaker behind me who will soon get up and no doubt not support the bill, and I note that there are dissenting reports from the member for Nicklin and the member for Rockhampton, whom we have already heard speak. I personally have received a letter from Amnesty International, as did the Premier of this state, which I have here with me. That letter mentions lots of issues but points out very early on—

Our concerns with the proposed amendments to the Youth Justice Act to be introduced next week remain that the Queensland government risks failing in its responsibilities.

Again, our responsibility is to try to curb young offenders in their ways and rehabilitate those that we can. However, our No. 1 responsibility is to protect the people of Queensland and make them feel safe in their own streets and protect the property that they have earned and worked very hard for. Again, that is something that has been addressed. Amnesty International has come to see me once since then at a listening post I held. I have since said that if it would like further talks with me it is most welcome to make an appointment with my office, but if it does take up that option I say, as I say to all of those who sit opposite, that I just do not want to hear data the likes that the member for Gaven read out; I actually want some solutions. So the people from Amnesty International have been told by me that if they wish to meet with me they need to turn up with solutions. I told them that about a month ago and I still have not had them knocking on my door.

I will not go into the objectives of this bill, because they have been referred to many times by members who have already spoken. I will finish by saying that I commend the work that has been done on this bill by the committee. As a first-time member of parliament, this bill is possibly the biggest landmark in my short time in this parliament. But something that I campaigned on and something that I stood up for was to try to do something about crime in the city of Townsville and my electorate of Thuringowa. It has been a hard slog, but I have listened to the local members representing Townsville. The Attorney-General has listened and visited Townsville several times. We have had a forum. Thanks to the Attorney-General, I have been to the juvenile prison at Cleveland several times. I have taken members of the public into that prison. We have had the public all the way along with us on this journey. This bill reeks of consultation with the public. That is exactly what it is about. In 20 years of a Labor government in this state we had absolutely no consultation. All we had was repeat juvenile offenders causing the majority of the crime. This government is about stamping that out.

This bill is a small part but will go a long way towards helping fight the juvenile crime problem in Townsville. But it is only part of a blueprint that this government said that it would do and the Attorney-General is guiding that blueprint. I am absolutely confident that, when that blueprint is rolled out, we will not only be coming down hard on crime in Townsville, Thuringowa and other areas across the state but also address other issues that Amnesty International and members opposite have raised but have not provided solutions for.

Finally, I will finish by reading a response from the department, which relates to a matter that the Attorney-General mentioned. It states—


Queensland considers that young offenders can get their lives back on track if they are held accountable for their actions and supported to make changes.

The amendments in the Bill are only one component of a broader reform strategy ultimately aimed at this goal, and focus on holding repeat offenders accountable and deter them from future offending.

The need for such strong action in relation to repeat offenders is clear. The long term trend in youth justice is for a small group of recidivist young offenders to be responsible for committing more and more serious offences. Further, in 2012-13, there was a significant increase in the number of both offenders and offences dealt with by the Childrens Court. In that year, the court dealt with more than 10% more offenders charged with 22% more offences than in the previous year. The results of the *Safer Streets Crime Action Plan Youth Justice* (Safer Streets) survey revealed broad community support for measures to hold repeat offenders more properly to account.

I would like to add that, out of the 4,000 people who responded to the action plan survey, by far the majority of them were victims. Again, it is the victims who we need to consider.

I thank the Attorney-General for his support in finally taking on reform of the Juvenile Justice Act. This reform may be unpopular in some areas, but the people of Townsville and Thuringowa thank him for it. I also thank him for the fact that we are not doing what did not work before; we are changing the culture of how we deal with our youth.

 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (8.02 pm): I rise to participate in the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. Young people who continue to commit offences certainly need to be held accountable for their actions. I believe that we all need to make sure that our judges and our magistrates have the best range of tools at their disposal to impose the most appropriate sentence on young people who have been found guilty of committing an offence. In considering what are the most appropriate sentencing options available to our judiciary, I believe that we need to be guided by history and experts in this field. I note that when the Attorney-General commenced the debate on this matter he referred to a number of experts who he had consulted. I would ask him when he responds to the range of submissions that he identify those experts.

As a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I had the opportunity to see many submissions that were made either directly in person at public hearings, in writing or by a range of other means. It amazes me that we can have so many different views on the submissions

that were made to the committee. I am not an expert in this field. I do not profess to be. All I can say is that some of the submissions that were made that were very critical of the government's proposed legislation seemed to have merit. The previous speaker referred to solutions and challenged me by asking me what were my solutions and what were the solutions of other members who had spoken against this bill. I will use some examples. As patron of my local police citizens youth club, I am very aware of the great work that police citizens youth clubs do. Over the years my involvement in some of our drop-in centres and work with young people who have really been on the margins has reinforced in my mind that some of the programs that the previous Labor government ran were very successful. I can remember every second month I would attend a graduation ceremony in Nambour in my electorate. I would present graduation certificates to a whole range of young people who had fallen between the cracks but who had been saved, if I can use that word, by some programs funded by the previous two Labor governments. Admittedly, there were some challenging times. Some of those young people really had some challenges with their drug and alcohol addictions and they had real attitude problems. But through my dealings with these very effective programs I observed firsthand that for the first time these young people felt part of a team. They appreciated doing community work, be it building footpaths or simply building chairs in the local park.

I can remember a few years ago when I was at the drop-in centre a young fellow was there and he looked different. He had a smile on his face. He said, 'Mr Wellington, look at my boots.' I looked at his boots. He said, 'Yes, they've provided me with some boots. And what do you think of my clothes?' He was heading off to Mapleton to do some work on some walking trails. At the time Rod Welford or Dean Wells was the minister for the environment and the Great Walks project was being built through many forested areas and the hinterland on the Sunshine Coast was one of those areas. Part of that program was to find disaffected young people who had fallen between the cracks to try to give them some self-esteem, give them some pride and get them involved in some community projects. They were successful programs that delivered results. I saw firsthand how spending money—and it does cost money—and effort and having skilled people can assist these marginalised people with their drug and alcohol problems and a range of other problems.

Earlier during the debate I heard members say, 'Everyone knows what's right and what's wrong.' Yes, we all know what is right and wrong. I am not making excuses for them, but some of these young people have major mental problems and you simply just cannot sit down and rationalise with them. They are on a different planet. The best we can try to do is to provide them with some support and guidance so that when they get out of jail—because it costs money to send people to jail—there are hopefully some rehabilitation programs for them. It is all very well and good to say, 'Yes, lock them all up. Send them to jail,' but that costs a lot of money. I am not interested in supporting more asset sales so that we can send more people off to jail. I am not interested in the proposed privatisation of our prisons so that some business entity can make some money out of it so that we can send more and more people to our prisons. So with more and more people going to jail we can build more and more prisons and these private entities can make more and more money. I am about listening to expert advice. I have read the submissions that have been made to the committee and I am not prepared to support lock, stock and barrel the Attorney-General's proposals.

I believe that there needs to be a hierarchy of sentencing options. It is that simple. I believe that we need to have sending a person to prison as a last resort. For years that has been the tried and proven method. Now we are saying, 'No, we want to change the system.' I am not convinced that that change is the right way to go. So I put on the record that I believe that we need to have a hierarchy of sentencing options and I believe that under the current system, whilst it has some problems, to send a person to jail as the last resort is the final deterrent. You can have these other measures, but when everything else has failed, off to jail they go. It is a question of how long a person remains there. Once a person is in jail, it is then a question of what support services are available to that person. I have met with Sisters Inside. I forget the name of the woman who runs that support program.


Mr BLEIJIE: Debbie Kilroy—right up your alley.

Mr WELLINGTON: I thank Mr Attorney-General. I know that there has been criticism of the work that Ms Kilroy does, but I have seen some great results of the great work that she does for the people who other people do not want to know about.

We have a responsibility to do the best for everyone. Some members of the government indicated that the range of people who took the trouble to make submissions did not really know what they were talking about. I think these people were genuine and concerned about trying to do the right thing by people who are marginalised and disaffected and the right thing by our community and I am certainly not going to discredit their efforts in making a submission.

I will not repeat the comments of other speakers in relation to why this bill should not be passed. I have touched on the issue of the sentencing options. The other issue I will briefly touch on is the naming and shaming component of the bill. My experience is that if you tell someone they are dumb for long enough they will eventually believe they are dumb. If you tell someone at school they are going to be at the bottom of the class and you tell them that all the time, they will stay at the bottom of the class. If you tell someone they are a criminal long enough they will believe they will be a criminal and will stay a criminal because they have been labelled and that is the way many people unfortunately operate. I am not convinced that the naming and shaming component will do anything to reduce young people's propensity to commit future crimes. It might make some people feel good because they have shown how vindictive they can be by naming and shaming someone. My experience is that the more you label someone, the more they will eventually believe that they are what they have been labelled. Often I come across young people who are trying to find a job. They leave school and they are enthusiastic. They go to the first interview and they are not successful. They go to another interview and they are not successful. They go to further interviews and they are not successful. It does not take long for their self-esteem to be destroyed and they go looking for something else to solve their problems. They turn to drugs and alcohol and get themselves into a life of strife. As far as I am concerned, labelling is not the way to go.

The government has a mandate and will push through its legislation, but I say to the many people who have made submissions and the many people who are tuning in listening to this debate at the moment that we are not alone in our opposition to this Liberal National Party government. It has been branded the Newman government, but let us be clear. It is the Liberal National Party government in Queensland. I do not know where all the Liberals are. It seems to me more like an extreme government that wants to do something radically different to what experts in the field say is the accepted, normal way to progress to deal with young people who have gone astray. To all those people who are tuning in tonight I say that we are not alone. Remember at the next state election to number every box and put the LNP last.

 **Mr HOPPER** (Condamine—KAP) (8.12 pm): In speaking to this bill tonight I acknowledge that the minister is trying to implement policy which he believes will help ensure the safety and wellbeing of the Queensland community. However, it appears that the policy objectives of this bill will do little to prevent future youth crime. I would like to talk to certain aspects of the bill which have created concerns amongst many institutions which have submitted papers to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. Their concerns have reinforced my own concerns and strengthened my belief that there has to be a shift away from a negative policy regime to a positive policy setting. I will discuss this later in my speech.

The issues I would like to debate regarding the content of this bill are the youth crime wave and detention as a last resort. It appears that the minister and his policy writers have developed this policy under the assumption there is a youth crime wave happening in Queensland which is affecting the community.

Mr Cox interjected.

Mr HOPPER: I will give statistics in just one minute. In reaction to this supposed youth crime wave, the minister and his team have decided to react to the situation by implementing policy which addresses the effect and not the cause. This does not address the cause and therefore fails the youth who are at great risk of offending in the community. I could understand and support the minister's drive to reduce the prescribed youth crime wave if it was a valid argument. However, the statistics suggest there has been a decrease in youth crime in Queensland.

Mr Cox interjected.

Mr HOPPER: The Australian Bureau of Statistics paper, 4519.0, *Recorded crime offenders 2010-11* shows that youth offender rates in Queensland decreased compared with 2009-10. Moreover, the Children's Court of Queensland annual report 2011-12 stated—

Again there was an overall decrease in the number of juveniles whose cases were disposed of in all Queensland courts in 2011-12.

Mr Cox interjected.

Mr HOPPER: Continuing the quote—

The decrease was 6.9%, following a decrease of 8.6% in 2010-11.

The minister's own department has provided figures which show the number of young offenders in Queensland has decreased by nine per cent over the past three years.

Mr Cox interjected.

Mr HOPPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to be able to speak without this yapping in my left ear by the member for Thuringowa.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ruthenberg): Member for Condamine, I cannot hear except your voice and you have the call so would you please speak.

Mr HOPPER: Thank you very much, but it is very distracting and I ask for the Deputy Speaker's protection so I can concentrate.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Condamine, you have the call. Can you please speak.

Mr HOPPER: Figures from the department show that only 0.9 per cent of young people aged 10 to 16 years in Queensland were found guilty of an offence in court in 2012-13. Ten per cent of young offenders are responsible for almost half of all proven offences.

Government members interjected.

Mr HOPPER: They hate to hear the truth. I would like to understand if it is the minister's aim to promote the rhetoric of fear therefore predisposing the community to ask for tougher measures even though the statistics present a clear argument that youth crime is on the decrease. For the minister's information, one of the statistics that was reported in the Children's Court of Queensland annual report 2011-12 was that there are a small number of persistent offenders who were charged with multiple offences, resulting in an increase in the number of offences alleged. Therefore, this is consistent with long-standing research which shows that some 70 per cent of juvenile offenders appear in court only once, with another 14.9 per cent appearing in court only twice.

The above evidence clearly shows a decrease in youth crime. This places a question mark over why the minister is proposing to alter legislation to abolish the principle of using detention as a last resort for young people before the courts, therefore resulting in the possible increase in youth entering the detention system.

Government members interjected.

Mr HOPPER: You will not be here after the next election, don't you worry about that. The Uniting Church in Australia stated in its submission that the principle of using detention as a last resort for young people before the courts is embedded in the Youth Justice Act 1992, in alignment with our international commitments to uphold the human rights of young people. It further stated—

Removing this principle increases the risk of criminalising young people by involving them in the detention system earlier than is necessary. Detention is the most significant punishment courts can use, and should be reserved for situations where every other option is not possible or has failed. Detention has not been shown to be particularly effective in preventing—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Condamine, you have the call. Please continue.

Mr HOPPER: Thank you very much. It is important that we keep in mind that the cost incurred by the taxpayer for one young person in youth detention for one year is estimated at \$173,000. It costs the state \$173,000 to keep a youth in detention for one year. If you include educational, public safety, welfare, health and other expenses that could rise to \$200,000 per person. The member for Thuringowa has absolutely no idea. He keeps interjecting on me, but he has nothing to contribute tonight and he has no idea. He is not capable of doing any research into this legislation.

The minister's government is trying to reduce costs and increase savings. I suggest that in relation to this bill the minister consult with the Treasurer before removing the principle that detention should be the last resort. If detention is the first resort for youth offenders, the minister better ask the Treasurer if he can acquisition a substantial budget from consolidated revenue to meet the foreseeable cost increases that will be incurred if this bill is implemented. The minister may ask himself why he should need to increase the department's budget. The possible effects caused by the abolishment of the principle that detention should be the last resort will have a negative economic impact on the structural and procedural aspects of youth detention, especially relating to the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, which I will refer to as the BYDC.

The BYDC has the capacity to house approximately 120 young people. The minister should be aware that on numerous occasions that number has been exceeded—and the minister would know that—forcing staff to double up young people in single rooms, with a bed on the ground, to accommodate the increase in numbers. That practice places our front-line staff at risk of breaching workplace health and safety procedures. The minister should be aware that detention as a first option will place increased pressure on the BYDC to accommodate a possible increase in numbers that are beyond its capacity. The minister should also be aware that there will have to be an increase in


staffing numbers to meet the increased demand to deal with the foreseeable increased numbers entering detention. At present, staff are already under considerable pressure to perform their duties. Therefore, without an increase in the ratio of staff to young people, there will be an increased burn-out rate among front-line staff.

Tonight, as I have made my speech on this bill I have stayed on the bill. I have had to listen to the interruptions from this member, who has written to the Speaker complaining when I interrupted him in a speech. I asked for your protection and I do not believe it was granted tonight.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! Member for Condamine, I am warning you under standing order 253A for reflecting on the chair. If you have a concern with how I chaired, you have the opportunity to write to Madam Speaker and complain about that.

Mr HOPPER: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, I move a motion of dissent from your ruling.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Condamine, I did not make a ruling. I simply warned you under standing order 253A for reflecting on the chair. I have already indicated that if you have an issue with that you can take that up with Madam Speaker.

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (8.24 pm): Today I rise to contribute to the debate in favour of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. At times, youth crime is dismissed by many as a misdemeanour or kids just being kids. Those who think that way fail to see that often youth crime is the start of what can become a long and destructive criminal record. Our LNP government is committed to ensuring that our judicial system has the tools, such as penalties and sentences that can be handed down by the courts to reflect the nature of the offence appropriately and in line with community standards. This mentality must be extended to juvenile offenders whose crimes, at times, are more violent and heinous than offences committed by adults. This is a sentiment shared by many in my electorate of Logan, from P&C meetings to community consultation committees, Neighbourhood Watch and safe city meetings. Serious concerns over how youth offenders are softly dealt with are often raised in the meetings.

I am proud to say that this government is taking action. We are not going to stand on the sidelines, as our predecessors did, and watch the next generation of Queenslanders be exposed to young offenders whose negative attitude towards the community destroys everything we love and cherish about Queensland. In Queensland, the pattern of youth offending is changing. Though fewer young people are offending, those who offend are doing so more frequently and often go on to commit more serious offences. For example, in 2012-13, 10 per cent of offenders were responsible for approximately half of all youth crime committed. Sixty per cent of offenders had been to court before, that is, six out of 10 people were reoffenders.

Communities expect governments to provide effective responses to youth crime that hold young offenders accountable for their actions and that deter them from future offending. In March 2013 the LNP government's Safer Streets Crime Action Plan—Youth Justice was released and sought community feedback on ways to improve responses to youth crime. The feedback received from that consultation will be used in the development of the Blueprint for the Future of Youth Justice in Queensland, which will outline strategies to reform the youth justice system to one that leads the nation, makes young offenders accountable for their actions, helps young offenders and their families to address the causes of their offending, provides a responsive justice system and protects the community. That is a key one to remember: it protects the community.

The blueprint will include strategies for reform across the following focus areas: effective sentencing options, including increased options to manage repeat and high-risk offenders in compliance with court orders; early intervention and diversion; responding to causes of crime; managing demand for youth justice services; improving youth detention services; and effective non-government investment. The government has already expanded the youth boot camp trial, introduced a graffiti removal order, increased the penalties for serious graffiti offences and undertaken a review of the Youth Justice Act 1992. The proposed bill implements the results of the review of the Youth Justice Act 1992 and represents the next stage of the reform to the youth justice system.

This bill will permit repeat offenders' identifying information to be published and will open the Children's Court for youth justice matters. The Children's Court will remain closed for all proceedings under the Adoption Act 2009 or the Child Protection Act 1999, or where a victim of a sexual offence by a child is giving evidence. Also, for a youth justice matter in relation to a child who is a first-time offender, the court may permit to be present a representative of the media or a person if, in the court's opinion, the person has a proper interest in the proceedings and the person's presence would not be

prejudicial to the interests of the child. Additionally, amendments to the bill have been made to maintain in all relevant circumstances the existing requirement that the Children's Court remain open when constituted by a judge hearing and determining a charge on indictment. It does this by providing that the new subsection of the Children's Court Act 1992, which provides that the court must be closed for all non-youth justice matters and youth justice matters involving first-time offenders, does not apply where the court is constituted by a judge hearing and determining a charge on indictment. This will have the effect of requiring the court to remain open when hearing a youth justice matter involving a first-time offender charged with an indictable offence.

This legislation will also create a new offence when a child commits a further offence whilst on bail. The new offence will attract a penalty of 20 penalty units or one year's imprisonment. The bill will permit childhood findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded to be admissible in court when sentencing a person for an adult offence. It will also enable the provision for the automatic transfer from detention to adult corrective services facilities of 17-year-olds who have six months or more left to serve in detention.

A provision has also been provided to apply to offenders who have been found guilty at age 17 but turned 18 before sentencing occurs. This has the effect that persons who are 18 at the time of being sentenced to a period of at least six months in detention are taken, from the time of sentence, to have been sentenced to a period of imprisonment. Further, the legislation will provide that, in sentencing any adult or child for an offence punishable by imprisonment, the court must not have regard to any principle, whether under statute or law, that a sentence of imprisonment, in the case of an adult, or detention, in the case of child, should be imposed as a last resort.

The overarching common law sentencing principle has been legislatively enshrined under the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 for offenders 17 years and over and under the Youth Justice Act 1992 for offenders 16 years and under. This amendment will allow children who have absconded from sentenced youth boot camps to be arrested and brought before a court for resentencing without first being given a warning.

Additionally, the bill expands the scope of appeals under the act to include magistrates' orders made on finding a child has contravened a community based order. The amendment will make a technical amendment to the Youth Justice Act 1992 to clarify that the period of a community based order can only be changed by a court on variation or resentence.


Collectively, these amendments have received some criticism from the legal and youth sectors because of their punitive nature and potential to increase demand on the youth justice system, particularly youth detention centres. However, further reforms that will be outlined in blueprint developed by the Attorney-General's department will balance these amendments and provide a holistic response to the causes of youth offending.

We have to remember that this bill is not targeted at the kids in the PCYCs or using the programs at Boystown or The Spot Community Services. It is targeted towards the people who are not involved in the community and are bringing down the community. It was reported recently that youth gangs are feeder groups for criminal organisations. These are the people we are targeting. These are the people we have to make sure we protect the community from.

Continuing down the Labor path of waiting and doing nothing is not an option. Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results is insanity. We must remain committed to ensuring communities are protected for generations to come. It is our obligation and our duty to give the justice system the legislation they need to carry out their duties judicially and effectively. Offenders, regardless of their age, will soon learn that crime does not pay and our communities will not tolerate illegal behaviour.

I commend the efforts of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and its support staff. I also commend the honourable Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and his ministerial and departmental staff for their efforts in ensuring that our communities remain a safe place to live, work and raise a family.

I must also thank the members of the Logan community for their feedback and input into this legislation. I applaud their passion for our Logan community and their wholehearted interest in community safety. Together we will keep Logan charging. I support the passage of this bill through the House.

 **Mr DOWLING** (Redlands—LNP) (8.32 pm): Tonight I rise quite proudly in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. From the outset I congratulate the Attorney-General on bringing this legislation before the House. Once again, we are delivering on LNP

policy. This legislation could not be clearer. We took our proposal about being tough on crime to the people. Those opposite would talk up a good game, but that is where it ended. If history teaches us anything, it is that Labor policy, Labor legislation, Labor strategy just did not work. It has let Queensland down. If we keep doing what we have always done we are going to get the same result. I am pleased to be part of a government that is introducing this new and refreshing legislation.

If people read the first page of the explanatory notes they will find that there are seven dot points. I do not want to speak to each of them. They simply map out the objectives of this legislation. I am unsure what those opposite find so absurd and so offensive that they cannot support it.

Dot point 1 states—

Permit repeat offenders' identifying information to be published—

the name and shame strategy—

and open the Childrens Court for youth justice involving repeat offenders.

I am not sure what part of that is going to bring our democracy to a screaming halt. But I do see how that is going to start to address the issue around serial offenders, repeat offenders, young juveniles on a collision course to 'Nowhereville'. That is where Labor would have them go—'Nowhereville'.

Dot point 2 states—

Create a new offence where a child commits a further offence while on bail.

That to me is stating the obvious. If someone has been before the court, has been found to have something to answer—there is no presumption of guilt or innocence—has been granted bail and then goes and throws that back in our face then that clearly sends a message that they do not deserve a second chance—they just blew it up the wall.

Dot point 3 states—

Permit childhood findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded to be admissible in court when sentencing a person for an adult offence.

That to me goes to history. That to me suggests that we have a career criminal. It should be taken into account. If we were to take all of those things into account and deal with them properly we would not have had the circumstances we had with the Morcombe case. It relates to career offenders.

Dot point 4 seems patently obvious when we look at it. It states—

Provide for the automatic transfer from detention to adult corrective services facilities of 17 year olds who have six months or more left to serve in detention.


That is fairly straightforward and fairly obvious. They need to move into that adult facility and not be seen as some kind of pied piper in a youth detention centre. We have to segregate them so we can still have a chance to work with these young offenders without adults manipulating them.

Dot point 6 seems so obvious me. It states—

Allow children who have absconded from Sentenced Youth Boot Camps to be arrested and brought before a court for resentencing without first being given a warning.

Why would you keep warning people? That is what happens under Labor. It is the warning mentality. With Labor it is, 'We are talking up a tough game. We are going to be really hard on criminals. But guess what? We do not want anyone to go to jail. We don't want anyone punished. But we are going to be dead tough on crime—absolutely tough on crime. We just don't want anyone to go to jail.' Unfortunately, that is the end of the line. That is where they go when they break the laws that we hold as sacrosanct in our society.

I said I would only contribute briefly to this debate so I will wrap up. I cannot understand how those opposite can walk down the streets of their communities and say to people that those key objectives are so offensive. I just do not get it. Labor has form in this area. They have always been soft on crime and they always will be soft on crime. They talk tough, but that is really where it ends. I look forward to supporting this legislation through the remaining stages of debate.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (8.38 pm): Tonight I too would like to voice my support for the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. In doing so, I acknowledge the excellent work of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice but also a couple of my regional colleagues who wanted to make a difference in terms of addressing youth crime alongside people who have sadly been victims of youth crime. Put simply, this government will not cop the slap on the wrist approach of

years gone by. That was something I reminded one young bloke of recently before referring him to the police. He was in the main street of Proserpine after dark and decided to play up like a second-hand lawn mower.

Bouncing castles, Xboxes and bucking bulls in juvenile justice centres—what a load of rot, and thankfully those days are now gone. If you want bucking bulls, Mr Deputy Speaker, I say clean up your act, get a meaningful job and go to somewhere like Bowen River, well known to the member for Burdekin, or perhaps Mount Isa or, if you like, Mr Deputy Speaker, come to my wonderful electorate of Whitsunday and meet the former bull-riding legend himself, the great Troy Dunn.

More than 12 months ago I heard the views of a man whom I have respected for many years in the police force before his retirement. He would be well known to a number of my colleagues in this place. I am referring to Warren Butterworth, now retired from the Queensland Police Service. I knew Warren from his days making sure there was no monkey business at the Cowboys' home days in the mid-1990s. On 18 February 2013, Warren Butterworth said on the website of the *Townsville Bulletin*—

There is absolutely no deterrent in our current penal system. I have spoken to juveniles who have admitted that they commit offences so that they can go back into the Cleveland Detention Centre. They boast about the excellent facilities that they are provided with. I thought that these institutions were supposed to deter them from reoffending.

I think that says it all.

Youth crime certainly does get people fired up, people like Will Cordwell, whose name has been mentioned in this place this evening. Will has owned and operated hotels in Central Queensland for a long, long time. I have known Will since he first came to Rockhampton in the early 1990s. Indeed, we are great mates. For years he publicly campaigned for tougher sentencing, a tougher approach to combat the scourge of youth crime in the beef capital, but sadly those pleas fell on deaf ears. Thankfully, there is now better representation in Central Queensland, and I commend my good mate the member for Keppel for his strong representation in this important area of public policy, for people like Will now believe that those days of that softly, softly pillow-like approach are over. At one stage, before we had an LNP government in Queensland, Will suffered no less than 26 break-ins in about 36 weeks.

Likewise, I commend another mate in this place, the member for Thuringowa, who made a contribution a few minutes ago. His electorate is well known to me thanks to my days working in the great city of Townsville—three occasions in the past 25 years, in fact. As a young reporter on the *Townsville Bulletin*, I saw plenty of shenanigans in the Flinders Mall when I would walk home from shift work, especially on a Thursday night after reporting on the dishlickers at the Townsville showgrounds, which kept us back at work until around midnight when the presses would roll. In more recent years I had a close shave myself in the East Street Mall in the city of Rockhampton, where one individual, from my observations at least, wanted to cut us up like a meatworker across the river at Lakes Creek.


Mr Deputy Speaker, I am a lover, not a fighter. I have two children to prove it too, if you want proof, Mr Deputy Speaker. No-one ever saw me putting my hand up at Festival Hall or entering one of Chris Condon's toughman competitions up and down the Queensland coast over the years. In the case of that Rocky incident, I was lucky to get some assistance from an old mate who intervened.

How the member for Rockhampton can oppose this bill is beyond me. I dare him to come with me and the member for Keppel to the Ascot Hotel on a Friday afternoon. Maybe he can explain to Mr Cordwell why he voted against this. He can tell it to Will. He can tell it to the bar flies in fact who frequent Will's pub and know firsthand of the shocking wave of crime, wave after wave, that has cost Will dearly over many years. People like Ian Thinee, a former Queensland rugby league representative from his days at Redcliffe, is among the regulars at the Ascot nowadays. I am sure he would love to hear from the member for Rockhampton in between his shiftwork looking after the crooks at Etna Creek.

It is not just Will Cordwell of course but countless other law-abiding citizens. Whether it involves their children, their business, their family home, their motor vehicle or whatever, they have been victims of youth crime. These people have had a gutful, and I am sorry to the member for Rockhampton but people have had enough and he should give himself an uppercut for not standing up for his people in his community. Luckily we have people like the member for Keppel having a red-hot go, and I know this is something dear to his heart and also the member for Thuringowa's. I am delighted to stand here tonight in support of my government colleagues, while the member for Rockhampton sits here as an embarrassment to his community, not just the electorate he claims to

represent. In conclusion, the member for Rockhampton, the shadow minister, is nothing more than a marshmallow, a powder puff when it comes to this important issue, and come next election, no-one—no-one at all—should forget his approach and that of his out-of-touch Labor colleagues.

We have a lot of excellent work done in the Whitsunday electorate by people like Youth Space, who I am pleased to support, particularly in more recent times given some of the more tragic events that have unfolded in our local community. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Sergeant John Dickinson from the PCYC. We have heard from members on both sides of the House tonight in relation to the PCYC. I am delighted to say that at the Whitsunday PCYC, Airlie Beach, where I humbly serve as patron, I am very pleased with the ongoing work of Sergeant Dickinson and his fine band of volunteers. Labor is all talk and no action. I support the bill.

 **Mrs OSTAPOVITCH** (Stretton—LNP) (8.45 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Firstly, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to the Attorney-General and the committee who worked on this very important piece of legislation. In my opinion action on this sad social problem is long overdue. In Stretton's biggest survey I asked a question about youth crime and I had an overwhelming response of 82 per cent wanting the government to take tougher action on youth crime. But it is not just about listening to my constituents and victims of crime; it is also about helping our misguided youth.

There is an old but very wise saying that sometimes you have to be cruel to be kind. Well, I do not agree at all with using the word 'cruel', but I think the gist of the saying is that you have to practice tough love. Children and especially teenagers need to have boundaries—I think we would all recognise that—boundaries that have consequences of a punishment that has the effect of making the youth think twice before reoffending. Right now they laugh at the law. I had the unfortunate experience of being outside Beenleigh court one day when a couple of youths came out and they were laughing their heads off about how one of them had just got off. I do not know what he had done but they just thought it was wonderful.


I appreciate and acknowledge the member for Woodridge's kind heart. Certainly early intervention programs are great if they work, and that is the point, isn't it? I recall being involved with BoysTown in Kingston about five years ago when they lost funding—and that was not under our government then. Parenting is of great interest to me as I feel so much of society's problems stem from a lack of good parenting. I do not wish to generalise, as of course sometimes young people do break the cycle and I am always inspired by these amazing people. However, nobody can deny that parenting has the most important role to play in a young person's life.

I raised these issues in my maiden speech almost two years ago. In that speech I mentioned that parents need to allow their children to experience disappointment in order to learn coping skills for their future. Parents also show love and care to their children by knowing where they are at all times, especially at night. For all the protests and as unpopular as it might seem to be with teenagers, deep down they really do appreciate their parents' care when they are strict and demand to know where they go at night. Some youths are in constant danger from their mates who may drink and drive or who drive recklessly in stolen cars in order to just be cool. They are also a danger to themselves.

When parents do not guide their children regarding the dangers of impetuous, delinquent behaviour they may just be signing a life sentence for their children or, even worse, a death sentence. Therefore, in the absence of parental common sense and guidance it falls on the government to be responsible for providing a strong deterrence so that a life of crime seems as unpleasant as possible. There needs to be a whole lot of disincentives to replace what we currently have. The 'revolving door' attitude of well-meaning magistrates is cruel to these young people.

This is why, by and large, boot camps do work. For most of these young people it is the first time that an adult has ever really cared enough about them to give them some discipline and guidance. I have heard dozens of real life stories about how a significant adult mentor in a child's life has turned them around completely. There can be no doubt at all that this works. Children and teenagers respond to people who sincerely care about them.

Let us just give this legislation a try. Labor had a chance with theirs and it has not worked. I absolutely agree with and support this legislation to the House.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (8.50 pm): I rise to oppose the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. At the outset I must point out that important legislation like this—any legislation in fact—requires consultation with the people and the

groups who understand what they are talking about. I note that the government has undertaken consultation in this instance but, critically and true to form for this Attorney-General, it appears to have been merely a token effort because what he has refused to do again is take on board advice gathered from that consultation. In fact, again he has ignored it. Let me be very clear: the Labor opposition is absolutely committed to reducing the level of youth crime in Queensland. The Labor opposition is absolutely committed to the rights and the care of the victims of crime. The LNP clearly is not as committed as it introduces legislation that is as disturbing as it is foolish.

The significant outcomes of this legislation will be more crime and, unfortunately, more victims. Why am I so sure of this outcome? Because, unlike the Attorney-General, I have reviewed the feedback from stakeholders about these laws and while the viewpoints and backgrounds of the stakeholder submissions were as diverse as the stakeholders themselves, there was one undeniable message coming through and that message was crystal clear: these laws will not work. The view was unanimous from the Queensland Law Society through to academics, churches, child safety organisations and individuals. Like these diverse groups, I am perplexed by not only this Attorney-General's only occasional willingness to consult but also his subsequent refusal to take solid, sensible, learned advice on board. Instead of listening and accepting the advice and the expertise of those people in far more qualified positions to know, his preference is ignorance.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! You have the call, Leader of the Opposition.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am waiting for the interjections to finish, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: So you are not taking the interjections?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am not taking interjections.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. I call the House to order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Through his ignorance, he is prepared to ruin children's lives for the sake of his ongoing experiment in populist politics. How ignorant is he? He is so ignorant that he is prepared to even ignore the advice of his own department on this issue. His own department, through the submission process, told the Attorney-General that in terms of crime prevention, providing education and employment, better support to children suffering violence and neglect, and providing treatment for drug addiction are the most effective interventions.

I listened with utmost interest to what the member for Woodridge had to say in relation to the programs that were running in her electorate that were providing great outcomes. They are very effective in rehabilitating these young children and giving them some purpose for getting on with the rest of their lives. I reflected on some issues such as that it was this government that axed the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. This was a program that actually gave young people the ability to get a job—to get a job so they could have the dignity of getting up each morning and going to work and getting a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

This government talks about releasing a blueprint later this year looking at early intervention and prevention when what they should have done is presented this blueprint in the first place. They have cut programs which have targeted prevention and early intervention and they have come in here with a quick fix solution that does not have the support of the major stakeholders. I was very interested to note that the Queensland Law Society issued a press release today from which I would like to read. I think it is very interesting that the government purports in this instance to be consulting, but let's be very clear about what the Queensland Law Society said. This media release was issued on 18 March 2014. It states—

Harsher punishment does not reduce youth crime

Queensland Law Society and the Youth Advocacy Centre today cautioned that the government's proposed changes to youth justice would not reduce reoffending.

Queensland Law Society president Ian Brown said the existing 'tough on crime' approach was having limited effect on reducing the total number of young offenders.

"According to the Childrens Court of Queensland's 2012-13 Annual Report, the total number of child defendants has been largely stable over the last ten years, but there are some persistent repeat offenders," Mr Brown said.

"This strongly indicates that to address youth crime, the most appropriate and effective way would be to focus targeted intervention strategies on this group of young people, not radically reform youth justice legislation aimed at all children and young people.

"Our issues with the proposed changes range from impeding judicial discretion to contravening international conventions.

"The government's proposal to remove detention as a last resort is troubling, particularly as it states that courts cannot regard this principle in decision making.

"This will impact upon the judiciary's ability to make sentencing orders that are appropriate to meet children's individual circumstances.

"We also strongly object to publicly naming a child coming before the courts, which could create a major obstacle to getting them back on the right track.

"Naming and shaming interferes with the right to privacy in international conventions and is inconsistent with the purpose of our youth justice system.

Youth Advocacy Centre director Janet Wight said the proposed changes would not address the causes of youth offending and would increase the alienation and isolation of at-risk children.

"The Youth Advocacy Centre deals every day with young offenders from diverse backgrounds, but the one constant is that many of these young people are affected by traumatic incidents or situations, including, violence, homelessness, mental health and drug and alcohol issues," Ms Wight said.

"Seventy per cent of young people in the youth justice system are known to the child protection system.

"In the long term, it is more beneficial for the community to ensure that young people are supported to stop committing further crimes by addressing underlying personal circumstances."

Mr Brown said the concerns of Queensland Law Society and the Youth Advocacy Centre that these measures would have limited effect on youth crime were reinforced by comments made by the Acting Assistant Director-General, Youth Justice, Department of Justice and Attorney-General at the Parliamentary Committee at the public hearing on 3 March—


He quotes William Byrne MP asking the question—

"Am I asking too much to ask whether there is any material, peer reviewed, that can point to these measures having any prospect of changing the present dynamic?"

In response, Mr Sean Harvey, Acting Assistant Director-General of the department, said—

"There is no immediate evidence available to us to make that."

This is clearly what the Law Society thinks of these laws being passed tonight. They do not support them. We do not support them. They are not going to work and it is about time that this government listened to what people had to say rather than thinking that they know it all.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (9.00 pm): I rise to speak to the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. It is very important for me to speak to this bill. On the Gold Coast we have a youth problem. Like a lot of this state, we have a youth problem. It is no good hiding your head in the sand and denying that there is a problem, because there is a problem. Those opposite seem to be ignoring that fact.

Mr Cox: They have their head in the sand!

Mr HART: You are right, member for Thuringowa; they have their head in the sand. Action had to be taken, and I commend our Attorney-General for being the best Attorney-General in the country at this time. He is taking a tough stance on—

Mr Bleijie: Say that again?

Mr HART: He is the best Attorney-General that this country has at this time.

Mr Newman: What about Brandis?

Mr HART: As I said, Premier, he is the best Attorney-General that we have at this time. George Brandis has not yet proved himself. I am sure that he will make a fantastic Attorney-General, but as an Attorney-General he has been in that seat for a short period of time.

I think the member for Toowoomba North said it best tonight when he said that this is about making our state a safe place in which to live and bring up our children. This is about making our houses safe from those people who would enter them and take our goods. This is about people who would break into your car and take it so that you would never see it again. They would set fire to it or use it in a ram raid—they would do all sorts of things to it. Tonight we heard that 60 per cent of offenders in the youth justice system have been there five times or more. You have got to ask yourself if that is the case—if 60 per cent of people appearing in our courts are there for the fifth or more time—then this system was just not working. It was broken, and our Attorney-General is doing something to fix the system. We also heard that 30 per cent of the people in the justice system are committing 75 per cent of the crime, so you can see that it is a relatively small group of people that are committing all of the crime. We have to take some sort of action against that.

As I said earlier, those opposite have their heads in the sand. We heard from the member for South Brisbane tonight that we should be treating our offenders with world's best practice, that we should be informed by the best learning in the world on how to deal with these offenders, and that in a modern civil society we do not do what this government is proposing to do. Well, in a modern civil society we take care of people. We make people feel safe in their homes and in the streets so that when they go out at night, they do not have to have a policeman walking with them or standing on every corner to feel safe.

I have to agree with the member for South Brisbane—and a lot of members would be surprised that I would agree with anything that the member for South Brisbane would say—that unemployment and poverty are some of the main drivers of criminal activity. Would you not be surprised to learn that the member for South Brisbane has been behind the Labor Party for the last 20 years while they sent this state broke? The member was behind the Labor Party on a federal level while they sent our federal government spiralling towards \$670 billion worth of debt and this state spiralling towards \$85 billion worth of debt, and we all know that that is costing us \$453,000 an hour. How many extra policemen could we have hired for that \$453,000? Many! Those extra police would make a lot of difference to crime and it might allow us to do some of these namby-pamby things that those opposite would have us do. Those namby-pamby things they have been doing for the last 20 years have not worked and they were never going to.

We heard the member for Gaven say 'The system is not broken, so don't fix it.' How wrong can he be? The system is broken. Every night on our TVs we see on the Gold Coast and in other parts of the state that the same people are showing up at our courts. On Channel 9 just about every night they are pushing and barging their way out of the Southport watch-house, spitting at the TV cameras, pushing reporters and sticking their fingers in the air. They are thumbing their noses at authority because they know that there is no comeback and they know that the justice system has not addressed that particular issue. We have to do something about that, and I again commend the Attorney-General for doing that.

One of the important things to come out of this particular bill is that we have created a new category of order for vehicle offences is that recidivist vehicle offenders will be sent to boot camps. The members for Broadwater, Albert and I went out to Boonah last year to the boot camp that was being trialled out there—


Mr Crandon: Me too!

Mr HART: And the member for Coomera. Sorry, I missed that. Of course the member for Coomera was there as well. We saw the impact that the boot camp was having on those young offenders. It was raining the day we were there, but we were okay because we were under cover. We had an umbrella, didn't we, member for Broadwater? But those young offenders did not and it was freezing cold. They had been up on the hill for a couple of hours, and they were steaming as they came down. They sat down with us around the fire and explained some things about their lives, and we heard some really sad stories. But they told us that the boot camp was really helping them and they had completely changed their ideas and the sorts of things that they had been doing with their lives.

I would like to comment about the member for Yeerongpilly, who was formerly a policeman. This must be very disappointing to his colleagues who are still policemen, because they are out on our streets defending us and our families and these young people spit at them, kick their cars and are completely disrespectful. They have lost respect for their elders, their teachers and they have particularly lost respect for police officers. We need to give respect back to those young people. They need to have respect for the people who take care of us and keep us safe. We have issues on the Gold Coast. I have one particular service station that has problems with a lot of kids hanging around. I had a discussion with my local OIC today about a particular issue in one of my suburbs, and that is to do with young people hanging around after school getting into trouble and just generally causing issues.

Those in the Labor Party had 20 years to fix this and other problems in this state, and they have abjectly failed with the law and order situation in this state. We have to fix it. They have made it worse; we have to fix it. We have an Attorney-General—and a Premier, for that matter—who is doing a wonderful job at fixing all of the issues that are occurring in our state and on the Gold Coast. Can I say, Premier and Attorney-General, that the people of Burleigh absolutely love you. You have got rid of the bikies on the Gold Coast, and that has made a big difference. We have to thank members of the Labor Party for voting for that bit of legislation, so they helped us to get rid of the bikies down

there. When the bikies went, so did many of the youth problems that we have because a lot of those problems are associated. I commend the Attorney-General for his efforts in bringing this bill to the parliament, and I fully support this legislation.

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.09 pm), in reply: How can I follow a speech like that?

A government member: I tell you: he's the best member for Burleigh we've got at the moment. He's the best member for Burleigh we've got at the moment.

Mr BLEIJIE: Absolutely; best member we have for the moment. I thank all honourable members for their contributions to the debate tonight. This is an important debate dealing with and tackling the issues of youth crime right across Queensland. We first heard that we are ensuring that young people are held responsible and understand that there are consequences for their actions and then we had the privilege of government members setting out the future of youth justice reform in this state—of course looking at the blueprint—to ensure that we get these kids an education, get them a job and get them on the right path in life. We have always said that there are a few elements to this youth justice regime, and that was ensuring that the fun stopped in detention centres—the bucking bulls were cancelled, the jumping castles were cancelled and the Xboxes were cancelled. I take the hand gesture interjection from the member for Gregory. I have only been on my feet for a minute; I assure the member for Gregory that I will not but use any more than 29 minutes left on the clock.

As I was saying, we are dealing with the issue of youth justice. We got rid of the fun and excitement in detention centres. We then set up the boot camp strategy in relation to making sure that there is an intervention program on offer, because I heard many members talk about early intervention. That is exactly what this does: it diverts people from detention centres into boot camps, and they are going spectacularly well. Some 85 young people have been in the four boot camps across Queensland. If we head north to south, there is the Townsville and Cairns super boot camp being run by Beyond Billabong with Mr Boyd Curran doing great things for young people. There is also an amendment in this bill dealing with a mandatory boot camp order to ensure that those young people engaged in multiple car offences are sent to boot camp to try to sort their lives out and get them back on track. I have dealt with the Townsville-Cairns boot camp and satisfied members from North Queensland.

There is then the Rockhampton boot camp, which I talked about before, which is the early intervention boot camp. While on the subject of the Rockhampton boot camp, I made some notations at the start in relation to the member for Rockhampton. This is an opportune time to not only again remind honourable members what the opposition's position on this is but also remind honourable members what the member for Rockhampton's submissions to this issue have been and what he thinks of PCYCs, Police Citizens Youth Clubs. As I said, there are many PCYCs right across Queensland and they are doing youth programs on a daily basis. It could be ascertained that all honourable members would give 100 per cent support for their PCYCs, but not the member for Rockhampton. Whether or not it is a fact that the former member for Rockhampton, Mr Schwarten, did not or did support PCYCs, the fact remains that the current member for Rockhampton does not support the PCYC in his own electorate. In fact, I hear from the locals in Rockhampton that the member for Rockhampton rarely, if ever, shows up to any of the youth justice forums to tackle these issues. So he completely wipes his hands of the issue of youth justice while publicans in his area, the community in his area and community groups in his area are calling for these sorts of things. It certainly shows that one does not fully appreciate and understand their electorate, because if the member for Rockhampton did then he would understand that there is a great community sense for PCYCs.

While we are on the subject of hypocrisy, incompetence and everything else, let us talk about the Labor Party position. I said it flip-flops on criminal gang laws and it flip-flops on tough sex offender laws. Mr Byrne, the member for Rockhampton, comes in here espousing in his contribution to the second reading debate all of the issues relating to boot camps and says that he has spoken forever on boot camps and that they do not work and all of this sort of drivel coming from his mouth. However, he was a candidate for the Labor Party that went to the 2012 election with a boot camp policy—a 2012 policy for the Labor Party. This was apparently a policy that he campaigned for. He ran for the Labor Party in 2012. He campaigned for this policy under the title 'For Queenslanders'—I suspect the member for Rockhampton's electorate, but Queenslanders—with the title 'Walking Kokoda: Putting Young Queenslanders on the Right Track'. He will say that was the former

government, yet he was a candidate for the former government. There is another interesting element to this: not only did Labor have a boot camp policy in 2012 which two years later it does not support; it was giving money directly to Kokoda Challenge.

An honourable member: That's right.

Mr BLEIJIE: That is right. Guess what? The early intervention boot camp at the Gold Coast that we have supported is Kokoda Challenge—the same place!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! Pause the clock please. I will remind both sides of the House to direct their comments through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: The absolute hypocrisy! The shadow police minister is shaking his head now like, 'I wish 2012 never existed! I just wish it never existed. Why did I go to the 2012 election with a policy for boot camps?' You cannot deny the facts. You cannot deny that it ever happened! He wants to live in a world where this eight-page policy never existed. In fact, if he never read the Labor Party policy on boot camps when he apparently was a candidate campaigning for boot camps, then he should have read about it in the newspaper, because it was on the *Brisbane Times*: 'Bligh pledges \$1 million for Kokoda Challenge'. It was your policy.

Mr Byrne: Yes, but nothing to do with boot camps.

Mr BLEIJIE: He interjects and he says 'nothing to do with boot camps'.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BLEIJIE: I need some of my colleagues to turn some of these other microphones on because I cannot hear myself over the member for Rockhampton. Let me just switch a couple of these other microphones on so Hansard can hear me.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: They will not all work.

Mr BLEIJIE: So we have a situation where the Labor Party goes to the 2012 election campaign with a policy of boot camps and the member shakes his head and says, 'It wasn't a boot camp. It was the Kokoda Challenge group that runs the early intervention boot camps.'

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: So it was boot camp by another name, and now they just deny it. If we look at the last few weeks, we have the Labor Party coming in here supporting legislation to stand tough against gangs in Queensland. We then have over the course of two weeks flip-flopping and not knowing where they are going to go in terms of banning young people from going to nightclubs and all of that sort of stuff. They say, 'We don't want to be tough on crime, so we're going to repeal the criminal gang legislation.' Then in terms of the sex offender legislation, they opposed the Governor in Council having the ability to permanently detain sex offenders in jail. They voted against it.

Last year they voted against the two-strike legislation to ensure that monsters—the worst of the worst sex offenders—were behind bars. Lo and behold, two days ago the opposition leader holds a press conference. After opposing all of the tough sex offender laws, she holds a press conference and she says, 'We don't want to use the Morcombe case to politicise this issue, but the government should get tougher on sex offenders.' We have for two years and they have opposed it every step of the way! But now they are tough on sex offenders. When we get to this bill and the rhetoric around young offenders—'We're going to get them back on track and get them sorted out,'—come two years later there is a new position for the Labor Party. I fully suspect that when Cameron Dick starts campaigning in a couple of weeks time from outside this place—Cameron Dick running for not only the seat of Woodridge but also Premier of this state—he will have a different position on all of these issues and, I suspect, many of the issues that the Labor Party has talked about over the last couple of years. That is what will happen when the new Labor candidate for Premier, Cameron Dick, and Deputy Premier running for the Labor Party, Yvette D'Ath, are sitting over there. But I think the one who we really should feel sorry for is the member for South Brisbane because, now that Cameron is back in town, I do not like her chances of becoming the leader of the Labor Party. I always knew that the honourable members on this side of the House—

Mr JUDGE: I rise to a point of order. What is the relevance of this?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! Attorney-General, I will remind you to stay relevant.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will tell the member for Yeerongpilly—

A government member: I am listening with intent.

Mr BLEIJIE: That is good. I will tell the member for Yeerongpilly what this relates to. I will get to the member for Yeerongpilly in a minute. This is about hypocrisy. This is about making sure that the government of Queensland lets Queenslanders know what the alternative government of Queensland's position is. That is what this is about. I think that I have demonstrated the nexus to the satisfaction of all honourable members.

While I am on the subject of hypocrisy, I note that the member for Yeerongpilly stood in this place and gave an interesting contribution. I think he was channelling the member for Nicklin in his contribution. I also saw the member for Condamine during his contribution receive some advice from the member for Nicklin when he was trying to do over the Deputy Speaker. The member for Nicklin was leaning across saying, 'Say this. Say that.' The member for Condamine jumped up and said that and, of course, got sat down by the Deputy Speaker because he was completely out of order.

Mr HOPPER: I rise to a point of order. I find those comments totally offensive from the poor little man and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is a fact. Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member rose and made an interjection and said that he was going to move a motion of dissent against a ruling. I have repeated a fact.

Mr HOPPER: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, will you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr BLEIJIE: Now that I am on the subject of the member for Condamine, let me go a little deeper, because that man sitting in that corner is not representative of the people of Condamine. Along with a couple of the other gurus in the back corner, I have never seen so much incompetence. They never represent their electorates with their hearts. While I am talking about the members for Condamine, Yeerongpilly and Nicklin, let me talk about this commitment to constituents. The member for Yeerongpilly in his contribution said that all honourable members should have a strong commitment to their constituents. That came from the fellow who is cutting and running from the electorate of Yeerongpilly. What do the constituents of the electorate of Yeerongpilly think about their member? They do not have a voice in parliament anymore. He has absolutely abandoned his electorate.

Mr JUDGE: I rise to a point of order. I made it quite clear today that I am 100 per cent committed to my electorate. He is misleading the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! That is not a point of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, he sends out—

Mr Hopper interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Condamine! I do not wish to name you.

Mr BLEIJIE: Clive sent out a CD a bit early and lets the world know that the member for Yeerongpilly is switching seats. The member for Yeerongpilly then says that politicians should have a commitment to their electorate and then above and beyond that just says that he has 100 per cent commitment to the electorate of Yeerongpilly. I will tell members the commitment that he has to the electorate of Yeerongpilly or the commitment that he has to the Sunshine Coast. The other day, when he was asked how—

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask you to rule on relevance. There is nothing in what the Attorney-General is conveying to the House that is connected to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order, but if people interject the Attorney-General is allowed to reply.

Mr BLEIJIE: When asked in the media recently about his abandonment of the electorate of Yeerongpilly he said, 'Yes, I holiday to Mooloolaba a little bit.' He holidays and, therefore, he is an expert in abandonment.

Mr WELLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I move—

That the question be put.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Under standing order 88 I am not of the opinion that there has been sufficient debate. The Attorney-General has the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank, Mr Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, that mob that sits up the back corner and espouse that they represent their electorates—

Mr Ruthenberg: Not us.

Mr BLEIJIE: No, I can assure government members that I am talking about the far back corner. The point is that those members flip-flop on all of these positions. They wake up in the morning, they have a position on this and a position on that. They go to bed and they have completely changed their position. The member for Yeerongpilly stands in this place as the member for Yeerongpilly. I really question his commitment to the electorate of Yeerongpilly. Although he has just said that he is 100 per cent committed, he visits the Sunshine Coast every so often so he is going to abandon it.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I am going to treat the member for Yeerongpilly with the contempt that he deserves and move on to the contributions of other members, which you will be happy about. Let me go back to the position of the Labor Party on this issue. We have made it absolutely clear that we have four elements of reform in youth justice. The first element is that we ended the fun in the detention centres. We got rid of the bucking bulls, the jumping castles, the Xboxes. The second element is that we made sure that we introduced boot camps. There are four boot camps located across the state. There is an early intervention boot camp and a super boot camp in Cairns and Townsville. The third element to the puzzle is this bill, which deals with a specific offence if you breach bail and moving 17-year-olds after they have served over six months into adult detention.

During the debate the member for Gladstone asked a question about 17-year-olds being moved to adult detention after they have served six months imprisonment. If a 17-year-old is in a youth justice centre and has over six months left to serve, they will be transferred. I can advise the member for Gladstone that, through Corrective Services, most of the time those offenders are segregated from other adult offenders. They are also placed specifically on different programs. I do not have the exact number for the member for Gladstone of how many are currently in those facilities, because under our sentencing regime in Queensland 17-year-olds are sentenced to adult detention centres and jails, but I would envisage that the acting Commissioner for Corrections will make sure that any 17-year-olds who are moved under this program will receive appropriate programs and be kept as segregated as they possibly can be in terms of security issues. We will do that. I advise the member for Gladstone that there is not a huge number. If we look at the mid-20-year-olds in our youth detention centres at the moment we see that there are only a few. We are not dealing with a huge number. So I do not think that it would be a particular burden on the corrective services system.

This bill also addresses the admissibility of evidence at future dates. If a young person has a few convictions and they turn 17 and they commit offences as an adult under our laws, the judge on sentencing—not at trial, just on sentencing—has the option to look at the whole picture. At the moment when a judge sentences a 17-year-old or an 18-year-old, most of the time that judge does not have the history of the young offender. This will not occur at trial; it will occur only at sentencing. So the offender will be convicted and then on sentencing the judge can say, 'You don't have a clean slate. You have had, for instance, a few drug offences so I am going to potentially give you a higher punishment taking into consideration previous offences.'

Many times when a 17-year-old goes to court their previous criminal history is not evident to the court and the court therefore has to judge them as a clean state when that is not the case. Prosecutors get very frustrated when they know the previous criminal histories and they see these people walking away without any appropriate deterrent or punishment. The prosecutors know what these people have got up to whilst they were young.

For repeat young offenders the courts will be open. The submissions talk about naming and shaming. Not every young person is going to be named and shamed. For people in the community who are interested in these things the court will be open. Media will publish names if it is in the public

interest to do so. There will not be a register of young people with photos up on community noticeboards of every young person who goes before our court as a repeat young offender. The world will go on. The day-to-day operations of the court and the justice system will proceed.

The future is a youth justice blueprint to make sure that we steer youth on the right path. Last week I met with the Very Reverend Dr Peter Catt. He has agreed, with his committee, to look at our youth justice blueprint that we will be developing over the next few weeks. We are bringing those sorts of people in to ensure that the long-term future of youth justice in Queensland, as well as all the things we have already done, is in place.

I have said on many occasions that we want to rebalance the scales of justice. For too long the Labor Party put the rights of the offenders before the rights of the victims. Under the Labor Party victims did not have a voice. One thing we have learnt in our two years of government is that the Labor Party gave the victim no voice in the justice system. We have done that by mandating that victim impact statements be read out in court. Anyone who saw the trial of Brett Cowan would have seen Denise and Bruce Morcombe give victim impact statements to the court. Bruce read out his victim impact statement. Last year we passed legislation in this parliament to allow victims to have a say in the justice system. We mandated that victim impact statements are read out in court. As part of our justice system we have to ensure that the victims have a say and can be engaged in the process and that the community can see justice being done. I think that is what we are seeing now through these law reforms.

Youth justice is an important issue for members right around Queensland. This government has been combatting issues of youth justice, particularly in Townsville in relation to repeat juvenile offenders in respect of car theft. The amendment that I will move will ensure that young people get off the streets of Townsville and move into the boot camps to sort their lives out. Members opposite talk about boot camps and early intervention. Boot camps are an early intervention scheme. They involve the families and the parents. I have received letters from parents who have their children in the boot camps at the moment saying thank you, because for the first time their son or daughter has their life back on track, they are behaving in school. Those are the facts. That is why it is important to continue to do what we do.

I might add that members in this House, in particular those on the government side that I have been speaking to, would like to see these sorts of early intervention boot camps in their areas. I have been to the Pumicestone area. I have spoken to the member for Morayfield who wants a youth boot camp early intervention program in his electorate. I have been to the member for Cleveland's electorate talking about law and order reform. Last week I attended a great law and order forum at Chatsworth. I thank the member for organising that. In the last 18 months I have visited over 6,000 justices of the peace around Queensland. I thank the JPs. A couple of weeks ago I was at the member for Kallangur's electorate with 140 JPs. We talked about all things JP, but also how this government is tackling some of the major issues in the state in terms of criminal gangs.

This government has the priority of rebalancing the scales of justice and ensuring that upon rebalancing the scales of justice we give the victims in the equation a greater say. The Queensland community wants to see justice being done. I think Queenslanders at the next election will wake up to the hypocrisy of the member for Condamine and the member for Yeerongpilly, wherever he may be at the time. Going into the next election they will also be looking at the policies of the leader of the Labor Party, Cameron Dick. We know that the current Leader of the Opposition will not be the Leader of the Opposition going into the election. That is all but guaranteed with the factional warlords—

Mrs Miller: She'll be Premier.

Mr BLEIJIE: What, Cameron Dick will be the Premier?

Mrs Miller: No, Anastacia Palaszczuk will be the Premier.

Mr BLEIJIE: I thought I heard an interjection from the member for Bundamba saying 'He'll be Premier.' I don't know if she said Cameron Dick will be Premier, but if that is her assessment, that Cameron Dick will be Premier, I think that shows that Cameron Dick will be the leader of the Labor Party. The member for Bundamba might end up Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is too much interjection. Members on my right and left will cease interjecting. The Attorney-General has the call.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the call and thank all honourable members for their enthusiastic contributions to the debate on this important subject matter. We have a plan to tackle youth issues in this state. It will culminate with a youth justice blueprint, pointing children and young people in the right direction, getting young people a job and an education and making sure that they are not committing crimes, are taking responsibility for their actions and are contributing positively to society.

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

AYES, 68:

LNP, 67—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Crisafulli, Davies, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Johnson, Kaye, Kempton, King, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Pucci, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Cunningham.

NOES, 13:

ALP, 8—Byrne, D’Ath, Miller, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

KAP, 2—Hopper, Katter.

PUP, 2—Douglas, Judge.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Wellington.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Members, those on my right and those on my left will cease interjecting.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order! Members, we will continue when there is silence in the House.

Mr Hopper: Don’t you shake your head.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Condamine, I warn you under standing order 253A.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Condamine, it has come to my attention that you were already under a 253A breach of standing orders. I ask you to now remove yourself from the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Condamine withdrew from the chamber at 9.43 pm.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 40—

Mr BLEIJIE (9.44 pm): I seek leave to move amendments en bloc and outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Mr BLEIJIE: I move amendment Nos 1 to 30 circulated in my name and I table the explanatory notes to my amendments. I move—

Tabled paper: Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes to Hon. Jarrod Bleijie’s amendments [[4677](#)].

1 After clause 3

Page 6, after line 13—

insert—

3A Amendment of s 42 (Preferred way of starting proceedings)

Section 42(1), after ‘serious offence’—

insert—

or an offence under section 59A

2 After clause 4

Page 6, after line 17—

insert—

4A Amendment of s 47 (Bail Act 1980 applies)

Section 47(2)—

omit.

3 Clause 5 (Insertion of new pt 5, div 2)

Page 7, after line 3—

*insert—***59AA Definitions for div 2**

In this division—

original offence means an offence for which a child is charged and is granted bail.**subsequent offence** means an offence for which a child is charged after being granted bail for the original offence.**4 Clause 5 (Insertion of new pt 5, div 2)**Page 7, line 7, 'offence (the **original offence**)'—*omit, insert—*

original offence

5 Clause 5 (Insertion of new pt 5, div 2)Page 7, lines 9 and 10, 'an offence (the **subsequent offence**)'—*omit, insert—*

a subsequent offence

6 Clause 5 (Insertion of new pt 5, div 2)

Page 7, after line 21—

*insert—***59B Proceedings for offence against s 59A**

(1) A proceeding for an offence under section 59A—

(a) may be started without complaint and summons; and

(b) must be started immediately after the child is found guilty of the subsequent offence.

(2) In a proceeding for the offence, a copy of the bail order issued by a court, or a copy of the child's undertaking for the original offence, is, unless the contrary is proved, sufficient proof the child was on bail for the original offence from the date of the bail order or undertaking.

(3) Upon production to the court of the copy of the bail order or copy of the child's undertaking the court must immediately call on the child to prove why the child should not be convicted of an offence under section 59A.

(4) In this section—

undertaking see the *Bail Act 1980*, section 6.**7 Clause 6 (Amendment of s 62 (Childrens Court judge))**

Page 7, line 23, '62(e)'—

omit, insert—

62(c) and (e)

8 Clause 6 (Amendment of s 62 (Childrens Court judge))

Page 7, lines 25 and 26—

omit, insert—

(2) Section 62(d) and (f)—

renumber as section 62(c) and (d).**9 After clause 7**

Page 8, after line 8—

*insert—***7A Amendment of pt 6, div 9, hdg (Appeal and review)**

Part 6, division 9, heading, 'and review'—

*omit.***7B Amendment of s 117 (Appeals under Justices Act 1886, pt 9, div 1)**

(1) Section 117(1)—

omit, insert—(1) Subject to subsections (3) to (5), the *Justices Act 1886*, part 9, division 1, applies to either of the following—

(a) an order made by justices dealing summarily with a child charged with an offence;

- (b) an action taken by a Childrens Court magistrate under—
 - (i) section 240(2); or
 - (ii) section 240(3)(b).

(1A) For the *Justices Act 1886*, section 222(1) an order or action mentioned in subsection (1) is taken to be an order on a complaint for an offence.

- (2) Section 117(1A) to (4)—
renumber as section 117(2) to (5).

7C Omission of pt 6, div 9, sdiv 4 (Reviews of sentences by Childrens Court judge)

Part 6, division 9, subdivision 4—
omit.

10 After clause 9

Page 9, after line 5—
insert—

9A Amendment of s 151 (Pre-sentence report)

Section 151—
insert—

- (3B) If a report is ordered under section 176B(2)(a), the report must contain the following—
- (a) an assessment of the child's physical and mental health;
 - (b) advice from the chief executive on whether—
 - (i) the child usually resides in an area prescribed for the purposes of a boot camp (vehicle offences) order; and
 - (ii) an appropriate boot camp centre provider is likely to be available;
 - (c) the details of the proposed boot camp program;
 - (d) an assessment of the suitability of the child participating in a boot camp (vehicle offences) order;
 - (e) a statement that the details of the boot camp program have been explained to the child in a way, and to an extent, that is reasonable, having regard to the child's age and ability to understand.

9B Insertion of new s 176B

After section 176A—
insert—

176B Sentence orders—recidivist vehicle offences

- (1) This section applies if a child—
- (a) is found guilty of a vehicle offence before a court; and
 - (b) is a recidivist vehicle offender.
- (2) Before sentencing the child, the court must—
- (a) order the chief executive to prepare a pre-sentence report; and
 - (b) have received and considered the report.
- (3) Without limiting section 175, the court must make a boot camp (vehicle offences) order for the child.

9C Amendment of s 177 (More than 1 type of order may be made for a single offence)

Section 177, '180A'—
omit, insert—
 180B

9D Insertion of new s 178B

After section 178A—
insert—

178B Combination of boot camp (vehicle offences) order and other community based order

- (1) This section applies if a court makes—
- (a) a boot camp (vehicle offences) order and another community based order for—
 - (i) a single vehicle offence; or
 - (ii) multiple offences of which 1 is a vehicle offence; or
 - (b) a boot camp (vehicle offences) order for a child subject to 1 or more existing community based orders.

- (2) If subsection (1)(a) applies, the other community based order is suspended from the day the boot camp (vehicle offences) order takes effect until—
 - (a) the child has performed the boot camp (vehicle offences) order; or
 - (b) the boot camp (vehicle offences) order is discharged.
- (3) If subsection (1)(b) applies, the court must suspend the existing community based order from the day the boot camp (vehicle offences) order takes effect until—
 - (a) the child has performed the boot camp (vehicle offences) order; or
 - (b) the boot camp (vehicle offences) order is discharged.

9E Insertion of new s 180B

After section 180A—

insert—

180B Combination of detention order and boot camp (vehicle offences) order

- (1) This section applies if a court makes—
 - (a) a detention order and a boot camp (vehicle offences) order for—
 - (i) a single vehicle offence; or
 - (ii) multiple offences of which 1 is a vehicle offence; or
 - (b) a detention order for a child subject to 1 or more existing boot camp (vehicle offences) orders.
- (2) The boot camp (vehicle offences) order—
 - (a) if subsection (1)(a) applies—starts when the child is released from detention under the detention order; or
 - (b) if subsection (1)(b) applies—is suspended until the child is released from detention under the detention order.

11 After clause 11

Page 9, after line 15—

insert—

11A Insertion of new pt 7, div 9A

Part 7—

insert—

Division 9A Boot camp (vehicle offences) order

206A Boot camp (vehicle offences) order

- (1) A court must make a boot camp (vehicle offences) order against a child who—
 - (a) is found guilty of a vehicle offence; and
 - (b) is a recidivist vehicle offender; and
 - (c) has attained the age of 13 years at the time of sentence; and
 - (d) usually resides in an area prescribed by regulation; and
 - (e) is not an ineligible child.
- (2) A boot camp (vehicle offences) order must—
 - (a) if the pre-sentence report ordered under section 176B(2)(a) contains advice from the chief executive that an appropriate boot camp centre provider is immediately available—take effect from the day the order is made; or
 - (b) otherwise—state the day the order takes effect.
- (3) For this section, advice from the chief executive contained in the pre-sentence report that the child usually resides in an area prescribed for the purposes of a boot camp (vehicle offences) order is, unless the contrary is proved, sufficient proof that the child usually resides in that area.
- (4) In this section—

ineligible child means a child who is not an eligible child for a boot camp order under section 226C(3).

vehicle offence means—

 - (a) an offence, with or without a circumstance of aggravation, against the Criminal Code, section 408A; or
 - (b) an attempt to commit an offence mentioned in paragraph (a).

206B Boot camp (vehicle offences) order—duration and requirements

- (1) A boot camp (vehicle offences) order must—
 - (a) be for a period of at least 3 months but not more than 6 months; and

- (b) contain requirements of the boot camp order.
- (2) The requirements of the boot camp order apply to a boot camp (vehicle offences) order as if reference to the boot camp order were a reference to the boot camp (vehicle offences) order.
- (3) The BCO program provisions apply to the boot camp (vehicle offences) order.
- (4) In this section—

BCO program provisions means sections 226E, 226G and 226H.

requirements of the boot camp order means the requirements of the boot camp order other than section 226D(2)(c)(i).

12 After clause 12

Page 9, after line 19—

insert—

12A Amendment of s 209 (Court's reasons for detention order to be stated and recorded)

Section 209(3), 'or review'—

omit.

12B Amendment of s 211 (Commencement of detention period)

Section 211(3), '(including an application for a sentence review)'—

omit.

12C Amendment of section 215 (Period of escape, mistaken release or release pending appeal not counted as detention)

Section 215(a), '(including an application for a sentence review)'—

omit.

12D Amendment of s 226E (Boot camp program)

Section 226E(4), 'order,'—

omit, insert—

order or boot camp (vehicle offences) order,

12E Amendment of s 226G (Program period)

(1) Section 226G(1), 'when the boot camp order'—

omit, insert—

when the boot camp order or boot camp (vehicle offences) order

(2) Section 226G(1)(a), 'order'—

omit, insert—

order or boot camp (vehicle offences) order

(3) Section 226G(2), 'boot camp order'—

omit, insert—

boot camp order or boot camp (vehicle offences) order

(4) Section 226G(2)(a), 'order'—

omit, insert—

order or boot camp (vehicle offences) order

13 Clause 14 (Amendment of s 237 (Chief executive must warn child about contravention))

Page 10, line 11, 'order'—

omit, insert—

order or boot camp (vehicle offences) order

14 After clause 15

Page 11, after line 2—

insert—

15A Amendment of s 240 (General options available on breach of order)

(1) Section 240(2)(a), 'conditional'—

omit, insert—

boot camp (vehicle offences) order, conditional

(2) Section 240(2)—

insert—

(ab) for a boot camp (vehicle offences) order—deal with the child under section 246AA;

- (3) Section 240(2)(ab) to (c)—
renumber as section 240(2)(b) to (d).
- (4) Section 240(3)(b)(i), 'conditional'—
omit, insert—
boot camp (vehicle offences) order, conditional
- (5) Section 240(3)(b)—
insert—
(ia) for a boot camp (vehicle offences) order—deal with the child under section 246AA(1)(b); or
- (6) Section 240(3)(b)(ia) to (iii)—
renumber as section 240(3)(b)(ii) to (iv).

15B Amendment of s 241 (General options available to superior court to which child committed for breach)

- (1) Section 241(2)(a), 'conditional'—
omit, insert—
boot camp (vehicle offences) order, conditional
- (2) Section 241(2)—
insert—
(ab) for a boot camp (vehicle offences) order—deal with the child under section 246AA;
- (3) Section 241(2)(ab) to (c)—
renumber as section 241(2)(b) to (d).

15C Amendment of s 242 (General options available to court before which child found guilty of an indictable offence)

- (1) Section 242(2)(a), 'conditional'—
omit, insert—
boot camp (vehicle offences) order, conditional
- (2) Section 242(2)—
insert—
(ab) for a boot camp (vehicle offences) order—deal with the child under section 246AA;
- (3) Section 242(2)(ab) to (c)—
renumber as section 242(2)(b) to (d).
- (4) Section 242(3)(b)(i), 'conditional'—
omit, insert—
boot camp (vehicle offences) order, conditional
- (5) Section 242(3)(b)—
insert—
(ia) for a boot camp (vehicle offences) order—deal with the child under section 246AA(1)(b); or
- (6) Section 242(3)(b)(ia) to (iii)—
renumber as section 242(3)(b)(ii) to (iv).

15D Amendment of s 243 (Court may resentence child originally sentenced by lower court)

- (1) Section 243(2)(a), 'conditional'—
omit, insert—
boot camp (vehicle offences) order, conditional
- (2) Section 243(2)—
insert—
(ab) for a boot camp (vehicle offences) order—section 246AA(1)(a);
- (3) Section 243(2)(ab) to (c)—
renumber as section 243(2)(b) to (d).
- (4) Section 243(4)(a), 'conditional'—
omit, insert—
boot camp (vehicle offences) order, conditional

- (5) Section 243(4)—
insert—
(ab) for a boot camp (vehicle offences) order—section 246AA(1)(a);
- (6) Section 243(4)(ab) to (c)—
renumber as section 243(4)(b) to (d).

15E Amendment of s 244 (General options available to court to which child committed for breach by indictable offence)

- (1) Section 244(2)(a), 'conditional'—
omit, insert—
boot camp (vehicle offences) order, conditional
- (2) Section 244(2)—
insert—
(ab) for a boot camp (vehicle offences) order—deal with the child under section 246AA;
- (3) Section 244(2)(ab) to (c)—
renumber as section 244(2)(b) to (d).

15 Clause 16 (Amendment of s 245 (Court's power on breach of a community based order other than a conditional release order or boot camp order))

Page 11, lines 6 to 9—

omit, insert—

- (1) Section 245, heading, 'conditional'—
omit, insert—
boot camp (vehicle offences) order, conditional
- (2) Section 245(1)(d), 'conditional'—
omit, insert—
boot camp (vehicle offences) order, conditional
- (3) Section 245(6)—
omit.
- (4) Section 245(7)—
renumber as section 245(6).

16 After clause 18

Page 11, after line 17—

insert—

18A Insertion of new s 246AA

After section 246—

insert—

246AA Court's power on breach of boot camp (vehicle offences) order

- (1) A court that acts under this section may—
- (a) revoke the order and resentence the child for the offence for which the order was made as if the child had just been found guilty before the court of that offence; or
- (b) permit the child a further opportunity to satisfy the requirements of the boot camp (vehicle offences) order and, for that purpose, vary the order, other than the requirement that the child abstain from violation of the law, in a way the court considers just.

Example—

The court may vary a curfew requirement.

- (2) If the court revokes the boot camp (vehicle offences) order under subsection (1)(a), the court need not, when resentencing the child for the vehicle offence for which the order was made, make another boot camp (vehicle offences) order.
- (3) If the court makes a community based order for the child under subsection (1)(a), the court must have regard to the period for which the child has complied with the boot camp (vehicle offences) order.
- (4) If the court varies a boot camp (vehicle offences) order under subsection (1)(b), the court can not vary the details of the boot camp program.

Example—

The court can not order the child to again participate in the residential phase of the boot camp program if the child has already completed that phase.

- (5) The onus is on the child to satisfy the court it should permit the child this further opportunity.
- (6) If the court decides to extend the period of the boot camp (vehicle offences) order, the court must have regard to the period for which the child has complied with the order.
- (7) An order may be made under this section even though, at the time it is made, the boot camp (vehicle offences) order in relation to which the order is made is no longer in force because the period of the boot camp (vehicle offences) order has ended.

18B Amendment of s 252G (Matters relevant to making further order)

Section 252G(2), 'or review'—

omit.

17 Clause 20 (Replacement of pt 8, div 2A)

Page 13, lines 4 to 7—

omit, insert—

- (b) an adult who—
 - (i) either—
 - (A) is 17 years and is sentenced for an offence committed by the adult as a child; or
 - (B) was 17 years at the time the adult was found guilty of an offence committed as a child and is 18 years or more at the time the adult is sentenced for the offence; and

18 Clause 20 (Replacement of pt 8, div 2A)

Page 13, line 8, '(iii)'—

omit, insert—

(ii)

19 Clause 20 (Replacement of pt 8, div 2A)

Page 13, line 12, '(iv)'—

omit, insert—

(iii)

20 Clause 24 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 11)

Page 18, after line 28—

insert—

358A Uncommenced applications for review of sentence orders

- (1) This section applies to a person if—
 - (a) before the commencement, the person could make an application for a review to the Childrens Court under the pre-amended Act, section 118, in relation to a sentence order; but
 - (b) the person had not made an application before the commencement.
- (2) Despite the repeal of part 6, division 9, subdivision 4 by the amending Act—
 - (a) the person may apply for a review of the sentence order under the pre-amended Act; and
 - (b) the pre-amended Act, part 6, division 9, subdivision 4 applies in relation to the review.

21 Clause 24 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 11)

Page 21, after line 11—

insert—

367 Application of provisions about boot camp (vehicle offences) order

- (1) A court may make a boot camp (vehicle offences) order for a recidivist vehicle offender found guilty of a vehicle offence after the commencement.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies even if 1 or both of the following happened before the commencement—
 - (a) the commission of the vehicle offence;
 - (b) the start of the proceeding for the offence.

22 After clause 25

Page 21, after line 16—

insert—

25A Amendment of sch 2 (Regulation-making power)

- (1) Schedule 2, item 5, 'conditional'—

omit, insert—

boot camp (vehicle offences) orders, conditional

- (2) Schedule 2—
insert—

14 Areas to be prescribed for the purpose of a boot camp (vehicle offences) order.

23 Clause 26 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))

Page 21, after line 19—

insert—

boot camp (vehicle offences) order means an order made under section 206A.

24 Clause 26 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))

Page 21, after line 22—

insert—

original offence see section 59AA.

25 Clause 26 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))

Page 21, after line 28—

insert—

recidivist vehicle offender means a child who—

- (a) is found guilty of a vehicle offence (the **relevant vehicle offence**); and
- (b) has, on or before the day the child is found guilty of the relevant vehicle offence, been found guilty of 2 or more other vehicle offences; and
- (c) committed the other vehicle offences within 1 year before or on the day the relevant vehicle offence was committed.

26 Clause 26 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))

Page 22, after line 2—

insert—

subsequent offence see section 59AA.

27 Clause 26 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))

Page 22, after line 8—

insert—

vehicle offence see section 206A(4).

- (1A) Schedule 4, definition *community based order*, 'conditional'—
omit, insert—

boot camp (vehicle offences) order, conditional

- (1B) Schedule 4, definition *program period*, paragraph (c), 'order'—
omit, insert—

(vehicle offences) order or boot camp order

28 Clause 26 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))

Page 22, after line 11—

insert—

- (3) Schedule 4, definition *sentence order*, paragraph (e)—
omit, insert—

(e) a boot camp (vehicle offences) order under section 206A;

(f) a boot camp order under section 226B.

29 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)

Page 26, after line 7—

insert—

(2A) Also, for a youth justice matter in relation to a child who is a first-time offender, the court may permit to be present—

(a) a representative of the media; or

(b) a person if, in the court's opinion—

(i) the person has a proper interest in the proceeding; and

(ii) the person's presence would not be prejudicial to the interests of the child.

30 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)

Page 26, after line 22—

insert—

- (6) Subsection (1) does not apply to the court when constituted by a judge exercising jurisdiction to hear and determine a charge on indictment.

Amendments agreed to.
 Clauses 1 to 40, as amended, agreed to.
 Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.45 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Division: Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

AYES, 69:

LNP, 68—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Davies, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Johnson, Kaye, Kempton, King, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Pucci, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Cunningham.

NOES, 12:

ALP, 8—Byrne, D'Ath, Miller, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

KAP, 1—Katter.

PUP, 2—Douglas, Judge.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Wellington.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.51 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (9.51 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

TJ Ryan Foundation



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.51 pm): Unlike those opposite, the Labor opposition is determined to get in place the best direction going forward for our state that involves closely listening to all Queenslanders. It also involves harnessing our best and brightest and hearing their input on how we can again make Queensland the best state in the country and how we can set about undoing the massive damage that the Newman government has done after just two years in power. That is why we have supported the establishment of the TJ Ryan Foundation, which is designed to stimulate debate on policy issues in Queensland. The launch of the TJ Ryan Foundation last month at the Queensland University of Technology attracted around 80 people and I am pleased to inform the House that board members include some of Queensland's most respected academics and experts in their fields. For example, they include the chair, Emeritus Professor Roger Scott from the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics at UQ; and Emeritus Professor Paul Boreham, the former professor of political science and director of the Social Research Centre at UQ as the foundation's deputy chair.


These forums are a way to link people and their views covering the full political spectrum. I know that over the next few years there will be lots of lively debate because these academics have a keen interest in generating more debate among the public about the direction this Newman

government is taking but also giving people the idea that they can engage in debate as well. However, up until now there has been, from my understanding, no progressive online forum focusing directly on Queensland policy. I am proud it took the labour movement to establish the first one here in Queensland.

Together these brilliant minds will focus on stimulating debate on such diverse topics as criminology, nursing, hospitals, public health, the Queensland economy, political behaviour, parliament, parties, elections and public sector accountability. They will have a particular focus on reviewing the policy directions of both current and former governments in relation to social, economic and cultural issues.

Those opposite who refuse to consult and who refuse to listen would do well to keep an eye on the work presented by the TJ Ryan Foundation in the future. These are the people who will lend a unique hand in guiding Queensland into the future.

Mount Gravatt Environment Group, Pollinator Links


 **Hon. IB WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts) (9.54 pm): It is not often that members rise in this House to speak about butterflies, but that is what I intend to do tonight. I want to inform the House of the innovative work being done in my electorate by the Mount Gravatt Environment Group through the establishment of what are called pollinator links. Pollinator links are urban wildlife corridors that use urban environments to save threatened wildlife species. They act as stepping stones comprised of backyards, school grounds, local parks and community gardens, which create corridors allowing wildlife to move between island habitats and create habitat opportunities.

This concept was developed by a constituent of mine Mr Michael Fox, who is very passionate about the environment and the chair of the Mount Gravatt Environment Group. Mike was looking at how to link the fantastic Mount Gravatt conservation reserve on the top of Mount Gravatt with Bulimba Creek via the Mount Gravatt showgrounds site. He realised that any effective link through the showgrounds would hit a wall of houses and backyards. Being able to fly, our pollinators, like bees and birds and butterflies, need to cross man-made barriers like roads and fences to make the important contribution they make to our ecological diversity. Mike's inspiration for the pollinator link model came from the pollinator pathway in Seattle and the High Line in New York.

The pollinator link connects wildlife communities through backyards by appropriate planting and other mechanisms to allow free movement of these animals through our suburban backyards. So how do we create a pollinator link in our backyard? Firstly, we need to provide some water as all animals, including bees, butterflies and birds, need water to survive in our hot climate. Secondly, we need food specific to each of these species. Birds feed on some combination of seeds, nectar or insects. Butterfly caterpillars require specific host plants to feed on. Butterflies require flowers for nectar. By carefully selecting the garden plants that provide food for birds, butterflies and bees our constituents can attract them to their gardens and provide nourishment and links through from one environmental area to another. Thirdly, we need to provide shelter. Some bird species require nest hollows while some need dense shrubbery. Native stingless bees, for example, need a hive and that can be homemade.

With these three easy steps our constituents can make a powerful contribution to wildlife and their own community just by using their own back garden. There is plenty of information about this online at the Mount Gravatt Environment Group's website or on the pollinator link website which is www.pollinatorlink.wordpress.com. I am very keen to promote the use of the pollinator link in the Mansfield electorate. I congratulate Mike Fox and his colleagues at the Mount Gravatt Environment Group for their great work.

Mundingburra Electorate, Policing

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (9.57 pm): I will be sure to get onto that link—www.pollinatorlink.wordpress.com—provided the spam filter does not pick it up.

Today is an historic day. The passing of the changes to the Youth Justice Act is something that I am so pleased about. That leads me to something I want to talk about tonight. That is the positive policing that is happening in my electorate of Mundingburra. The member for Thuringowa is in the chamber tonight. He will tell members that the other day we went out with the police and conducted Operation Mike Adamant.

What is powerful about this operation is its two phases. Firstly, there is the direct response. That relates to operational policing. Police have really stepped up patrols. It has been running seven nights a week. They have used uniform officers, specialist police, plain clothes police and dog squad police. It has been unashamedly about trying to smash up these groups of young offenders—the same ones time and time again who are wreaking havoc on our city. That is the first element.

The second element has been good old fashioned community policing. I am sure the member for Greenslopes knows exactly what I am talking about. They have gone out door to door, knocking on people's doors explaining the simple things. I have to pay tribute to the recruits because they have done this in their own time and outside of work hours. They have fronted up to people's doors and said, 'Did you notice that your car was unlocked? Have you been noticing any activity in the area?'

I am not someone who will make excuses for crime. We should live in a society where people should be able to leave their doors unlocked, but we do not. Everything you can do to make your home a little more secure adds to your safety. It is a startling statistic, but nearly half of the break and enters in Townsville in recent times have involved either unlocked cars or unlocked homes. That is something that we have to change. Again, it does not mean that we do not have a responsibility to play as leaders, as police and as people in the judicial system. We have to make sure we clamp down and get tough, by all means, but there are little things that we can all do. One of them is look out for our neighbours and the other is look out for ourselves.


I have seen the real difference that this operation has made. It has proven to me the benefit of increasing police numbers. We made a commitment during the election campaign to increase police numbers across the state by 1,100 over four years. We will do a little better than that.

Mr Dempsey interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: There have been extra in Townsville; the police minister is right. We believe there needs to be more. We will continue to rattle the cage for more. That is our job as local members.

In conclusion, it is an historic day because we have taken the first step. A combination of positive policing and a tougher Youth Justice Act will deliver results.

Nambour, Car Park


 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (10.00 pm): At long last, after numerous meetings and questions, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has finally publicly committed the Newman government to pulling down the barricades around the vacant block of land at 23 to 29 Price Street, Nambour, located right beside the current Nambour Railway Station car park, and turning this block of land into a 50-bay car park to relieve car-parking pressures on our town. At this stage the minister's only commitment is that the work will happen before the end of the year. So on the one hand I want an early state election but let us hope the work happens before the state election. If not, who knows whether the next government will give a commitment to make sure the car park happens. I table for the benefit of the minister and other members of this House a photo of the block taken today in Nambour.

Tabled paper: Copy of photographs of 23-29 and 33 Price Street, Nambour [\[4678\]](#).

Members will notice in the photo that the adjoining block of land at 33 Price Street has an abandoned building on it also. That abandoned building is also barricaded up. I use this opportunity to urge this government to take responsibility for its land and remove or demolish the abandoned building located on lot 33 Price Street, Nambour, in our central business district of Nambour. Other property owners in Nambour as we speak are spending money on their buildings, improving the land, improving the amenity of our town. I say it is high time the Newman government took responsibility for its land in our central business district. It is not good enough to have vacant land, sitting idle, barricaded up and abandoned buildings sitting there. That building could be removed tomorrow. It could be demolished tomorrow and the site could be made available for significant new car parks—car parks for railway commuters, car parks for shoppers in our town of Nambour, car parks for workers in our town and also car parks for workers or visitors to our Nambour Hospital, just up in Hospital Road.

I use this opportunity to remind the Minister for Transport and Main Roads that the job is only half done. Hopefully we will see that money allocated soon, we will see the barricades moved from both these sites and we will see the state government taking responsibility, as a proper landowner should, in the central business district of Nambour.

Thuringowa Electorate, Police Service

 **Mr COX** (Thuringowa—LNP) (10.03 pm): As the member for Mundingburra has said, it is a historic day for the people of Townsville with the last bill that has just passed through this House. I take this opportunity to thank the police men and women who do the job and catch the criminals on our streets and keep our streets safe. Last Friday, David Crisafulli, the member for Mundingburra; John Hathaway, the member for Townsville; and I met with the local police and CIB to thank them and to present them with a certificate of recognition for the work they do.


Mr Gibson: Good on you.

Mr COX: Thank you, member for Gympie. We were there to recognise the hard work and dedication, as I said, of these officers. The Townsville Property Crime Unit has so far laid 1,509 charges against 520 offenders in the current financial year, which is a milestone and represents the achievements of what those officers are doing in Townsville. The majority of these cleared offences related to home burglary and car theft offences in the metropolitan area of Townsville, and I spoke earlier in the debate on the previous bill about the continuing issues that we have in Townsville with property theft but more so with car theft on a nightly basis. These figures represent the achievements of the serving men and women, as I said. It was an honour to go to their workplace and to thank them personally, which I know they very much appreciated.

About a month ago all three state members went out one night with the police on the beat in the entertainment strip to do a survey on alcohol fuelled violence. It was there that we saw the great work that they do, which is not what people think police are normally expected to—but, again, we have an exceptional police force in Townsville. They have shown great initiative. They initiated a trial where they call on parents and guardians to attend Children's Court on a Wednesday. Up until now they have only had 30 per cent of parents turning up. They have managed to increase that to 80 per cent.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Acting Assistant Commissioner Paul Taylor, who is overseeing Townsville in his role from Cairns, as the member for Barron River knows. He has done an excellent job as acting assistant commissioner. He has been introducing a lot of new initiatives on the ground in Townsville, as the member for Mundingburra just spoke about, with Operation Mike Adamant. In the end it is the police who do all the work and who have to deal with these criminals. I am sure that when I speak to them tomorrow they will be very supportive and thankful for the bill that has passed through the House tonight.

Algester Electorate, Cinema in the Suburbs; Forest Lake 50 Plus Club

 **Mr SHORTEN** (Algester—LNP) (10.06 pm): I recently sponsored a Cinema in the Suburbs event at Heathwood in support of the local Pallara P&C and the reformed Heathwood Neighbourhood Watch—and what a great night it was. Even with the threat of rain, it is estimated by people in the know that there were between 400 and 500 people there. They brought their blankets and chairs to watch the movie *The Croods* under the stars. It pleased my heart to see so many young families partaking in this wonderful event, supporting their local community groups and just having a good social night out in the suburbs.


The Pallara P&C, under the leadership of John Hardi, ran a sausage sizzle and were absolutely run off their feet. I am told that the hamburgers were sold out in the first hour and that over 75 kilos of sausages were cooked and sold over the evening. Well over \$1,000 was raised for the P&C. What a great effort. I thank all the P&C volunteers for their hard work.

The other worthwhile community group to raise funds at this event was the reformed Heathwood Neighbourhood Watch, who took the opportunity to sell glow sticks, glow necklaces and small bags of lollies. Again, I would like to thank the hardworking volunteers, Kathy and Marc Dolley, who manned the stall. Kathy and Marc are tireless workers for the Neighbourhood Watch and the funds raised at this Cinema in the Suburbs will be used to support the Neighbourhood Watch's Easter egg hunt for the community. I would also like to thank Ray White Forest Lake, who came on board and distributed the Cinema in the Suburbs flyer throughout the Forest Lake area. I thank them for their effort.

I had great feedback from residents both on the night and in the days after. Many thanked me for providing the movie for the community and many asked, of course, when the next one would be. It is an honour for me to be able to provide these events for the community and to allow community groups to use them as an opportunity to promote themselves and raise some much needed funds.

I also had the honour to host morning tea for the Forest Lake 50 Plus Club after their tour of parliament last week. It was great to catch up with so many members of the club over the last two years, members whom I have come to know over the last two years. The Forest Lake 50 Plus Club, under the leadership of Les Brooks, has a very diverse and active trip calendar for this year. I was very fortunate to be able to join with the club members last year on their midyear trip, and I look forward to joining them again and being able to support, in a small way, in the reduction of fees that members are charged to go on these trips.

Aurizon, Job Cuts

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (10.09 pm): We received devastating news and confirmation yesterday that some 60 or 70 jobs from Aurizon will be lost along the line from Charters Towers to Mount Isa. Some people I know personally who have been in the business for 20 or 30 years have been tapped on the shoulder. They thought they would finish their days in Hughenden but they no longer have that opportunity. I called a town meeting to discuss this with the residents of Hughenden. Surprisingly, most of the people who attended were actually the businesspeople in town. There were some graziers and others but certainly the majority were not rail workers, because everyone in the town knows what these sorts of cuts mean to a town like Hughenden. It is far too fragile to weather these sorts of cuts.


We come back to the reason for doing this. The reason is that Aurizon believes it has to be competitive with Pacific National on that route. None of us out there wanted that second carrier on the line. We believe the efficiencies could be reached in many other ways. If members talk to people who work in these sheds, they will realise that they can see a lot more efficiencies that can be gained, not to mention the 34 per cent increase in salary that the CEO received last financial year, bringing it to \$6.1 million. These people—those in the OSD shed in Hughenden in particular—proved that it was one of the most efficient operations in Queensland and they are repaid by being told they are being shut down and those jobs will no longer be available in Hughenden. That will precipitate the closure of other businesses in the surrounding area which will probably result in some 20 or 30 jobs going from Hughenden. That is a devastating blow.

On top of that, the Flinders Shire Council said that approximately 60 per cent of their total revenue comes from roadworks. However, they can look forward to no capital works in their shire for the next four years. They have to put together a budget based on no capital roadworks and a reduced rate base due to the rural crisis and on top of that the loss of these 30 families from Hughenden. These are devastating impacts. The government must stand in to reverse this. In effect, we only need eight Aurizon jobs to stay and they have proven that they have a profitable, efficient OSD shed and operational service depot, which I referred to. They desperately need these jobs to stay there to keep that community alive.

The problems with efficiency stem back to the lack of maintenance on that track over the last 20 or 30 years. Gangers who used to keep the trains running at 80 kilometres per hour were taken off the line. The trains now run at 40 kilometres per hour. That is where the problem can be traced back to. Those unsafe methods regarding relay carriages in which people are driving longer and drivers are not getting proper sleep and are driving behind the locos need to stop. They are unsafe practices. They should not be allowed. Pacific National is allowed to do it and Aurizon are trying to do it as well. It will have a poor result.

(Time expired)

Mareeba, Community Forum

 **Mr KEMPTON** (Cook—LNP) (10.12 pm): A community is defined as a social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share government and often have a common cultural and historic heritage. Mareeba is such a community. Prior to European settlement, the area around Mareeba was inhabited by the Muluridji people. In the local Aboriginal language, Mareeba means meeting of the waters, referring to the point at which the Barron River is joined by Granite Creek.


On 26 May, 1875 James Venture Mulligan became the first European to officially see the future site of Mareeba when he rode up the eastern bank of the Barron River. The Mareeba area was first settled by Europeans in 1877 by John Atherton and quickly became a busy coach stop for Cobb and Co on the road from Port Douglas to Herberton. When the railway arrived in 1893 Mareeba grew. From 1942 to 1945 up to 10,000 Australian and US personnel used Mareeba airfield as a staging post for battles in New Guinea and the Pacific. Post war, Mareeba became the home for many migrant

families who were instrumental to the growth of the tobacco industry. With the demise of that industry over two decades ago, Mareeba shifted its emphasis to the fruit and vegetable industry, sugar cane and tourism and became a rural hub.

In 2008, in a senseless and spiteful act, the Beattie government tore the heart out of Mareeba shire by amalgamating it with three other councils to form the Tablelands Regional Council. On 1 January this year our government restored the governance of the shire to the Mareeba Shire Council to fulfil an election promise.

Last Friday, Michael Trout, the illustrious member, and I conducted a community forum attended by 85 people from all sectors including the mayor and the council to determine community economic and infrastructure priorities. Together we identified that transport, infrastructure, affordable water, recreation and social facilities were the top priorities. This was a great opportunity for me to remind my community that our optimism must be tempered by the debt that Labor left us: \$495,000 paid every hour of every day in interest on Labor's debt. Also of consideration was our ageing population. We were pleased to learn that there has been a significant shift in law and order in Mareeba since we came to government with a marked reduction in street crime. There is a new enthusiasm in Mareeba as we work together to develop a new and united future. It is my absolute pleasure to be the local member and I hope to forge a long and valuable relationship with this vibrant town and shire.

Indigenous People

 **Mr JUDGE** (Yeerongpilly—PUP) (10.15 pm): On 10 December 1992 at an official opening of the United Nations International Year of the World's Indigenous People in Redfern Park, New South Wales the then Prime Minister, the Hon. Paul Keating, made a landmark speech which influenced the relationship between the Australian state and the original Indigenous people and their descendants. In the speech, Prime Minister Keating challenged the established views of history by outlining the atrocities committed against Australia's Indigenous people in the course of colonial takeover of their country. He called upon the Australian people to imagine how we would feel if these atrocities had happened to us. He also praised the significant contribution that Indigenous peoples have made to the development of our nation and the culture of social life in Australia.


Finally, he underlined the Australian democratic passion for justice. Dr Vicki Grieves highlighted that the hardest hitting and most important part of his speech was when the then Prime Minister put the question, 'Imagine if it was us.' Imagine for a moment that it was our children growing up in conditions still experienced today by many disadvantaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Queensland. Members should really have thought about that before they voted on the bill that has just passed in the House. Those members who have not been to an Indigenous community should go to one and understand what Indigenous children are facing in their lives. They might then understand why they are caught in the cycle of crime. They should visit our state's Indigenous communities and consider the harm of the laws that have just passed this parliament.

Imagine it is our children and our siblings who depend on the government for disability support. Again, members should do their job as a member of this parliament and go to the homes of their constituents who have dearly loved children with profound disabilities and then consider how the callous cost cutting of the Newman government is impacting their family. In the past four weeks I have visited two homes of two families with children with profound disabilities. They are suffering under the Newman government's cuts. They have told me explicitly how their lives have changed as a consequence of the Newman government's callous cuts. Members should imagine right now that someone in their family needed treatment in a public hospital. Then imagine what the Newman government is doing—

Madam SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Is your microphone turned off? Is your microphone working? I will ask you to go to another microphone. Is that working? Try that again. I will let you continue and then I will reset the microphones. Member for Yeerongpilly.

Mr JUDGE: Imagine the poor people of Kawana having to live under the Attorney-General. Imagine that! Imagine the people of Ashgrove having to live under the Premier. God help us! The Newman government is threatening our state. He is threatening our senior medical officers right now. Imagine a life without the Newman government. We are all doing that now.

Whitsunday Electorate, Schools

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (10.18 pm): One thing that all honourable members can agree on is the importance of getting around the electorate. One of the great aspects of being in this job is getting around our schools. On that note, tonight I would like to recognise all of our student leaders from around the Whitsunday electorate for 2014. For the record, we have 22 schools across 24 campuses in my electorate, from Glenella in the south to Hayman Island in the north. I have had the pleasure of visiting quite a number of these schools already this year, handing over badges to dozens of students.

One of the schools that I have been to is Cannonvale State School. On that note I congratulate the school captains, Kyah Foran, Mila Julian-Te Kiri, Reece Coetzee and Sebastian Heatley. I also congratulate the inaugural student Indigenous leader, Krista McGrady. Congratulations also to the house captains: from Haslewood, Bella Taylor, Jade Mitchell, Sean O'Neill and Callum McMurdo; from Henning, Lani Murphy, Samara Graham, Jayden Clark and Sebastian Heatley; from Macona, Bree Spinner, Kayla Stridiron, Cooper Goodwin and Alex Anderson; and from Nara, Imogen Davey-Grigg, Mya Murray, Presley Mason-Cranson and Harry Deakes.

At Northview State School, congratulations go to the year 7 captains, Liam Cochrane and Aaron Powell; year 6 captains, Ellie deGunst and Jayden Jones; the vice captains, Tyler Allen and William Bradford; and all of the house captains: from Banksia, Analise Cunington and Jeanje Shaw; from Blue Gum, Jack Donohue and Cooper Grant; and from Wattle, Rory Buckton and Jasmine Peters.

At Seaforth State School congratulations to captains Zoey Gillingham and Jackson Seimer, plus the house captains, Hayley Said and Bailey Neilsen.

Hamilton Island State School is a rather exotic part of my electorate like Hayman Island State School. I was at the former recently as the Premier prepared to fly out after we greeted the cast of *Modern Family* alongside the minister for the arts. Congratulations to the co-captains there, Reuben Taverner and Isabel Davis, and the sports captain, Josh Flores.

At Coningsby State School, well done to captains Jade Stampa and Lachlan Benson; vice-captains, Jessica Vassallo and Thomas Ross; and house captains, Thomas Ross, Andrew Borg and Lachlan Heron from Avery and Jessica Vassallo, Caleb Palmer and Jade Stampa from Starrett.

At Eimeo Road State School, a very big state school on the northern beaches of Mackay—

An honourable member: A great spot, Eimeo!

Mr COSTIGAN: It is a great spot! My grandmother holidayed there back in 1918 when our city was battered by a terrible cyclone—the Eimeo school captains Sophie Chrznowski and Matthew Munns; the vice-captains Paige Hoffmaster and Chelsea Thomson; green sports captains Kasmin Rand and Delores Kumani; gold sports captains Emmett Olney and Emma McDonald; and red sports captains Beau Milburn and Bailey Wilkie. I congratulate all the school leaders across the electorate of Whitsunday for 2014 and wish them and their peers every success.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.21 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Byrne, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Cunningham, D'Ath, Davies, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Douglas, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Hopper, Johnson, Judge, Katter, Kaye, Kempton, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mulherin, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Powell, Pucci, Rickuss, Robinson, Ruthenberg, Scott, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trad, Trout, Walker, Watts, Wellington, Woodforth, Young