



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

Thursday, 20 March 2014

Subject	Page
PETITION	769
TABLED PAPERS	769
MINISTERIAL PAPER	769
Revocation of Protected Areas	769
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Proposal under sections 32 and 70E of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation—Gadgarra Forest Reserve, Springbrook National Park, and Hays Inlet Conservation Park 2.	769
NOTICE OF MOTION	769
Revocation of Protected Areas	769
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	770
Newman Government, Second Anniversary	770
Regional Queensland	770
Queensland Economy	771
Serious Child Sex Offenders	772
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts	773
DestinationQ 2014	774
National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence	774
LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE	775
Report	775
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 59—Subordinate legislation tabled between 19 November 2013 and 10 February 2014.	775
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	775
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts	775
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts	776
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Letter (unsigned), dated 12 March 2014, from Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation Queensland (ASMOF) and Together union, to Mr Ian Maynard and Ms Lyn Rowland, Queensland Health regarding SMO contracts.	777

Table of Contents – Thursday, 20 March 2014

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts	778
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Email, dated 22 February 2014, from the Premier, Hon. Campbell Newman, acknowledging an email from an unidentified doctor regarding SMO contracts.	
	778
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts	778
Queensland Health, Employee Meetings	779
Gladstone Healthy Harbour Report Card	780
Queensland Plan	780
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts	781
Queensland Economy	782
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts	782
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Form letter, dated 20 March 2014, addressed to Dr Tony Sara, President ASMOF, authorising ASMOFQ to tender doctor resignations and a copy of a form notice of resignation letter.	
	782
Home Insulation Program	783
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, undated, from Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Hon. Peter Garrett, to the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Cameron Dick, regarding safety concerns associated with the Home Insulation Program.....	
	783
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 5 March 2010, from the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Cameron Dick, to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Hon. Greg Combet, regarding home insulation and electrical safety.....	
	783
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts	784
Koalas, Protection	784
Mapleton Forestry Hut	785
Jobs, Cultural Diversity	786
Queensland Health, Employment Contracts	787
MOTION	787
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders	
	787
MOTION	787
Auditor-General's Reports	787
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from <i>Tablelander</i> , dated 11 March 2014, titled 'Hospital set for meltdown'.	
	799
Division: Question put—That the member for Bundamba's amendment be agreed to.....	
	805
Resolved in the negative.....	
	805
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	806
Gold Coast, Rail Infrastructure	806
Harmony Day; International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; National Close the Gap Day	
	806
Parer, Hon. W, AM	807
Woodridge Electorate, Social Housing	807
Morcombe Family, Criminal Justice System	808
Lockyer Valley Regional Council	809
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of documents relating to Lockyer Regional Council.	
	809
Central Queensland University	809
Nelson, Ms K	810
Maryborough Electorate, Timber Industry	810
Morayfield Electorate, International Women's Day	811
Health, Wellbeing and Safe Living Day; Premier's XI	811
National Disability Insurance Scheme	812
Alcohol Management Plan	813
Samford Eco-Corridor Project	813
North Region Visitor Information Centre Volunteers Conference	814
Rural and Remote Mental Health	814
Volunteers	815
Bulimba Electorate, Events	815
Gladstone Harbour	816
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Risk Assessment document for implementation of proposed amendments to the Western Basin reclamation project acid sulphate soil management Plan (70 page report).	
	817
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Submission to the independent review into the leaking bund wall at the Port of Gladstone.	
	817
Muscle Up for MND	817
Coomera Town Centre	817
Rail Industry	818
Moreton Bay, Recreational Fishing	819
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media release, undated, titled 'Proposal to allow recreational fishing at Scotts Point'.....	
	819
Murrumba Electorate, Events	819
Holloway, Ms R	820
Sunnybank Electorate, Philippines Disaster Relief Effort	820
Overseas Visit	821
Gympie Rattler	822
Charters Towers Fire Station	822
Townsville, Red Cross Blood Service	823

Table of Contents – Thursday, 20 March 2014

PUBLIC GUARDIAN BILL	824
Introduction	824
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Public Guardian Bill 2014.	824
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Public Guardian Bill 2014, explanatory notes.	824
First Reading	826
Referral to the Health and Community Services Committee	826
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	826
FAMILY AND CHILD COMMISSION BILL	826
Introduction	826
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Family and Child Commission Bill 2014.	826
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Family and Child Commission Bill 2014, explanatory notes.	826
First Reading	828
Referral to the Health and Community Services Committee	828
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	828
CHILD PROTECTION REFORM AMENDMENT BILL	828
Introduction	828
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2014.	828
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.	828
First Reading	831
Referral to the Health and Community Services Committee	831
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	831
ELECTRICITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	831
Introduction	831
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Electricity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014.	831
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Electricity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.	831
First Reading	833
Referral to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee	833
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	833
FORESTRY AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL	833
Introduction	833
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014.	833
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.	833
First Reading	835
Referral to the Health and Community Services Committee	835
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	835
REGIONAL PLANNING INTERESTS BILL; PROTECTION OF PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND AND OTHER LAND FROM COAL SEAM GAS MINING BILL	835
Second Reading (Cognate Debate)	835
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Map from Google Earth, dated 14 October 2012, titled 'Coal Seam Gas Wells, "Excluded Area": Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill 2013'	839
<i>Tabled paper:</i> National Institute of Economic and Industry Research report, dated October 2012, titled 'Large scale export of East Coast Australia natural gas: Unintended consequences'	840
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of peer reviewed journal articles regarding coal seam gas.	840
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from <i>Crikey</i> (Online), dated 20 March 2014, titled 'Santos' open flame: can it snuff out the protests on coal seam gas?'	847
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 21 November 2013, from the Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee to Director-General, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, and letter of response, dated 28 November 2013, from the Director-General.	850
<i>Tabled paper:</i> AEA report, dated 10 August 2012, titled 'Support to the identification of potential risks for the environment and human health arising from hydrocarbons operations involving hydraulic fracturing in Europe'	851
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, titled 'Literature review'	851
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Report, dated June 2012, titled 'Hydraulic fracturing and water resources: separating the frack from the fiction'	851
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Centre for International Minerals and Energy Law report, dated October 2013, titled 'Coal seam gas: An annotated bibliography'	851
<i>Tabled paper:</i> EPA report, dated December 2012, titled 'Study of the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources'	851
MOTION	852
Suspension of Sessional and Standing Orders	852
REGIONAL PLANNING INTERESTS BILL; PROTECTION OF PRIME AGRICULTURAL LAND AND OTHER LAND FROM COAL SEAM GAS MINING BILL	852
Second Reading (Cognate Debate)	852
Division: Question put—That the Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill be now read a second time	853
Resolved in the negative.	853

Table of Contents – Thursday, 20 March 2014

Consideration in Detail.....	853
Regional Planning Interests Bill	853
Clauses 1 to 101—	853
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013, explanatory notes to Hon. Jeff Seeney's amendments	866
Clauses 1 to 101, as amended, agreed to.....	867
Schedule—	867
Schedule, as amended, agreed to.	869
Third Reading	869
Long Title.....	869
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	869
ADJOURNMENT	870
Redcliffe Electorate, Events.....	870
Fraser, Mr A, OAM	870
Mudgeeraba Electorate, M1 Upgrade	871
Mackay & District Turtle Watch Association	872
Neighbourhood Watch; Woodridge Housing Service Centre	872
Pumicestone Electorate, Directory of Services; International Women's Day.....	873
Childhood Abuse.....	873
Ipswich Electorate, St Thomas's Anglican Church	874
Racing Industry; Suicide.....	874
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document titled 'Magic millions QTIS sale summary—2014'.	875
Fletcher, Mr J; National Ride to School Day; Healthy Lifestyle	875
ATTENDANCE	876

THURSDAY, 20 MARCH 2014



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

PETITION

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petition, sponsored and lodged by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Orders 119(3) and (4)—

Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve, Mining Applications

From 398 petitioners, requesting the House to reverse the decision on the proposed mining ban in the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve and broker an outcome for all Queenslanders [\[4699\]](#) [\[4700\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

MINISTERIAL PAPERS TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing (Mr Dickson)—

[4701](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on an overseas visit by the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing to Wellington, New Zealand, 26-28 February 2014

MEMBER'S PAPER TABLED BY THE CLERK

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

Member for Cook (Mr Kempton)—

[4702](#) Non-conforming petition relating to reversing the decision to ban mining in the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve

MINISTERIAL PAPER

Revocation of Protected Areas

Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (9.32 am): I lay upon the table of the House a proposal under sections 32 and 70E of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal.

Tabled paper: Proposal under sections 32 and 70E of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation—Gadgarra Forest Reserve, Springbrook National Park, and Hays Inlet Conservation Park 2 [\[4703\]](#).

NOTICE OF MOTION

Revocation of Protected Areas

Hon. AC POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (9.32 am): I give notice that, after the expiration of at least 28 days as provided in the Nature Conservation Act 1992, I shall move—

- 1) That this House requests the Governor in Council to revoke by regulation under sections 32 and 70E of the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* the dedication of protected areas and forest reserve as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today viz—

Description of areas to be revoked

Gadgarra Forest Reserve

An area of about 0.1 hectare, described as lot 3 on plan AP14635, as illustrated on the attached sketch marked "A".


Springbrook National Park An area of 1.181 hectares, described as lot 2 on SP264960, as illustrated on the attached sketch marked "B".

Hays Inlet Conservation Park 2 An area of 0.8550 hectare, described as lot 511 on SP187345, as illustrated on the attached sketch marked "C".

- 2) That Madam Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection for submission to the Governor in Council.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Newman Government, Second Anniversary


 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.33 am): Next Wednesday, 26 March, marks the second anniversary of the election of this can-do government. I have said that 2014 is the year when our plans all come together for Queensland, but it is important to reflect on where we came from 24 months ago. Labor had put all of its economic eggs into the one resources basket and failed across the spectrum to deliver the services that Queenslanders needed. We came to government with a can-do plan to supercharge the Queensland economy and deliver the best—and best value for money—government services. We have succeeded already in broadening and strengthening the Queensland economy, with a focus not just on resources as a pillar of the Queensland economy but also on agriculture, construction and tourism. I am particularly pleased with the achievements of this government in the area of front-line services delivery.

Queensland's hospital emergency departments are now the best performing in Australia. The public dental waiting list has been cut in half and the number of people on the long wait list has been slashed from 62,500 in February 2013 to around 4,200 in February 2014. I see the Labor Party members looking a bit glum because they do not like this good news. We doubled the mileage in accommodation subsidy under the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. We have put more than 660 additional police on the beat across Queensland. We have invested an extra \$300 million in fixing Labor's school maintenance backlog. Queensland schools will receive an extra \$131 million in 2014 alone through the Great Results Guarantee, and we thank the federal government for that financial support.

We have halved the former government's scheduled public transport fare increases—the Palaszczuk increases—and established a weekly nine-journey cap on the cost of go card travel. I see the Leader of the Opposition's head is down on that one as well. We also have clear plans in place—backed by real funding—to fix the Bruce Highway, build the Toowoomba second range crossing and get the new BaT Tunnel going. Again, the Leader of the Opposition's head remains down. What was her former job? That is right. She was the 'minister for poor public transport and a failure to build main roads'.

While the can-do government that I lead will be only two years old next week, we are a mature government and a strong government. Queenslanders can rely on us to maintain our focus and deliver on our key promise to supercharge the Queensland economy and deliver the best services and best value for money of any government in the whole of the nation. We are getting on with the job, and 2014 is the year where it all comes together for Queensland. Nothing that those opposite can say or do will stop the ultimate realisation of Queenslanders that they have backed a great government which is taking this state forward.

Regional Queensland

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.36 am): Our government is committed to ensuring towns in resource regions share the economic benefits delivered by the resources sector. Queensland regions were ignored by the former Labor government, which is why from our first day in government we set out to develop the \$495 million Royalties for the Regions program. It is why we also established the Regional and Resource Towns Action Plan program, which focuses on providing infrastructure upgrades and state land to boost economic growth and create opportunity in resource towns. Ours is a government that cares about regional Queensland and we are determined to bring an end to Labor's shameful neglect of regional communities that are located outside the south-east corner but that are incredibly important to the resources industry that benefits everyone in Queensland.

I can announce today that towns in those resource regions have received over \$10 million in funding for catalyst infrastructure and state land for homes and industry through this important program. In just one year, we have delivered 40 per cent of the 136 actions identified in our Regional and Resource Towns Action Plan. Where Labor's poor planning failed to address land shortages and housing affordability, we are taking action. The state government is working with councils to deliver better planning and better infrastructure to deliver more affordable housing for residents and improved infrastructure to make these regional resource towns attractive places to live.


The Regional and Resource Towns Action Plan was developed by my department after holding 11 workshops with relevant regional councils to listen to their planning challenges and the assistance they needed to develop their communities to attract more resource industry workers. For me, the standout success story of this plan so far has been Roma, and I want to congratulate Mayor Rob Loughnan and his council for the way they have worked with us as a state government to ensure that Roma is well on its way to being a major regional community.

The government has fast-tracked the development of the Clearview Rise residential development, improving the supply of residential land in Roma. In addition, \$2.1 million has been provided to undertake sewerage augmentation, \$1.1 million has been made available to upgrade the sewerage trunk servicing Clearview Rise and \$2.3 million has been made available to improve stormwater infrastructure within Roma. The state government has also transferred a 112-hectare parcel of land to the Maranoa Regional Council to complement an adjacent 500-hectare parcel of land the council already owned. These are the sorts of catalytic infrastructure investments that will make Roma an attractive place to live for generations of resource industry workers.

Another great example of the Regional and Resource Towns Action Plan in action can be seen in the Whitsunday region, where my department is investigating opportunities to develop land at the Whitsunday Coast Airport. The resource sector plays a massive role in the economy of the Whitsundays and the neighbouring local government areas of Mackay and Isaac. I am also delighted to see the Whitsundays, Cloncurry and the Banana region recently added to this plan, a plan which over time will help these regions to better reap the benefits and meet the challenges resulting from the resource sector.

Regional and resource towns are the lifeblood of the state economy. Those who live in those resource towns are proud of the contribution they make to the state economy and aware of the challenge that the Treasurer faces in paying off Labor debt. We will continue with that task and give these regions and these communities the support that they deserve from a state government.

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): I can only echo the comments made by the Deputy Premier—and they are never backward in telling us about it, either. In 2014 Queenslanders are faced with serious choices about how they want their government to fund future infrastructure and services. These choices have been forced on us as a result of years of Labor governments spending more than the state was earning. The legacy of that spending is still with us. That spending resulted in deficits of \$36.7 billion between 2006-07 and 2012-13. This government has reined in spending and cut around \$5 billion from the Labor debt, but we are still dogged by that \$80 billion of Labor debt that we are heading towards.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: I hear the member for Mulgrave talking about the money we added. Let us have a look just to clear up the record, because there are a few furrphies being peddled by members over there. According to the state budget of 2011-12 and the midyear economic and fiscal review produced by that doyen of budgeting, former member Andrew Fraser, there was \$36 billion worth of deficit. This was his last midyear economic update.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: They can give, but they cannot take—except when it comes to taxpayers' dollars. Let us look at the borrowings. According to table 16 on page 34, under Labor and their last budget, where were they heading? What does the number actually say? This is what they produced.

Mr Pitt: What was it when we left?

Mr NICHOLLS: Where was it when they left? When they left, it was at \$68 billion and every year it was going up. It then went up to \$69 billion, \$74 billion, \$81 billion and \$85 billion. In every year of their forecast they were spending more and borrowing more and going further and further into

debt. In every year of this government what have we done? Reduced the debt! Where were they going to end up? They were going to end up at \$86 billion. Every year under Labor, according to their own document—they have been condemned by the words coming out of their own mouths—debt was going to be higher.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order!

Mr NICHOLLS: I think the member's colleagues think he has added enough to the debate. Every year under Labor the debt was going to be higher than it has been under the LNP government and in 2014-15 it was going to be \$6 billion more than we have been able to achieve. The Labor government set Queensland on the path to debt and deficit, and their own documents condemn them for that debt profile.

In order to deliver our vision for Queensland, we need to be able to pay down more of that debt and free up funds to invest in road and rail infrastructure together with health and education services. Those opposite seem to forget that in the last 24 hours alone another \$10.8 million in Labor interest has gone out the door. At \$450,000 an hour, another \$10.8 million in Labor interest has gone out the door. If it were not for the work that we have done over the last 24 months, as the Premier has mentioned, it would be \$530,000 an hour that is going out the door—almost another \$100,000 an hour more.

Opposition members interjected.


Madam SPEAKER: Sorry, Treasurer. Interjections are not being taken and I warn members on my left.

Mr NICHOLLS: We cannot make the contribution we should be able to make to build our four-pillar economy if we are prevented by a lack of funds from delivering job-creating infrastructure projects. We cannot revitalise front-line services in the way we want when \$450,000 an hour in Labor interest is going out the door. If our debt blows out to \$121 billion, as the Treasury projections I released earlier this week predict, then we will not be able to maintain our low-tax status that currently attracts investment to Queensland. That is why Queenslanders are being consulted now about the choices they want the government to make to deal with the debt.

Last week I held a number of consultations with community leaders in Cairns, the Gold Coast and the Sunshine Coast. To be honest, some of the people I have talked to have been shocked when confronted by the sheer size of Labor's \$80 billion worth of debt and how it is holding Queensland back. When I explain to them that the government is paying out that \$450,000 an hour, or around \$1 million while we hold our consultation meetings, the impact of that debt hits home.

Next week I will be holding further discussions with community leaders. I will be going to Townsville, Bundaberg and Gladstone to again explain to people the magnitude of that debt. In coming weeks I will also be visiting Longreach, Emerald, Mackay and Toowoomba as well as holding meetings here in Brisbane and, of course, consulting with the unions. In all of these forums I am putting before community leaders the choices we face to massively increase taxes and charges, to cut services or to consider the sale or lease of some government owned businesses. We are listening to what Queenslanders are saying about these choices. We will use their input to form a plan for tackling Labor's debt and charting a course back to a sustainable financial position that will allow government to invest in the future to make sure Queensland remains a great state with great opportunity.


Serious Child Sex Offenders

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.46 am): This government has taken a stand against serious child sex offenders—the worst of the worst—because we want Queensland to be the safest place in Australia to raise a child. In 2012 we implemented our two-strike legislation, the toughest legislation of its kind, to target recidivist child sexual predators and put them behind bars—laws which were opposed by the Labor Party. The government also created a new offence for grooming a child under 16 years of age and greatly increased maximum penalties for a range of other terrible crimes, including possessing child exploitation material and procurement of a child. We are also currently reviewing Queensland sex offender laws with a view to make them even tougher following the Court of Appeal's rejection of our declaration laws last year that were aimed at the worst of the worst child sex offenders—again, laws opposed by the Labor Party.

I advise the House today that I have instructed the Director of Public Prosecutions to appeal the sentence of Brett Peter Cowan. Last week Cowan was sentenced to life imprisonment with a non-parole period of 20 years for the murder of Daniel Morcombe. I immediately reviewed the sentence and sought advice from the DPP. Upon considering the advice, I have determined to appeal the non-parole period on the grounds that it is manifestly inadequate. I also consider the sentence does not meet community expectations and does not act as an appropriate deterrent. Bruce and Denise Morcombe are much admired in the Queensland community for their tireless advocacy and unwavering resolve. I have spoken with both Bruce and Denise about this appeal.

This government is determined to make Queensland the safest place to raise a child, which is why we introduced our two-strike laws and are conducting a review of all sex offender laws in the state. We will continue to reform Queensland's criminal laws to tip the scales of justice back in the favour of the victim and ensure that the children of Queensland are protected from preying sex offenders.

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (9.48 am): In late 2012 the Queensland Audit Office was called to investigate Queensland Health's private practice arrangements. The Auditor-General is our independent guardian of public money and it is his findings that are central to the introduction of individual contracts for senior doctors in public hospitals. These contracts for valued and highly remunerated medical staff are aligned with the former Labor government's Fair Work Act. Today in Queensland a senior specialist in Queensland Health working a 40-hour week receives an average income of \$400,000. The private practice arrangements that apply today that are now condemned by the Auditor-General arose from a political deal with doctors unions in 2006. Failed governance and grossly inadequate financial controls, as uncovered by the Auditor-General, have cost our health system and its patients more than \$800 million. Left unattended they would continue to bleed funding from our hospitals and resources for patient care would suffer an unnecessary burden of up to \$120 million a year.

Since August last year the government has negotiated with doctors' representatives, including many different doctor union officials and specialist representatives, to address these problems in the most direct and effective way through the introduction of individual doctor contracts. In the process, the government has sought to translate the high SMO incomes I mentioned earlier directly into the new contract system with equal or improved outcomes. Transparency, clear patient outcomes, improved financial management and governance and accountability are the objects. These employment contracts for senior medical staff are to take effect from 7 July.

A clear example of the injustice uncovered by the Auditor-General is his warning that current arrangements give unfair precedence to private patients being treated in public hospitals. Public patients are being pushed aside, and clear protocols to protect their interests simply must be implemented. We cannot have a circumstance where public patients are being pushed aside in preference to private patients in public hospitals. The government cannot shun its role to effect the necessary change.

It concerned me when the director-general went last night to explain the large number of concessions offered to doctors by the government when, in his efforts to implement these changes, he was stopped at the door by an interstate union thug. When he was admitted after the intervention of a doctor who treated him with respect, he was given just five minutes to speak. He was not given a chance to answer questions, and he was presented with a pineapple and invited to leave.

The principles that underpin these contracts protect patient care in Queensland hospitals. At various times these principles have won support from the AMA federal President Steve Hambleton, AMAQ President Christian Rowan, the VMO's representative Dr Ross Cartmill and his VMO committee. At meetings across the state the director-general and I have heard the full list of concerns from rank-and-file doctors, and on every account those concerns have been addressed.

The second and final report of the Auditor-General covering probity and propriety issues was tabled in this House on 11 February. In response, through contracts and associated measures the department of health is now taking these specific steps: firstly, to strengthen the management of conflicts of interests amongst SMOs, declarations of outside employment are included in SMO contracts. Contracting arrangements to manage intermediate access to private practice will be implemented. Policies for the declaration of conflicts of interest will be finalised, and a conflict of interest awareness program will be created within the HHSs. State-wide fraud awareness training will also include content specifically relevant to SMOs.

Secondly, to address the extent of unrecorded leave and provide remedial action, a system-wide audit of unidentified private practice activities will be in place. A pilot of payroll hub processes for SMOs will be reviewed by May, and by September a system-wide audit to determine the extent of unrecorded leave will be coordinated. Increased monitoring of the WorkBrain rostering system will also begin.


Thirdly, to ensure that rosters are reviewed to align with rostered hours for payroll and fatigue management purposes, the SMOs shiftwork in HHSs will replace the current overtime payments that apply within core hours. Fatigue management policies will be reviewed and improved access to rostering and time and attendance systems will be facilitated.

Fourthly, to protect patient access and ensure fair access to services regardless of a patient's ability to pay, policy statements will be issued in a Health service directive relating to patient access. An improved decision support system will be established to enable local monitoring of private activity.

These findings of the Auditor-General must be taken seriously by all Queenslanders. The government also values the rights of our public hospital patients, who are entitled to the best our state health system can offer. The Auditor-General tells us that hundreds of millions of dollars in precious resources are being wasted and our focus on patient care is being distracted. The government has prepared the necessary reform. We ask all who work within the public health system, including our key medical staff, to give their support to this process.

The government will accommodate reasonable requests, but it will not be diverted from its key role in the protection of patients and their interests. I also flag that later on today I will be seeking leave to move a motion in this place for the parliament to endorse the two reports of the Auditor-General.

DestinationQ 2014


 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (9.55 am): This morning I am delighted to update the House on more great news for tourism in Queensland. Last Wednesday I joined Sunshine Coast Destination Ltd CEO Simon Ambrose and Tourism Noosa CEO Damien Massingham to announce that the Sunshine Coast will well and truly shine as the host of the third annual DestinationQ forum.

This year's annual DestinationQ forum will be held on 16 and 17 September at the Sheraton Noosa Resort and the Outrigger Little Hastings Street Resort and Spa. Every Sunshine Coast MP has good reason to be excited by this unique opportunity to showcase the diverse range of attractions, facilities and natural assets that make up this highly desirable destination. Hundreds of tourism representatives from across our great state will come together again this year to discuss emerging trends, refine marketing strategies, identify more 'hero experiences' and continue to plan for the years ahead.

In 2012 the inaugural forum was held in Cairns; in 2013 the industry gathered on the Gold Coast; now it is the Sunshine Coast's turn to take centre stage at Queensland's premier annual tourism event. Both previous forums have laid the foundation for a strong and prosperous future for our tourism industry, and they were made possible by a government that recognised tourism as one of the four pillars of our economy—not a plaything to take for granted and neglect, as did successive Labor governments. The Newman government has a clear vision for the future of our tourism industry: a plan to revitalise and restore Queensland to the No. 1 tourism destination in the country. That vision and that plan is embodied in our DestinationQ initiative—a genuine whole-of-government approach that is getting results, creating jobs, sustaining our regional communities and bringing fresh new products through investment projects.

Our commitment to tourism and the passionate people who work within the industry is further evidenced by the partnership agreements signed between government and the Queensland Tourism Industry Council at the 2012-13 forums. The 2014 DestinationQ forum will continue to build upon this partnership, harnessing the expertise and enthusiasm of operators across our great state. The Newman government will continue its commitment to develop a sound economic, environmental and social future for all Queenslanders through the Queensland Plan.

National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

 **Hon. JH LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Minister for Education, Training and Employment) (9.57 am): As the Minister for Education, Training and Employment, I would like to inform the House that schools and students across Australia will be uniting tomorrow as part of the fourth annual National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence.

It will shock many members here to learn that as many as one in four students in Australia have experienced some level of bullying, whether in the form of harmful verbal, physical, social or psychological behaviour. All forms of bullying are a scourge on our society, and this government supports strong action against it, especially in our schools. Bullying can rear its ugly head at any time and at any place: in the playground; on the bus; in the workplace; on the sporting field; and increasingly online.

The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence will raise awareness of the impacts of bullying and violence and the actions that schools can take to promote the safety of children. Tomorrow, Madam Speaker, more than 2,000 schools and almost one million students Australia-wide are taking a stand against bullying, with Queensland leading the way with over 540 schools and 300,000 students involved. Queensland schools will be using the national day of action to showcase the work they do with students to promote antibullying. This includes planning special assemblies, newsletters, quizzes, posters, competitions and art galleries, as well as making music and video clips to engage students and promote the antibullying message. There are lesson plans and other resources available on the Bullying. No way! website, which is bullyingnoway.gov.au.

I invite all members to take a look at the website—an important one-stop portal that provides information and advice on bullying, harassment and violence for teachers, parents and students. I have often spoken in this House about the decisive action this government has taken to strengthen our education system through our Great Teachers = Great Results action plan. One of the first issues this initiative addressed was school discipline. This includes giving principals greater autonomy to implement strong approaches to discipline, enabling principals to respond quickly and firmly to inappropriate behaviour including bullying and violence. This is just another example of the practical measures this government is taking to make this great state a safer, fairer state with a bright future for all students. Finally, I know that all members of this House will stand united with Queensland schools tomorrow for the national day of action to say no way to bullying.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE


Report

Mr BERRY (Ipswich—LNP) (10.00 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 59 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, *Subordinate legislation tabled between 19 November 2013 and 10 February 2014*. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 59—Subordinate legislation tabled between 19 November 2013 and 10 February 2014 [\[4704\]](#).

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (10.00 am): My question is to the Premier. Premier, when will you push aside this health minister—

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members! We will hear the question. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. When will the Premier push aside this health minister, listen to doctors and fix this health crisis?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question and say this to her: why would I have anything other than the utmost confidence in a minister who, in the last two years, has overseen a complete and total transformation of Queensland Health? Why would I do that? The former Premier—a colleague of those opposite—said that Queensland Health was a basket case.

A government member: That's right.

Mr NEWMAN: That is right. We had a Tahitian prince, we had \$1.2 billion of money wasted on a failed payroll system and we had poor performance on elective surgery and in our emergency departments and massive public dental waiting lists. So why would I and why would Queenslanders want to see the most successful health minister in 2½ decades be cast aside? My apologies to Mike Horan, but this health minister has done an even better job than the last great health minister. Let me give an example. Why would I not have anything but the utmost confidence in a health minister who

inherited a situation where, going back to when Labor was in charge, it took 2½ years to get an endoscopy at Hervey Bay? Today how long does it take? Four weeks! I say to those opposite: it takes four weeks!

Mr Springborg: It's down to 19 days.

Mr NEWMAN: He is correcting me, Madam Speaker; I take the interjection. The minister is telling me it is down to 19 days. Where was it under the Labor Party? Two-and-a-half years! They should hang their heads in shame! That is what they should do!

I have some figures that are hot off the press. In fact, I do not think they are out there yet, but I will reveal them this morning. The Labor Party's record on emergency access targets across the state in terms of how many patients are seen within the four hours was 63 per cent. The last figures that were released had it at 75 per cent. But in the most recent figures that are about to be released, it has gone to 77 per cent—the highest ever result for the state of Queensland. I say congratulations, Minister! Well done to you and your team and to the hardworking nurses and doctors and health professionals and support staff in the system and the health boards that you have set up. This minister is overseeing reform. Reform is difficult and I am afraid there are people who are leading a campaign at the moment who do not want to tell the doctors—the line doctors, the rank-and-file doctors—the truth: that this is a fair deal and the government has made many compromises.

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

Ms PALASZCZUK: My next question is to the Premier. Premier, since returning from your—

Mr Seeney interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I warn the Deputy Premier under 253A and remind members that we will hear the questions. I call the Leader of the Opposition to start again.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Premier, since returning from your US overseas trade mission, how many meetings have you held with medical specialists in an attempt to resolve this doctors crisis?

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: I am now going to warn the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and the Minister for Education under 253A. If the question is going to be ruled out of order or be considered appropriately, I need to hear it and I do not want people interjecting. I am going to ask the Leader of the Opposition to ask it again.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Madam Speaker, my question is to the Premier. Premier, since returning from your US trade mission, how many meetings have you held with medical specialists in an attempt to resolve the doctors crisis?

Madam SPEAKER: I call the Premier.

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order, and I apologise to the Premier for taking a point of order before he can answer. Madam Speaker, there has been a longstanding convention in this place that questions are not asked in the first person. The Leader of the Opposition twice—twice—asked that same question in the first person. I ask you either to rule in accordance with the longstanding convention or advise the rest of the House that the convention has changed.

Madam SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I am going to ask the Leader of the Opposition to ask it again but, with respect, I remind members that when they interject when the question is being asked you are actually interfering with my ability to hear it clearly. You have a right to take a point of order, but you are actually undermining the ability to hear the question. I ask the Leader of the Opposition to rephrase the question in accordance with standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. My question is to the Premier. Since the Premier has returned from the US trip, how many meetings has he held with representatives of medical specialists in a bid to resolve the doctors crisis?

Mr NEWMAN: It is good to see somebody who has been here for many years finally get the question right.

Mr Pitt: You've never done an apprenticeship. You wouldn't know!

Mr NEWMAN: I listen to the member for Mulgrave; more childish interjections from him. He has been here a while as well and you would think he would know and respect the rules, the same as the Leader of the Opposition. I say this: I have a highly professional, highly capable health minister who has been working on this for some time and I do not need to step in because he is doing the right thing by patients in Queensland and doctors.

I am afraid what has been missing from the rhetoric of those leading or supposedly leading some of the doctors at the moment is the word 'patient' and the phrase 'patient care', because what we are trying to do is deal with a report from the Auditor-General which says that there has been a lack of accountability, a lack of key performance indicators, a lack of controls on private practice. We have a situation where doctors who are working in the public system but who are allowed to do work in the private system are putting their private patients before public patients even though they are employed by the people of Queensland, and that is unacceptable.

It is unacceptable to ignore the Auditor-General saying that at least \$800 million has been wasted. It is unacceptable to ignore the Auditor-General when he says—an independent statutory official—that action must be taken. Action will be taken. These contractual arrangements are the measure that we are putting in place to deal with the Auditor-General's concerns. But overall we are committed to the best, free public health system in the nation, and I have demonstrated again and again over the last fortnight how this health minister has turned the hospital system around. I want to table a letter from ASMOFQ and the Together union dated 12 March which was addressed to Mr Ian Maynard, the Director-General of Queensland Health, who was only given five minutes last night in front of over 1,000 doctors—

Mr Springborg: And a pineapple.

Mr NEWMAN: He was only given five minutes and a pineapple when he was there to answer their questions and to address their concerns.

Tabled paper: Letter (unsigned), dated 12 March 2014, from Australian Salaried Medical Officers Federation Queensland (ASMOF) and Together union, to Mr Ian Maynard and Ms Lyn Rowland, Queensland Health regarding SMO contracts [4705].

Ms PALASZCZUK: I rise to a point of order.

Madam SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Ms PALASZCZUK: My question was clearly how many meetings has the Premier—

Madam SPEAKER: I ask you to take your seat. The Premier is answering the question and he has time on the clock. I call the Premier.

Mr NEWMAN: I have here a letter from the organisations that were particularly doing the rabbleroising last night, because that is what it was—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! You are injecting and losing the time to answer the question.

Mr NICHOLLS: Given the importance of this answer I move—

That the Premier be granted an extension of time to answer the question.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Mr NEWMAN: As I said, the director-general went to a meeting last night. Certain individuals sought to restrain him and stop him going in. What did they have to hide? Then he was given five minutes. There were over 1,000 doctors, we are told. He went there in good faith. He could have answered their questions, heard their complaints, addressed their concerns, but people such as Professor Fraser gave him only five minutes. You have to start to ask yourself, 'Who is fair dinkum about reaching a resolution? The director-general and the minister, or the other side of the fence?' I say ASMOFQ and the Together union are trying to scare people and mislead them.

I want to table this letter dated 12 March, because it is instructive. Here is a document that is 6½ pages long that has all the things in it that ASMOFQ et cetera wants. I can find only—I had a quick perusal of it, but I might have missed something—one reference, and you wait until page 5, before you find the word 'patient'. There are 6½ pages of industrial demands, of stuff on pay and conditions and meal breaks and allowances, but only one mention of patients. I say today that we are here standing up for patients. We are already delivering a better health system. We are going to listen to the Auditor-General and stop the rorts and get accountability in the system, because that is where public money and accountability comes together.

I say to the rank and file doctors: please go and look at the contracts. Listen to what the minister has said. Read what the director-general has put out and then judge people like ASMOFQ for who they are—a bunch of people who simply want a war, not a solution. We want a solution for patients, we want a solution for Queenslanders and we want the best health system in the nation.

(Time expired)

Madam SPEAKER: I call the member for Ipswich—

Mr Wellington interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I warn the member for Nicklin under standing order 253A. I remind the chamber the reason we have silence when a question is being asked is so that the person being asked the question can hear it clearly and I as Speaker can hear it without the interference of having to control people's behaviour. Then you have an opportunity later on if you wish to contribute to a debate. I call the member for Ipswich West.

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

Mr CHOAT: My question is to the Minister for Health. Has the minister received any letters from senior Queensland Health doctors who have resigned?

Mr SPRINGBORG: I thank the honourable member for Ipswich West for his question and his genuine interest in this area. I also appreciate very much the facts that have been provided to this place by the Premier today, because we have been very much about making sure that we deal with the facts. Of those six which grew to eight issues that were put on the table for discussion some fortnight ago, we had an agreed solutions document that all parties consented to on Monday of this week. How can you ever have a situation of being able to deal with something concisely when you are told on the one hand that contracts are appropriate and they have no problems, they just want to address those issues and you address those issues, and the goalposts keep changing? That is what we have seen. Trust and honour goes both ways. I have certainly learned a lot about that when I have had to deal with some doctor union representatives during the course of this week.

Indeed, even in the case of Professor Fraser, I invited him to become a part of those discussions Thursday two weeks ago so that he could set the framework. Unfortunately, for one reason or another he was not able to or not prepared to attend the next four meetings to decide those things. He was happy to run around last night presenting pineapples. If we are going to be serious about this, we should be serious about it.

The short answer to the honourable member's question is, yes, we have. I have received this letter, as has the Premier. This person has written to us stating—

I'm a doctor who left Queensland Health last year. I voted for your government and will do so again. During the fourteen years I'd been with Queensland Health I'd become aware that whilst my pay had risen by 300% the workload had reduced by more than half.

That indicates what has been happening with regard to good, decent doctors in Queensland. I am happy to table that letter.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 22 February 2014, from the Premier, Hon. Campbell Newman, acknowledging an email from an unidentified doctor regarding SMO contracts [\[4706\]](#).

I think that letter indicates one of the fundamental problems that we have in the health system in Queensland. We have had a monumental improvement in the areas of elective surgery, of emergency access for people requiring emergency department performance, in the area of dental care and a whole range of other things. But the audit commission about a year or so ago pointed out that the big problem we have is that there has been a huge growing disparity between the amount of money that has been spent on health care and productivity. The audit commission indicated that over the six years in the lead-up to 2012 there had been around about a 45 per cent increase in expenditure in health but only a 17 per cent increase in actual patient activity. That is completely and absolutely unsustainable and that is what is referenced by that doctor who has written to me.

(Time expired)

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

Mrs MILLER: My question is to the Premier. In relation to the doctors' contracts debacle, has the Premier directed his health minister to put contingency plans in place?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the honourable member for her question, because it allows me to talk about the way that we put patients first. I just say this: I hope that doctors choose to stay with the system, but if doctors choose to leave the system, they must give three months notice. I can assure members that we will be putting in place plans to replace anybody who wants to go, because these contracts are required, essentially, to deal with the Auditor-General's point that \$800 million of taxpayers' funds have been wasted.

Later on today the Labor Party and indeed the crossbenchers and minor parties will be given the opportunity to decide whether they are going to back the Auditor-General's recommendations or not. There will be a motion—

Mr Judge: The Attorney-General spent \$100,000 on birth certificates. What a waste!

Mr NEWMAN: What is he talking about? The member for Yeerongpilly is interjecting about birth certificates! I know they are the party for the wacky ideas, but that is the wackiest interjection I have heard for a while.

The point is that the Independents, the minor parties and the Labor Party will have an opportunity later today to show whether they are going to back the Auditor-General. They always go on about the Auditor-General—a statutory officer, independent. They will have the opportunity to put out there what they stand for, because we know that they do not stand for much. They are the party of no position with a leader of no position.

We are going to deal with this issue. Today, I say to patients that, as we have over the past two years steadily and consistently improved the performance of our emergency department, steadily and consistently improved the elective surgery figures—actually, not steadily and consistently but dramatically and impressively reduced the public dental waiting list—we will continue to work for patients. We are working for patients. I know that the vast majority of hardworking doctors want to serve the patients. I urge them to look beyond the comments of the Labor Party and the medical union and look at what is being put on the table—the concessions that have been made, the protections that are there so that they can do the job to treat patients.

But again, I say that if people choose to resign, we will have in place arrangements to replace those people and if we have to recruit people from interstate or overseas, we shall do that. This is a great state in which to bring up your family. It is a great state in which to practise medicine. It is a great state that cares for patients. We will give anybody who wants to work in our public health system, which is going to be the best in Australia, the opportunity to do that.

Queensland Health, Employee Meetings

Mr HATHAWAY: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. Does the minister recall if there were any mass union organised meetings of health workers under the former government when doctors and nurses were not actually getting any pay whatsoever?

Mr SPRINGBORG: I thank the honourable member for Townsville for his question. It is a great question because there were no mass meetings of doctors or nurses in Queensland when they were not being paid by the previous Labor government. Indeed, the honourable member will recollect that this was the consequence of a \$1.253 billion payroll debacle that saw roughly 75 per cent, or more than 50,000, Queensland Health workers either underpaid, overpaid or not paid at all.

The Nurses Union firstly denied that there was any problem whatsoever and then about six weeks later were forced to put out a press statement saying that protest is not necessary because Paul Lucas assured them he was about to fix it. Despite our best efforts, we have triaged the bleeding, it is not getting any worse, and we are now trying to recover that money. We have the system stabilised, despite the fact that the Labor Party in Queensland had two years to do that prior to losing office in this state.

Similarly, we did not see the interstate doctors' union coming up here as we now see them or other doctors' unions standing up as their members were also being overpaid, underpaid or not paid at all. I think what we have here is a situation of complete and absolute inconsistency. We did not see any protest when patients were dying in the back of ambulances as a consequence of ambulance bypass, which was rampant; ambulance ramping, which has all but disappeared; or the situation of people waiting on the endoscopy waiting list in places like Wide Bay for well over two years, and we now know that people died as a consequence of that because they were not able to get essential diagnostic procedures. There were no protests about those sorts of things, honourable member for Townsville.

People should look at the facts. We were presented with six, that grew to eight, issues that were demanded of us to make sure that these individual contracts were palatable to doctors in Queensland. I went to the honourable members' own area and stood up in front of 60 doctors and asked them for other issues. They presented the same six to eight issues. We put in place a solutions document which has directly been extrapolated into the addendum. Unfortunately, meetings like last

night were never designed to get a solution. If they were designed to get a solution you would see longer than five minutes presented to the director-general, you would not see the appalling indignity of being presented with a pineapple and told to leave the stage whilst everything else was constructed around high emotion. Those situations play on the insecurities that people have. People should look at the facts of what is on the table, not the emotion that has been displayed.

Gladstone Healthy Harbour Report Card

Mrs CUNNINGHAM: My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection. While there are still concerns in my community about past problems in the Gladstone Harbour will the minister clarify progress on the Healthy Harbour Report Card?

Mr POWELL: I thank the honourable member for Gladstone for her question and, might I add, her continued advocacy on behalf of her community, businesses, industries, individuals and the fishermen in her community to ensure that what we have seen in terms of Gladstone in the past is not repeated and to ensure that the people of Gladstone are given the information they need in an understandable format where they can clearly see what is going on in their harbour and what we are doing to fix it.

Late last year it was great to be with the member for Gladstone at the formal launch of the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership. Alongside government, there are 22 other partners from the community, industry and research that have now signed up to the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership. As a state government we have committed \$3 million over two years to be a member of the partnership and will contribute a further \$1 million to help establish the program. That will go a long way to delivering on that report card that the member for Gladstone spoke about. What is great about this partnership is that all the other partners have contributed financially to not only match that \$3 million that the state government is putting on the table but actually exceed it. Work is very much underway, member for Gladstone, to integrate our existing information around the harbour's health across the environmental, social, economic and cultural dimensions, as well as filling in any gaps that we might have in terms of our knowledge.

I look forward to releasing a pilot report card by the end of this year. Progress will be presented to the management committee of the harbour partnership in May, with the pilot report card going out at the end of the year. We are very much looking forward to the Gladstone community giving us feedback on whether it delivers on what their vision is for the harbour, on their ability to understand what is going on in the harbour and on their ability to understand the scientific evidence that is collected each and every day in that harbour.

If I may in the time remaining reflect that recently I had the opportunity to appear on the *7.30 Report* with the Greens senator, Larissa Waters. I think it is appalling—I think it is outright appalling—that a Greens senator calls into question the independence of the Australian head of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO, CSIRO and significant professors from the University of Queensland. If the senator cannot accept the independence of CSIRO and UNESCO, what independence is she going to accept? Or will this continue to be nothing but a political campaign to put dollars in the coffers of the Greens party so that it can continue to challenge at the federal and state elections. I will combat that at every opportunity that I have.

Queensland Plan

Dr FLEGG: My question without notice is to the Premier. Could the Premier please update the House on how development of the Queensland Plan is progressing and what it will mean to Queenslanders when finalised?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the honourable member for Moggill for his question. We now have a real plan for the future, to grow a four-pillar economy and to make Queensland's government the best in Australia. This morning I have been reflecting on that in relation to the health system. We want it to be the best free health system in the nation. We are pulling ahead of other states day by day with the reforms we are undertaking. Let me talk about the Queensland Plan, which is a plan by Queenslanders for Queenslanders and our future for the next 30 years. We now have a working draft of that plan. Queenslanders have been providing great input on that draft. Some very encouraging contributions have been coming through. Education remains a hot topic. It is right up on the top of the list that people want us to action. They want inclusive schools. They are particularly focused on early childhood and post school education and training. There is a continued focus on wellbeing. There is a desire that we properly recognise those with disabilities and deal with mental health issues. There is a

real emphasis on support for small business and diversifying the economy. I am really pleased to hear that. There is agreement that we need to work together to protect the environment for future generations.

The government will be receiving all this feedback. We expect to see that finalised in a full feedback report in early April. The feedback will be actioned by an independent review group of delegates from the summit that we had in Brisbane late last year to ensure that the final plan properly reflects the collective vision and this latest input. The final Queensland Plan will be ready for release in mid-2014. It will be enshrined in legislation this year.

We are committed to delivering on the bold vision Queenslanders are setting on the Queensland Plan. I cannot emphasise enough the fact that it is a Queenslanders' plan. Often, I am afraid, in some media reports we see the same old thing about it is somehow the government's plan. It is not the government's plan, it is truly the plan of the people of this great state. We have been working together and by working together, by heading in the same direction, we will deliver some fantastic outcomes and realise the opportunities for this great state.

As I hope people can tell, I am so excited about what members in this House have achieved with mayors, councillors, local community groups, leaders and even school students. By working together over the past nine or 10 months, we have already created something that is pretty special. As we get to the final stages, I am even more excited about the final result that we have all worked on as proud citizens of this great state. It is going to be a terrific plan and it will guide this state for the next 20 years.

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

Mr BYRNE: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier direct his Attorney-General to meet with medical specialists and negotiate potential changes to the Industrial Relations Act?

Mr NEWMAN: The short answer to the honourable member's question is no. Let me expand on that. It speaks volumes that a member of the Australian Labor Party who is beholden to the union movement would ask a question laden with an industrial relations background. We can now see—we saw it last night—that this is not about patients. This is not about resolution. This is about certain people who are union leaders. Whether or not they are doctors is immaterial; they are union leaders and in many cases they are left-wing individuals.

An opposition member: Left wing?

Mr NEWMAN: I take the interjection. Alex Scott is a left winger. He is from the Together union and he is prosecuting the case. I have seen emails from Alex Scott that try to stir up people. When last I checked, he was a member of the Labor Party.

For the benefit of doctors who want to treat patients, I say look at the people who are trying to feed you misinformation. Look at what they are really saying. They are the people who, in the past, have driven the health system into the ground. They are the people who gave us a system where people were sitting in ambulances waiting outside hospitals. They are the same people who saw elective surgery waiting times blow out. They are the people whose actions have meant that if you are up at Hervey Bay you had to wait 2½ years to have an endoscopy; now it is down to 19 days, as we have heard.

What a question from the member for Rockhampton. It is all about industrial relations, it is all about the system, it is all about pay and conditions—leave breaks and meal allowances and study allowances and all that stuff. It speaks volumes. It is about money and remuneration, it is about pay and conditions, it is about collective bargaining and it is not about patients.

As we have heard from the minister in the past few days, he sat down with the leaders of the doctors. They put on the table at least six things that they wanted. He made concessions and, behind closed doors, Dr Steve Hambleton said, 'You have addressed our concerns.' He said that. We have addressed their concerns. We are on the side of patients. We are on the side of Queensland taxpayers who want to see their money spent wisely. We are on the side of the Auditor-General who has said that \$800 million has been completely wasted or rorted and that needs to be addressed, and it will be addressed. Do not doubt the government's resolve. Do not doubt that we are going to see this thing through, that we will listen to the Auditor-General, that we will take action and that we will create the best public health system in the nation.

(Time expired)

Queensland Economy

Mr HOLSWICH: My question without notice is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade. Can the Treasurer update the House on the government's vision for growing the economy and restoring Queensland's financial sustainability, including any alternative views?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for his question. He has asked me quite a number of questions to do with the economy and getting the state's finances sorted out. Of course, that contrasts to the 142 days I have been waiting for a question from the opposition in relation to those matters. I report to the House, as I faithfully do: another day down, another \$10.8 million in Labor interest out the door on \$80 billion worth of Labor debt. Earlier today I was talking about that Labor debt because some claims were being made. Let us look at the last Labor budget document, its midyear economic and fiscal report for 2011-12. Where were they going? They were heading to \$86 billion. What has the Newman LNP government done? We have reduced that by \$6 billion in less than two years. We had a plan, we are implementing a plan, we are cutting the waste, we are focusing on front-line service delivery and we are addressing the debt issue.

We have an economic policy: it is to grow the four pillars of the Queensland economy, it is to address the waste and it is to focus that money, as I say, back on front-line services. What have we heard from those opposite? We are displaying an enormous amount of patience. I listened to the shadow Treasurer and he said, 'Patience'. We have had patience. We have had another two weeks of patience where more money has gone out the door. We are yet to hear anything.

We have a vision for the future of Queensland. It involves growing those four pillars. It involves reducing red tape and regulation. There is a lot to be positive about in this great state. I note comments from the shadow Treasurer earlier this week where he accused me of saying one thing at home, while the Premier was overseas saying an entirely different thing. That goes to show that the shadow Treasurer does not get it. He does not get that Queensland's economy and Queensland's state finances are two separate things. The economy is the powerhouse of Australia and next year it will be the fastest growing economy in the nation. Only yesterday, the Sensis Business Index showed that businesses considered the Queensland government the most supportive government in Australia. That is what we are doing for the economy. On the other side, we have Queensland's state finances and Labor's debt and deficit legacy.

A report out today by the Centre for Independent Studies, which is totally independent of this government, again highlights what we have been saying about debt. It states—

Queensland has seen the most dramatic weakening in state finances since 2007, as a result of which it was the first of four states to lose the triple-A credit rating.

The author goes on to say—

Unless action is taken now, state governments will face rising deficits and debt in the long term, just like the federal government, and will be unable to deliver the services the public wants.

(Time expired)

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

Mr PITT: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table the resignation letters being circulated by doctors. I ask: is the Premier aware that medical specialists are, in fact, signing these letters when they will not sign the government's individual work contracts?

Tabled paper. Form letter, dated 20 March 2014, addressed to Dr Tony Sara, President ASMOF, authorising ASMOFQ to tender doctor resignations and a copy of a form notice of resignation letter [\[4707\]](#).

Mr NEWMAN: I am delighted to answer the member for Mulgrave's question, because it allows me to again talk about the things I have been talking about today. Let us look at what we are about. We are about patients and the best health system in the nation. We are also about delivering on what the Auditor-General has said we must deliver on, which is to stop waste, inefficiency and, sadly, in some cases rorts, which have cost taxpayers at least \$800 million. The minister has been working on this for some time. In the past two weeks, the minister has had a number of meetings. The minister was asked to deal with six key points by the AMA. Dr Steve Hambleton, the head of the AMA, has said that he has delivered on those things. I understand there might have been another two or three points that were subsequently added at a different meeting, but we have delivered on those as well. We have made concessions because we want to solve this issue.

Sadly, last night finally we saw what this is all about: this is about people such as Professor Fraser who do not want to find a solution but who want to spread, I am afraid, untruths about these situations. I urge doctors who want to know what is going on before they make a decision to sign a

contract or a resignation letter to actually ring Dr Steve Hambleton and ask whether the Premier has informed people correctly. Email him, ring him, Facebook him. Ask Dr Hambleton if what I have said is correct. Ask if we have delivered on the things that the AMA asked us to deliver on. The answer is yes. I hope that Dr Hambleton is prepared to say what he has said to people in the negotiating meetings on that matter. In relation to—

Mr Judge interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: I take the interjection from the member for Yeerongpilly. If I were a doctor on \$400,000 or \$500,000 or \$600,000 or maybe even a million dollars—is Professor Fraser so remunerated—I would have the money to pay for a solicitor as well. I would then make sure that I had a contract that suited me. What I say to Queenslanders is that these individuals are not lowly paid workers on a factory floor being paid \$50,000 a year. They are being paid \$400,000 or \$500,000 a year. They are highly trained, highly respected, well remunerated and being taken care of.

What we want to do is look after patients. I urge doctors to look beyond the nonsense and innuendo from people like Professor Fraser and find out the facts. Then I urge them to look after patients and continue in the system. If they do not wish to, that is their decision. We will go and recruit other doctors to replace them if they do resign.

Home Insulation Program

Mrs MENKENS: My question without notice is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Can the Attorney-General outline the Queensland government's response to last year's coronial investigation into the federal home insulation program?

Mr BLEIJIE: I thank the member for Burdekin for the question. The member for Burdekin will be pleased to know that I can inform her of the government's commitment to these sorts of things, and particularly the coronial investigation following the home insulation debacle. I premise my comments by saying that the federal Labor government's home insulation program, as Queenslanders would know, was an unmitigated disaster. As we have recently seen from the royal commission—the commission had its first hearings around the state and in Brisbane the other day—public servants were given the directive to plan this billion dollar project over a weekend. We know that is how the Labor Party plans these things—the Health payroll initiative, for example; billions of dollar projects.

What we know is that this program that was planned on a Saturday and Sunday over a cup of tea has unfortunately led to hundreds of house fires around Australia and also the unfortunate deaths of four individuals. Queensland has suffered as a result of that program. This government set up a coronial investigation last year to find out what went wrong and who should be to blame for the debacle. As we know, the coroner made certain recommendations about educative programs. I am pleased to advise the House that the government will accept all those recommendations.

I am pleased to advise the House that the Premier and I have met with the parents of one young man tragically killed in Queensland, Matthew James Fuller. They have agreed to help the government in the advertising campaign because unfortunately they have suffered what no parent in Queensland should have to suffer.

If we look at who is to blame, I want to mention Cameron Dick—the former Attorney-General and minister for industrial relations. I suspect he is the potential leader of the Labor Party. How the good people of Woodridge would preselect such an individual I wonder. I wonder whether they will preselect him. I believe he is being shoehorned in and will get the job. I table two letters in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts, Hon. Peter Garrett, to the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Cameron Dick, regarding safety concerns associated with the Home Insulation Program [4708].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 5 March 2010, from the Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations, Hon. Cameron Dick, to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, Hon. Greg Combet, regarding home insulation and electrical safety [4709].

One is a letter that Peter Garrett wrote. Peter Garrett wrote to the then Queensland government and his colleague Cameron Dick. He stated—

A clear and consistent regulatory framework is required ... Queensland is best placed to lead in this area.

This is after people had died. Cameron Dick responded—

While Queensland stands ready to assist, my view is that the Commonwealth Government needs to lead in relation to legacy issues ...

There was a bit of buck-passing here. Unfortunately, as people were dying in Queensland and as homes were burning down we had buck-passing. Cameron Dick is no leader. He was no leader when he was a minister. He has been referred to by his own party as a gormless show pony. I say that this gormless show pony should be put out to pasture.

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

Dr DOUGLAS: My question is to the Premier. SMOs of Queensland Health have rejected the final contract offer from the government. The health minister—

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Gaven, I will ask you to start again and speak clearly.

Dr DOUGLAS: I apologise, Madam Speaker. SMOs of Queensland Health have rejected the final contract offer from the government. The health minister's addendum edition has been rejected. Will the Premier now assume control of the matter to prevent the continuing crisis in Queensland Health?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the honourable member—the lonely outpost on the Gold Coast; the southern branch of the Australian Labor Party; the Palmer United Party-Labor Party alliance, or whatever it is—for the question. Firstly, as usual from the member for Gaven, the whole premise of the question is an assertion, and it is wrong. It is up to individual doctors as to what they do. That is what I have been talking about today. They get to decide whether or not they sign a contract.

What I say to them is, look at what has happened. They have had a government over the last two years that has paid them. It is remarkable, is it not? I say to doctors that they can have the Labor Party back again because they are bringing the same old gang back. The same people are coming back. The doctors can have them and they will not get paid at all. What a marvellous thing that would be—having the Labor Party back; the gang back in town; the Blues Brothers back and not paying doctors at all. Extraordinary, is it not?

We are paying doctors, nurses and all health workers these days. We are cleaning up the rorts like that of the Tahitian prince. We are also having to deal with the \$800 million that the Auditor-General has said is being wasted, frittered away or, in some cases, sadly rorted because there are not proper controls in place particularly in relation to the right of private practice. That is what we are doing.

We want public patients who are the responsibility of SMOs to be treated ahead of the private patients that they also get to treat. That is what we want to do. I say to the men and women of Queensland who are probably wondering what this debate is about, 'We are on your side.' Is this organisation, ASMOFQ, on their side? I do not think so.

I tendered a 6½ page letter before dated 13 March, as I recall, which had only one reference to 'patient'. So I ask: who has patients' interests at heart? Who over the last two years has actually worked to improve elective surgery times, improve emergency departments, improve public dental health waiting lists? This government has done that, working with doctors who are not listening to this mob of union leaders.

I ask doctors not to sign across—as contained in this bizarre letter that we have just seen—the right for ASMOFQ to tender their resignation. Basically doctors are being asked by a union, 'Give us the right to actually tender your resignations.' Doctors are smarter than that. Doctors know better than that.

(Time expired)

Koalas, Protection

Mr WATTS: My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection. Could the minister please tell the House what the Queensland government is doing to protect koalas across this great state? How does it compare to the actions of the previous government?

Mr POWELL: I am very grateful for the question from the member for Toowoomba North. The Newman government is committed to protecting not only our state's unique ecosystems but also our iconic species, such as the koala. Today I am pleased to announce 11 successful koala rescue and rehabilitation grant recipients. Some \$202,127 is to be granted under this second round of funding as part of our overall \$26½ million investing to protect our koalas policy. That \$200,000 is going to organisations serving the Darling Downs, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast, Magnetic Island,

Brisbane, Ipswich, Pine Rivers and Gympie regions. Much of this important work is actually carried out by not-for-profit organisations that are staffed by volunteers who provide 24-hour koala rescue, transport and rehabilitation services.

Unlike Labor, we on this side of the House do not take those not-for-profit organisations, staffed by volunteers, for granted. We support them with grants to allow them to continue their work on the front line to protect our iconic species. While those opposite are happy to whistle while they work, we on this side are happy to get in and do the heavy lifting and provide the support for these tireless front-line services out there on the front line helping our koalas. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those volunteers and congratulate the successful applicants. There are many stresses on our koala population but these grants will go a long way, alongside our research, alongside our habitat acquisitions, to continue to provide a holistic approach for koala protection.

The member for Toowoomba North might be interested to know that the successful recipients include the Return to the Wild Inc. from Cabarlah. Whilst I know it is in his neighbouring electorate of Nanango, it is not far north of the electorate of Toowoomba North. We are also seeing over \$12,000 going to Australian Native Animal Rescue Rehabilitation Association in the Gympie electorate. The Ipswich Koala Protection Society is getting \$14,000 in the electorate of Ipswich. The electorate of Pine Rivers is a bit greedy: Koala Action Pine Rivers Inc. is getting \$3,910 and the Pine Rivers Koala Care Association is getting \$3,747. In the electorate of Townsville, the Magnetic Island Community Development Association is getting \$14,505. In the electorate of Lytton, the Manly Road Veterinary Hospital is getting \$9,800. It is great that I will be joining the member for Currumbin later today to announce \$100,000 for the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital. The RSPCA, the Sunshine Coast Koala Wildlife Rescue and Wildcare Australia are also receiving these much needed funds to continue to provide protection for our iconic species.

(Time expired)

Mapleton Forestry Hut

Mr WELLINGTON: My question is to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The Mapleton and district community is keen to use the current vacant former historic Mapleton forestry hut, located on Delecia Road at Mapleton, for a men's shed organisation, and I ask: will the minister support this proposed change of use of this site so the historic building can be retained in our community?

Dr McVEIGH: I thank the member for the question. I have some appreciation for the question having in recent times become a member of the Toowoomba City Men's Shed myself, presented with my membership shirt, as I was, by the president, Phillip Charles. So I am very familiar with the organisation right across Australia in fact.

I might add in answer to the member's question that Minister Powell and I have been in correspondence in recent weeks about exactly this issue, and it is something that we are very focused on in terms of the needs of the local community. I recognise, as does Minister Powell, that it is such an important matter. The building referred to by the member for Nicklin is a disused forestry barracks at Mapleton. It is unfortunately in a very poor state of repair and is in fact located on a reserve. Therefore, my department is very much working with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council to determine the best way forward. The council has understandably some concerns about taking on an asset that would incur considerable costs to repair. I assure the member for Nicklin that my department is working through those issues in an orderly manner to try to find the best outcome for the community. As I said, there are significant challenges for both the government—my department in particular—and of course the local regional council.

It is important to understand how we have got to this point. I need to share with the House and remind the House that, unlike the LNP, the previous Labor government was determined to shut down our proud forest industries, even though they were based on sustainable logging of native forests. Successive Labor governments locked up our forests, closed facilities, left them to rot and then had a mad fire sale. Former Labor Treasurer Andrew Fraser in fact flogged off our state forest plantations in a mad desperate bid to claw in cash as Labor's deficit fuelled budget crisis spiralled out of control, and political deals with the green movement were the priority of the day. It was a panic sale of assets, without a plan, without proper consultation, because Labor continued to spend like there was no tomorrow, while we on this side of the House, as the Treasurer has outlined this morning, are left to deal with Labor's \$80 billion of debt.

Madam Speaker, make no mistake: unlike Labor, the LNP is determined to work with local communities; we are determined to properly manage our state's finances; and we are determined to properly manage our state forests, particularly through the Queensland Forest and Timber Industry Plan that I have been proud to bring to fruition. We will work to deal with a long list of assets left to rot by Labor.

(Time expired)

Jobs, Cultural Diversity

Mrs MADDERN: My question without notice is to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier. Can the minister outline how Queenslanders from culturally diverse backgrounds are being included in the provision of government services and programs which will enable them to participate fully in the Queensland economy and lifestyle?

Mr ELMES: I thank the member for Maryborough for the question. Opportunity has come knocking for culturally diverse Queenslanders to gain jobs in the agricultural industry thanks to a state government brokered partnership. Recently I signed a memorandum of understanding with Stanbroke Pty Ltd which will see the company provide employment for migrants and refugees. On that particular day not only was I there but the member for Lockyer was there, the Minister for Agriculture was there and the Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs was there—and I want to thank him for his input into this agreement.

The MOU is a prototype for other industries and locations across the state to support those pillars of tourism, agriculture, resources and construction. Stanbroke will work with Access Community Services to supply and support new recruits to Stanbroke's Lockyer Valley facilities and to explore more job pathways within the beef production chain. The MOU will provide the Grantham based beef producer with much needed staff to generate sustainable job opportunities for culturally diverse Queenslanders. The initial recruitment process will include 50 refugees. It will grow to 500 across Stanbroke's greater pastoral endeavours. This is an example of how the Newman government is delivering on its cultural diversity policy, with private sector partnerships generating job opportunities and providing an economic boost.

Migrants and refugees are a ready and motivated asset for regional businesses who find it difficult to get and retain staff. The MOU supports the Queensland government's aims of building thriving regional communities, ensuring our regions are strong, prosperous and where people want to live, to work and to raise families. For places like Toowoomba, Rockhampton, Townsville, Cairns—our mining and agricultural hubs—new partnerships like this will make the vision a reality. We will continue to facilitate opportunities that deliver jobs for culturally diverse Queensland.

Queenslanders have benefited socially and economically from the contribution made by migrants over the last century and a half. I have seen firsthand places like Moorooka, where migrants and refugees have started thriving small businesses. I remember towards the end of last year going door to door for about four hours in Moorooka talking to people from North African communities who have opened coffee shops and restaurants and small businesses across the spectrum. Wherever I went I asked the question: have you seen your local member? Not one of them could name their local member.

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

Mr ELMES: Not one of them knew who their local member was.

Madam SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

Mr ELMES: That is the member for Yeerongpilly. He wants to try his hands at—

Madam SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired. What is your point of order, member for Yeerongpilly?

Mr JUDGE: Madam Speaker, that remark is misleading. It is offensive and I ask it to be ruled out of order.

Madam SPEAKER: Are you asking for it to be withdrawn under the standing orders?

Mr JUDGE: Yes.

Madam SPEAKER: Minister, I ask you under the standing orders to withdraw.

Mr ELMES: With all humility, I withdraw the remarks.

Queensland Health, Employment Contracts

Ms TRAD: My question without notice is to the Premier. On Tuesday the health minister claimed that all doctors' issues with individual contracts had been addressed. Yet these measures were unanimously rejected by more than 1,000 doctors last night. I ask: what steps will the Premier take to restore trust between medical specialists and the Newman government?

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I call the Premier for one minute.

Mr NEWMAN: I recall what the minister said. He very clearly went through the actions that he had taken to address the issues put on the table by the Australian Medical Association. I say today that in a spirit of good faith the minister made a number of concessions on their six to nine top issues. He has made concessions. The government has made concessions. The government wants to look after patients.

Last night at that meeting if they were fair dinkum about reaching resolution they would have given the director-general of the department the opportunity not only to speak for five minutes but perhaps to spend 55 minutes to an hour and a half answering questions and dealing with their concerns. That would have been fair dinkum. That would have shown that ASMOF, the Together union and the AMA were fair dinkum in reaching a resolution. We are, because we are about patient care. We want the best free public hospital system in the nation. It is up to doctors now: if they wish to sign, we want them to be on board. If they want to resign, we will find replacements.

(Time expired)

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (11.00 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders—


- (1) All business shall be suspended in order to permit the Minister for Health to immediately move a motion without notice relating to the Auditor General's report No. 1 of 2013-14 on *Right of private practice in Queensland public hospitals* and report No. 13 of 2013-14 on *Right of private practice: senior medical officer conduct*.
- (2) The minister's motion shall take precedence over all other business for this day's sitting.
- (3) At the conclusion of the minister's motion, the order of business for the day shall resume with the business ordinarily conducted at that time of day.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Auditor-General's Reports

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (11.01 am): I move—

That—

- (1) This House notes Auditor-General's report No. 1 of 2013-14 on *Right of private practice in Queensland public hospitals* and report No. 13 of 2013-14 on *Right of private practice: senior medical officer conduct*.
- (2) This House endorses all of the recommendations of the Auditor-General in those reports.

It is very important that people understand the reason behind these Auditor-General's reports. A number of years ago in Queensland there was a very tumultuous and difficult industrial negotiation between the former Labor government, the doctors union and other professional doctors representatives around pay and conditions. The government of the day decided to expand the right of private practice arrangements in the state of Queensland, but it did so without any proper consideration of what it would cost and the impact on public patients in public hospitals being treated by publicly paid doctors who were treated disadvantageously as a consequence of private patients being treated advantageously.

Despite the fact that the previous government was warned as far back as 2007-08 that the potential exposure of this was as much as \$125 million a year or thereabouts, it chose to ignore that advice and the system became more and more dysfunctional. Of course there is nothing wrong with

doctors treating private patients in a public hospital if there is an appropriate framework for them to do that. That is not unusual. That is not remarkable. In one way or another, it has been facilitated for a significant period of time.

What seriously went wrong was that the fundamental checks and balances which should have been put in place to ensure this was cost neutral, as was the original intention of the arrangement, were not put in place. Management within Queensland Health failed terribly as well. So management has a lot to answer for as well with regard to this. As a consequence of bad management, bad policy decisions and very loose frameworks introduced by the previous government, a number of doctors chose to take advantage of that situation.

Those doctors, unfortunately, have besmirched the reputation of the whole cohort. We are talking about a minority of doctors, but we are talking about a substantial minority of doctors in some of the cohorts across Queensland. As the Auditor-General pointed out in his most recent report, in the snapshot of some 88 doctors in the high-risk areas he was able to ascertain that eight doctors had a right of private practice which did not follow the rules laid down and another four doctors who had no right of private practice billing actually did so. He found significant evidence with regard to really lax paperwork and exposure on issues around people claiming overtime when they were on leave. Some of that was able to be corrected as a consequence of paperwork which had been put in in a very lagging way. As the Auditor-General indicated, there was significant concern that in many cases it was unexplained and it appeared as though the doctor was paid overtime at a time when the doctor was on leave.

I would like to make this point so that everyone can reference back: this government did not initiate this off its own bat. This was not initiated by the Premier. It was not initiated by the health minister on a whim. This came about because doctors and nurses came to us and raised their concerns with us. They said that it needed to be addressed. We had public sector doctors and public sector nurses who said to us, 'Health minister and Premier, there is a significant issue that needs to be addressed around the abuse of these particular entitlements with regard to right of private practice and circumstances where people are claiming allowances and entitlements when they were not even on the grounds of the hospital.' They were very serious allegations. As a consequence of that, we referred those matters for further investigation. We had returned to us that there were grounds to substantiate these claims, and I then referred that to the Auditor-General. To do otherwise would have been a complete and absolute dereliction of duty not only as a minister of the Crown but on behalf of the taxpayers and patients of Queensland and those doctors and nurses who wanted something to be done.

In the first report of the Auditor-General he again pointed out that there were very lax and weak systems. Those systems resulted in the expenditure of up to \$800 million without any demonstrable return of patient benefit. He said that \$800 million had been spent over about 10 years without any demonstrable benefit for public patients. I also know that in some cases that money was provided as a de facto pay rise for doctors, and the government of the day did not want to call it a pay rise to create an imbalance with other public sector workers. As part of doing that and against the backdrop of it supposedly being revenue neutral, it was never revenue neutral. Those doctors who were able to be either option A or option B doctors who were supposed to raise revenue sufficient to offset what they were being paid as part of these particular conditions were not able to or chose not to do that. As the Auditor-General said, the greatest majority did not return enough to be able to recover what was required of them with regard to making it cost neutral. This is not the fault of all doctors. The fault lies only with the small number of doctors who have taken advantage of this. The fault with regard to those doctors also lies with management which designed a very lax system that allowed this to happen.

It is also wrong to say that there are not issues in other areas of the state which are currently being investigated as well. The Auditor-General indicated that, whilst he was able to look at the snapshot of high-risk areas, it needs to be looked at and considered in the context of other areas around the state. I can indicate that that is certainly ongoing.

At the time this issue was raised, I asked my department, 'Why hasn't anyone done anything about this before?' I remember at that stage the director-general saying to me, 'No-one has had the courage. It would open a Pandora's box. When we talk about it, we also get the threat of resignations.' I think basically all of those things have happened in one way or another.

I really want to pay tribute to those very, very courageous doctors and nurses who came to me and the Premier and said that this needed to be looked at and that it could no longer be swept under the carpet. We have an obligation to fix it. We have an obligation to do the things that the

Auditor-General pointed out in his recommendations to us. All we are doing here today is simply seeking an endorsement by this parliament of the adoption and support of the recommendations of the Auditor-General in both of those reports, and I know the respect the members opposite have had and continue to have in the Auditor-General. I want to actually point out what the Auditor-General indicated. He indicated that we should—

1. strengthen the management of conflicts of interest for senior medical officers by:
 - introducing a written mandatory declaration of outside employment for SMOs
 - requiring SMOs to provide updated information when situations change
 - better defining conflicts of interest in the context of public service SMOs undertaking secondary employment
 - strengthening the process for assessment of conflicts of interest
 - undertaking education and awareness training for SMOs in conflict of interest obligations
2. investigate the extent of unrecorded leave and undertake appropriate remedial action
3. develop rosters for the efficient delivery of health services, including:
 - aligning SMOs' work patterns with rostered hours for payroll purposes
 - managing fatigue in accordance with Queensland Health guidelines
4. assess an SMO's performance based on an agreed level of clinical and nonclinical activity
5. monitor patient access to ensure that patients have fair and equitable access to services, regardless of their ability to pay
6. establish controls to maintain a consistent standard to collect and report activity data for funding and statistical purposes.

In the *Right of private practice in Queensland public hospitals* report, the Auditor-General said—

All recommendations need to be considered in light of the final model of activity based funding under the National Health Reform Agreement.

That is the other important thing that honourable members opposite and on this side of the chamber need to consider as a part of this. The framework for remunerating doctors in the context of being able to conduct private practice arrangements in hospitals is going to change significantly and substantially from 1 July this year. So they will not be remunerated the same way and there will be a requirement to change this regardless. He continued—

It is recommended that Queensland Health and the Hospital and Health Services (HHSs):

1. redesign private practice arrangements to incentivise practitioners so the scheme is financially sustainable
2. establish clear targets for the optimal medical workforce in the context of desired clinical, patient access and financial outcomes
3. develop an appropriate governance framework for private practice arrangements, which includes:
 - an oversight body comprising members with sufficient skill, authority and responsibility statewide
 - board oversight with appropriate delegation of responsibilities at the facility level to monitor and enforce contractual obligations
4. develop for all administrative, clinical and billing systems supporting private practice:
 - standards to ensure the quality of data captured is meaningful and relevant
 - integration to realise efficiencies and enable monitoring of clinical and non-clinical (including financial) activity
 - a single common doctor identifier

That was one of the real problems—the Auditor-General had to develop a very, very sophisticated data cube in order to be able to capture the data to align where doctors were working because there was not a single doctor identifier across the system. Those opposite would have us believe that there is great benefit in centralisation. I have seen no benefit in centralisation. I have seen the problems with payroll, the problems with fake Tahitian princes and the problems caused by a failure to have proper systems in place where one would assume there would be. The Auditor-General continued—

5. make immediate attempts to recover foregone revenue, if cost effective, and investigate further revenue uplift opportunities
6. develop a strategy and engage with private practice participants, medical administrators and support staff to communicate a consistent message aligned with the objectives of the redesigned scheme, including contractual obligations
7. redesign end to end business processes and systems to support enhanced revenue and expenditure management, including rostering and overtime
8. review the objectives and the principles governing the use of the study, education and research funds ... to ensure maximum benefits are derived for the state.

The simplest and most comprehensive way that we can do this—notwithstanding this report and also the changes with the new national funding model—is through a circumstance of contracts which clearly outline what people’s remuneration should be. If they were entitled to an equivalent payment before but are not able to raise that money, then they transfer their base pay and annualised overtime and recall across. For those who have an ability to bill privately, there is a framework where that is considered in the contract. There is an appropriate range of requirements, including paying for the use of public facilities when they treat their private patients in a public hospital. This ensures that we can address the issues of conflict of interest and all of those things. There has never been a failure that I am aware of in an equivalent system anywhere in Australia.

I think this is a sad indictment on the state and it is a sad indictment on the development of this private practice arrangement system. As the Premier outlined in parliament this morning, he has actually seen a publicly paid doctor preferentially treat private patients to the exclusion or disbenefit of public patients in a public hospital, and the Auditor-General has outlined the concerns with regard to that. This provides us with an opportunity to address things. We believe the contracts are the best way of actually dealing with that because this is very clear and very concise. We need to deal with it, and the consequences of not going that way are just too challenging and too ridiculous. There would be constant and ongoing processes of auditing and oversight because of the lack of clarity, and we would find a whole range of issues with regard to that.

The government’s solution to this is to support what the Auditor-General does because the Auditor-General is independent, the Auditor-General is respected, the Auditor-General has made these considered recommendations to the parliament and the Auditor-General has put an extraordinary amount of effort into unweaving what was a very, very complex system which did not have a clear pathway where the data could be discovered. He has had to construct that himself, and this has exposed how wide open it was as well as the fact that some people took advantage of that system—under appalling management or just sheer opportunism—to the disbenefit of patients in Queensland and to the disadvantage of taxpayers. I encourage the parliament to support this motion which simply asks for the parliament to endorse all of the recommendations of the Auditor-General in those reports.



Mrs MILLER (Bundamba—ALP) (11.17 am): I move—

That the motion be amended and after the word ‘reports’, the following words are added—

- (3) notes the Premier and health minister’s failure to resolve the recommendations of the Auditor-General’s reports and the doctors’ contract debacle in the public interest.

The government’s motion is nothing more than a desperate ploy by this government to divert attention from the following facts: firstly, the Queensland public hospital system is in crisis because of this government’s arrogant and vicious attack on our senior medical specialists; secondly, last night more than 1,740 of this state’s most senior doctors unanimously rejected the Minister for Health’s attempt to be the white knight in a crisis of his own making; thirdly, these ‘rabble rousing’ doctors are, as we speak here today, submitting letters of mass resignation; and, fourthly, our hospitals will close because of the incompetence of this Premier and his health minister.

Last night I attended the meeting of the public hospital specialists over the river at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. I attended because we here in the Labor Party care about the doctors and we care about the patients. It is absolutely beyond belief that this government is accusing our best doctors of putting their interests before the interests of their patients. It is simply beyond belief. These doctors, many of whom I met last night and have met over the previous 18 months, frequently work unpaid overtime. They are frequently on call and that means that they go to work outside of their normal rostered hours. Last night we heard from a doctor in Atherton. This doctor explained to everybody at the meeting that he is frequently called back to his hospital in the middle of the night to save patient lives or to deliver babies safely. He explained that he does not mind doing that, but he has submitted his resignation.

The doctors shoulder the burden of training and mentoring the next generation of the medical profession in Queensland. They do not mind doing this because they believe it is part of their way of giving back to the medical profession and giving back to the people of Queensland. Without this considerable professional effort in training and mentoring the next generation of doctors, the junior registrars, we in Queensland would have no doctors; we would have no public health specialists. In fact, all of our hospitals would close without this wonderful training and mentoring of the next generation of doctors. They believe it is part and parcel of their duty to their profession.

At the rally last night, which was the largest rally of health workers ever in this state, patients with life-threatening illnesses stood up to support the doctors who keep them alive. That this government is attacking all the doctors who work in our public hospital system and health services by questioning their commitment to patient care is absolutely shameful. I never thought I would see this in the Queensland parliament.

The personal attacks that we have witnessed this morning in this parliament on Professor John Fraser are totally unwarranted. He is a respected intensive care specialist at the Prince Charles Hospital. He has undertaken to represent his colleagues in these contract negotiations in good faith. I have no doubt about that. His professional reputation is beyond dispute. Professor Fraser is an honourable man and he does have a biting sense of humour, as anyone who goes to these meetings will attest to. But this personal attack that the Premier has made on this man will come with great regret for this government. I note that the Premier has not mentioned at all the deceitful role played in these negotiations by the stood-down AMAQ president, Dr Christian Rowan.

Ms Trad: Disgraceful!

Mrs MILLER: It is disgraceful. Yes, Dr Rowan is that failed candidate who I understand has now been promised preselection for the seat of Moggill at the next state election. I wonder what the current member for Moggill thinks of this handshake promise.

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Bundamba—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members. I remind members of the motion before the House. I ask them to address the motion and not to stray wide of it.

Mrs MILLER: The Premier has also not mentioned the underhanded role played by the failed Liberal Party Senate candidate Dr Ross Cartmill. Dr Cartmill is a self-appointed chair of the VMO committee. If the minister had bothered to turn up last night, he would have noted that the VMOs at the meeting unanimously agreed to write to Dr Ross Cartmill and instruct him to desist from speaking in their name. Perhaps legal action may follow. The president-elect of the AMAQ, Dr Shaun Rudd, publicly distanced himself from Dr Cartmill, stating that the VMO committee was, in fact, not a part of the AMAQ and that the VMOs across the state also reject the government's work contracts as unfair and unreasonable. The Auditor-General's second report clearly states that—

We could neither wholly substantiate nor disprove the allegations we received of widespread absenteeism by SMOs.

We on this side of the House acknowledge the Auditor-General's comments that—

The present arrangements require greater transparency and more proactive management to restore and strengthen accountability.

The doctors and their representatives also acknowledge that the right to private practice arrangements in this state need to be clarified for all concerned. Dr Ezekiel Tan, a well-respected orthopaedic surgeon from the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service, has authorised me to read his response to the correspondence of support from the Leader of the Opposition. In relation to resigning he says that it—

... was actually not a difficult decision and probably the most sane decision that I have made in my life.

My resignation was much more than doctor's rights—more about everyone else who is not in a position to make a stand—doctors who don't have a private practice option, nurses, firemen, cleaners.

The Newman government has taken on a deceptive, autocratic tone with a far-right wing agenda that would have society return to a Victorian age or into the ultracapitalist world. I for one have no desire to have a wide wealth gap in Australian society like exists in the ghettos of US cities or elsewhere in the 3rd world.

The situation is farcical. I'm resigning for moderate ideals to try to protect those less fortunate and that will take me into a position where I'm treating the rich and making more money.

I am not actually an ALP supporter, but cannot in conscience support the Newman government's agenda for society as a whole.

How did we get to the point where if someone suffers a brain haemorrhage in Queensland in the next couple of weeks there may not be a neurosurgeon to operate? How did we get to a situation where if someone accidentally cuts off their fingers at work or in an accident they may have to be flown to Sydney or Melbourne because there may not be a doctor in Queensland qualified to operate on them? How did we get this debacle? The important point for me is which department is going to pay for these medivac planes that are going to have to take the patients from Queensland to Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth or Darwin to enable them to have qualified surgeons operate on them?

We have this debacle because the health minister created it. Make no mistake, what is happening in Queensland today is a catastrophe. It is a catastrophe of the Premier's making and it is a catastrophe of the health minister's making.

Last night I attended the meeting of 1,470 staff specialists as well as 200 on the web from Cairns and around Queensland. I attended; the minister should have attended. Minister, you should have been there! Last night almost 1,500 specialists unanimously voted that they would resign en masse, and this is unprecedented. The Minister for Health is trying to force them into the unthinkable situation of signing unfair and unreasonable contracts. That means, according to the doctors, that it could reach the point that, yes, there will be hospitals but there will be no doctors. We will have hospitals, but they will be doctorless.

The situation last night was that, yes, the Director-General turned up, and I was witness to the fact that the Director-General was treated with dignity and respect. I recognise that he is a public servant. But guess what? The doctors wanted to talk to the minister and/or the Premier. You do not send a public servant to do your dirty work; you go yourselves and you explain it because you have got to have the ticker to be able to do it. This minister and this Premier did not go because they do not have the ticker! Perhaps you need a brain or a heart transplant—particularly a heart transplant to give you the ticker to confront the doctors.

It is unfathomable that the Minister for Health and the government would allow our health system and our hospitals to reach this point. Minister Lawrence Springborg all but said this week that he had resolved the situation, and he tried to paint himself as the white knight riding in to fix the debacle that he has created. If he had bothered to turn up last night, he would have seen that it is far from fixed. He could have heard from the doctors there last night how angry and frustrated they are. While this Premier and this minister sit in this parliament pretending that this is fixed, it gets messier by the day.

It has now been more than 140 days since the opposition first raised this issue, and in that time the minister has done nothing. He has in fact made a terrible situation worse by just waiting for the doctors to start resigning. What has the Premier done? In the middle of this hospital crisis the Premier racks off overseas! He jumps on a plane—business class, no doubt, or maybe even first class—to Los Angeles, New York, Houston, Texas—wherever he went—and sat on his hands. He was over there gallivanting around the United States while the hospitals are in crisis. Premier, you have not even done anything here today to resolve this crisis! Whilst the Premier has been touring the world and announcing names for tunnels that the government cannot pay for anyway, and whilst he has sat back and allowed his incompetent health minister to drive this debacle, the same specialist doctors have got on with the job of looking after sick people in our community right across the length and breadth of Queensland. Premier, it is time for you to sack the Minister for Health and sort this debacle out. It is time for the Premier to do his job: stand up and show some leadership to the people of Queensland!

Madam Speaker, last night I went to the meeting of the doctors, as I have said, and the Premier and the minister should have been there. They should never have sent a public servant to do their work, and it is not right that they did that. I would also like to point out the dreadful situation where this government is saying to our specialist doctors in our hospitals, 'Sign these unfair contracts on the dotted line or else we will recruit from interstate or overseas.'


Mr Newman: Yes, we will!

Mrs MILLER: I take that interjection. The Premier is saying, 'Yes, that is what we are going to do.' The Premier is basically saying, 'We are going to do over Australian trained doctors. We are going to do over Queensland doctors who have trained at the University of Queensland and Bond University.' You are going to do them over. Let me tell you that the AMA and ASMOF across Australia will not allow that to happen, because they stand shoulder to shoulder with their brother and sister doctors here in Queensland. The AMA and ASMOF have made it quite clear that they will not allow that to happen.

The Premier said this morning that doctors are paid \$400,000 to \$500,000 a year. Let me tell this parliament that they have studied hard for it, and the patients greatly appreciate the fact that they operate on them, they keep them alive, they look after them and they really care.

If this government had gone to the meeting last night, they would have seen doctors with tears in their eyes. A Queensland trained anaesthetist who works at a public hospital in Queensland got up and said that she wanted to stay in Queensland but, because she is the primary income earner for her family, she has been forced to resign and take a job in New South Wales. This government is disgraceful! Bring it on, because the people of Queensland will stand by the doctors—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.37 am): I rise to support the amendment moved by the shadow health minister, which is the insertion of paragraph 3—

notes the Premier and Health Minister's failure to resolve the recommendations of the Auditor-General's reports and the doctors' contract debacle in the public interest.

Last night over 1,000 Queensland doctors attended a meeting at which they voted against the proposal put by this Minister for Health. Let us go back in time. Over 140 days ago we first raised in this parliament the issue of the individual contracts that this government wanted to place doctors on. For 140 days this incompetent health minister has sat on his hands. He has hardly lifted a finger to try and resolve this issue. Let there be no mistake: this doctors crisis, this doctors debacle, is of this health minister's own making. It did not suddenly arise out of thin air. It was not created in some part of this state. This is the minister's own debacle. For this debacle, which has gone on for 140 days, this minister should be pushed aside and this minister should be sacked.

Mr Nicholls: Did you apply that standard to Paul Lucas?

Ms PALASZCZUK: This is the most incompetent minister that we have ever seen in this state.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I say to the Treasurer of the state: over 1,000 Queensland doctors attended a meeting last night, as did the assistant health minister. Over 1,000 doctors attended. In question time today I listened to the Premier talking about patient care and, yes, I believe patient care should be at the forefront of any decision that this government makes. Who do I trust: do I trust 1,000 health specialists in this state, or do I trust this LNP government? Who can Queensland trust? I know who Queensland can trust: it is the doctors of this state, because it is the doctors who are committed to our public health system. It is our doctors and our specialists who are there at all hours of the night and during the weekends to ensure that Queensland families get the best possible care that they deserve from our public health system.

What has this government done? This government has done everything it possibly can to ostracise doctors in this state. Queenslanders should be aghast—aghast at the fact that over 1,000 specialists are so concerned that they had a mass rally to talk about these contracts that the government cannot finalise. I am talking about over 1,000 specialist doctors, and I understand that the issues raised last night were from cardiologists, from doctors from Atherton, and Cairns Hospital specialists. There were specialist doctors from the emergency departments, and the shadow health minister talked about the issue where, in particular, neurosurgeons could leave en masse and leave our state. I do not know what everyone else in this House thinks, but if a close relative of mine or anyone in my electorate suddenly goes into cardiac arrest they would want the best possible care in our hospital system. How does this government treat our specialists in this state? It treats our specialists in this state with disdain, with disrespect and with no dignity. That is shameful and this should not be the situation that we have been placed in. Who has put us in this situation? The person who is responsible is this incompetent health minister.

I now turn my attention to the Premier, because the amendment addresses the Premier as well. The Premier has been on an overseas trade mission to the US. As I clearly asked the Premier today, how many times has he sat down with the medical specialists since he has come back to this state to try to resolve this issue? Did we get an answer?

Mr Mulherin: No!

Ms PALASZCZUK: No answer. No answer from the Premier about—

Mr Mulherin: It's because he doesn't care.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection; he simply does not care, because a Premier of this state would show leadership. A Premier of this state would have stayed up all night, would have dragged the health minister into the Premier's office, got the department heads around the table and said, 'This needs to be resolved.' We have cabinet ministers sitting in this House. What are they thinking? What are they thinking when they see the images on the news tonight of over 1,000 health

specialists in this state expressing no confidence in this government in relation to its contracts? This incompetent health minister stood here in this parliament the other day after we tried to drag out what the amendments were to the contracts and tabled these contracts and said—

As you are aware, I have put forward a range of solutions that I believe to go a long way to addressing the matters you and your representatives have raised in relation to your key concerns around the implementation of the contract.

What did he want to do? He wanted to amend the Hospital and Health Boards Act and he wanted to offer a Health employment directive. Last night the specialists rejected this so-called solution. This so-called solution is now null and void and it is back to the drawing board. How can this government fix this crisis? How can it fix this crisis? It can amend the Industrial Relations Act.

Let us talk about what these specialist doctors are concerned about. Firstly, they are concerned about fatigue provisions. If you are working all night, you are entitled to have a break if you are a specialist carrying out operations in this state. Secondly, they do not want to be unfairly dismissed for raising issues that they think are in the public interest. Every specialist in this state should have the clear ability—

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I know the doctors have been talking to these LNP members and at the next election all of the doctors and all of the people in this state can make a clear choice: do they trust Labor to stand up for doctors in this state or do they trust the LNP? I know what the public is going to say, 'It should never have come to this.' It should never have come to this because you cannot trust this government. You cannot trust this government. It has done nothing to try to find a resolution.

I go back to the Premier's words—those very clear words from the Redcliffe by-election after the 17 per cent swing. The Premier said, 'I will listen. I will listen.' Have the Premier and the health minister listened to doctors? No, they have not. Now we have the unbelievable situation in this state where our specialists are contemplating mass resignations. What will that mean? The Premier's arrogance today was essentially, 'Let them go. Let them go. We will advertise and get more in here.' These are experienced specialists. These are experienced specialists who are working in our public health system. If they go, this government's plan is to advertise overseas and get in overseas trained doctors. We want our specialists to stay here. We value our specialists working in Cairns, in Townsville, in Rockhampton, in Bundaberg, in Longreach, in Emerald and right across this state because we believe that Queenslanders deserve the best public health system that Queensland can offer. We do not believe in attacking the dignity of our specialists, let alone our nurses, our wardsmen and everybody who helps make our public health system what it is. That is why Labor invested in expanding our public health system across the state. That is why we built the Gold Coast University Hospital. We are expanding the Cairns Hospital—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: This government sacks; we build. That is very clear.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. I can hear an exchange between members on my left and in the centre. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I never thought that this week we would still be here talking about the doctors crisis that is engulfing our state. Any reasonable person would have expected a health minister and a Premier to come together and sort it out. But have we seen that? No, we have not because—

Mr Pitt: No leadership!

Ms PALASZCZUK:—there is no leadership and this government is so arrogant it cannot even listen to doctors who have concerns. It is not even prepared to listen to the concerns that doctors have about these specific contracts.


The time for resolution has come. I do not want to see a situation where cardiologists, neurosurgeons and our emergency doctors leave our state and go elsewhere, because they will not return. They will not return. If they move their families interstate or overseas, they will not come back and we will lose those experienced doctors who are needed to run our public health system. I think it says a lot about how this government treats our public health system when it cannot even treat our specialists with respect. I heard the Premier talking about how much the specialists get paid. If anyone in this House suddenly goes into cardiac arrest, I want the most experienced person to be able to look after that person, to make sure that they have quality of life and can be saved.

These are serious issues that every member of this House and every Queenslanders has a right to be concerned about. When they see those images on the six o'clock news tonight, the families are going to be aghast that this arrogant LNP government has once again failed to offer any hand of resolution, any offer to sit down and resolve this crisis. Are there any meetings happening today? Most importantly, we even had the assistant health minister address the meeting last night—their own assistant health minister attended the meeting last night—and agreed with the doctors. There is no more telling sign than when their own specialist cannot support the minister's handling of these contracts.

Finally, I want to address the issues of the Auditor-General's report. The opposition supports the recommendations of the Auditor-General's report. However, I want to draw attention to a couple of issues. Those issues about the key findings relate to some billing practices of SMOs and the fact that there were, I think in one instance, seven SMOs who appeared to be at work during their rostered hours for more than 30 days and another eight SMOs who were treating private patients in public hospitals but not declaring the income as they were contractually required to do so. This week, we raised this issue in parliament as well. We believe that this minister is also trying to smear the name of all SMOs in this state. If the minister were open and transparent, he would name those SMOs so that every other SMO could have their name cleared. If action needs to be taken, action can be taken against those few. If those people are found to have done the wrong thing, they should face the full force of the law.

We also need the government to tell us whether any of those SMOs whose names have been deleted from that black list—the government is not forthcoming with those names—have either been a donor to the LNP or have ever been a candidate for the LNP. It is a legitimate question and we want a legitimate answer. It is a secret list. Be under no mistake: it is a black list. They have never answered the question. Print those names and clear every other SMO in this state. Stop smearing thousands of senior medical officers when it has been found that fewer than 20 are alleged to have done the wrong thing. This has been the whole dirty tactic from a one-trick pony, the health minister, who cannot stand on his own two feet and talk about the mess of his own making, who wants to go back and talk about the past when he cannot even deal with the present.

The handling of this debacle, this doctors crisis, has been an unmitigated disaster from beginning to end. It has been absolutely disgraceful. It is about time this health minister hangs his head in shame. It is about time the Premier showed some leadership and moved him aside and got someone in who can fix this crisis and treat those specialists in our state with the absolute respect that they deserve.

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—PUP) (11.54 am): This motion moved by the health minister is nothing more than a smokescreen for his own failings in negotiating fair contracts for doctors and an attempt to vilify all doctors using a selected Auditor-General report into private practice in Queensland Health. If nothing else, all doctors will utterly reject anything put forward by this health minister for his reckless, exaggerated misuse of a report alone. They have been very patient to continue demanding a right to negotiate these contracts for over eight months.

Doctors are highly principled people whether members have little regard for principle or not, or for doctors—and I believe that they show gross contempt for doctors by doing this. I share their values as a doctor. I am a former long-serving Queensland Health employee, both full-time and part-time. They are resolute and have right on their side and they will not be stared down by this health minister, the Premier, or the LNP. Did they hear that? They will not be stared down by them.

I have gone through the Auditor-General's report in detail. I went to both briefings given here in parliament on the matters. I am not aware of anything else that was given. I asked detailed questions about the report and I am convinced, on the basis of those who conducted the audit, that the problem was a very narrow one and, consistent with that, even the minister stated that it must have resulted in very unclear directions on one part and the actions of one small group—those SMOs—working on what was deemed to be option A or option B contracts.

There appears to be a total lack of both understanding and reasonable acceptance that the former contracts for doctors working in Queensland hospitals were drafted to address all sorts of concerns, including the provision of highly experienced and qualified medical staff working in teams to provide the best care at all times for all patients and any patient in Queensland who needed health care. Those contract options were generated in an environment of competition for staff internationally, the Patel crisis, and too few doctors having been trained in this state and nation and we are to be ashamed that that is what it has led to.

The end result of those contracts were some errors. The issue of the \$800 million figure quoted by the minister today as wasted is not stated as such by the Auditor-General. The money was spent, but it was consumed by the modifications to the contract to maintain a competitive environment almost totally. That is not to say that it is inappropriate to continue investigating any rorts, but to shoot everyone else who diligently were working in the health system in the pursuit of a very small group, which has been pointed out here by the Leader of the Opposition today, is not just bloody-minded, it is insanity. It is total insanity. And that is why they have you, because you are part of the problem.

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


Dr DOUGLAS: Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your direction. In the state situation, we are going to see a massive exodus of highly trained Queensland medical staff from our Queensland public hospitals. The whole idea of replacing everyone as a kind of pilots' dispute mark II is not just irrational; it is a kind of collective suicide for which we will all suffer. So every member here and all of their constituents, their families and everybody else will suffer because of this irrational, insane decision. The Campbell Newman government has no right to put the state to the sword for reasons of its own ideology and brinkmanship.

I support the Auditor-General's report, but I support the amendment moved by the Labor Party this morning. I reject the statements made by the health minister because, consistent with his continuing pattern of misrepresenting any official report ever handed to him, he is misleading Queenslanders by implying that there is a systemic issue that so conclusively affects all of our Queensland Health staff and medical workforce that he must take such a step that puts them all to the sword. That is what he wants. He wants to put them to the sword. The end result is that we end up with nothing. But the whole thing is not about him. The reality is that we must have medical people working in the hospital. This whole idea that we have three months and it is all going to be okay is crazy.

Doctors are not just indignant at his response, they are ropeable. They do not trust the Minister for Health and they never will. They have every reason not to. He has betrayed their trust and will be damned forever for doing so. After a 26-year career in politics, formerly as a very young National Party member, he has put Queensland hospitals to the sword and betrayed the trust of the public.

Do LNP members feel ashamed at destroying the careers of the very people who would do anything to prioritise others' needs over their own needs 100 per cent of the time, every day of the week, every week of the year, year upon year until they retire? Most of them die when they retire; it is a vocation that they give up forever. Those opposite are destroying that with their ideology.

The public are watching, listening and thinking. They will be the judge and will punish the government as it collectively deserves. On behalf of the PUP I say to all SMOs and VMOs that we will negotiate with them in good faith, offer fair, negotiated contracts and do so in an atmosphere of trust. We will give them the time. HHS boards will not be able to vary those contracts without their consent. Honourable members, in the absence of a major change in government direction in relation to the contracts we need to go to an election and allow the public to decide. I put it to the Premier today to assume control of the Health crisis and he passed on it. It is time that he takes control or he must go.

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (12.01 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the shadow health minister in relation to the motion before the House. Can I start by reiterating our support for the Auditor-General's report. I think it is very telling to look at the recommendations made by the Auditor-General in relation to the issue of right of private practice, senior medical officer conduct within Queensland Health. What the government has told us, and told us repeatedly, is that these contracts are necessary to address the concerns raised in the Auditor-General's report.

We know that the contracts predate the tabling of this report to parliament so that claim by the government does not stand up at that first hurdle. The development and distribution of the contracts predate the tabling of the Auditor-General's report. One must go to the actual details of the recommendations. There are six recommendations in the report. The six recommendations go to a number of areas. They include strengthening the management of conflicts of interest for senior medical officers. There are a number of ways in which that is to be achieved, including by introducing a written mandatory declaration of outside employment for SMOs or requiring SMOs to provide updated information when situations change et cetera. The second recommendation is to investigate the extent of unrecorded leave and undertake appropriate remedial action. The third recommendation is to develop rosters for the efficient delivery of health services, including aligning SMOs' work patterns with rostered hours for payroll purposes and managing fatigue in accordance with Queensland Health guidelines. The fourth recommendation is to assess an SMO's performance

based on an agreed level of clinical and non-clinical activity. The fifth recommendation is to monitor patient access to ensure that patients have fair and equitable access to services, regardless of their ability to pay. The final recommendation is to establish controls to maintain a consistent standard to collect and report activity data for funding and statistical purposes.

What is not in the Auditor-General's recommendations is to remove the unfair dismissal provisions. That is not in the recommendations from the Auditor-General. In the Auditor-General's recommendations there is not a suggestion that the government should remove, through contracts with SMOs, access to binding arbitration. That is not in the recommendations. The creation and development of punitive, stretched key performance indicators is not in the Auditor-General's report to parliament. There is no suggestion in the Auditor-General's report that the notice for cutting of contracts or leaving the service should be increased to six months. There is also no suggestion at all, which is very concerning in terms of the long-term future of our public health system, that the non-clinical time that is used for teaching, procedure and policy development, audit and research should not be guaranteed in the contracts for doctors. In terms of the long-term future of our public health system, the Auditor-General has not suggested that there should be a removal of the non-clinical time that is used for teaching, that is used for procedure and policy development and for audit and research, which is critical in terms of senior medical officers training up junior medical officers who are in our system who will one day be senior medical officers conducting very important work within our public health system.

What is this all about? If the Auditor-General is not saying do all of these things that the SMOs find incredibly unconscionable, so unconscionable that they are prepared to walk away, many of them with decades of service to the public health and hospital system in Queensland, why is it that they are prepared to walk away from jobs they love, from a system that they have invested decades in, because there are such unconscionable elements to their contracts? Why is it? It is because this government is unprepared to sit down and to negotiate. This government is unprepared to do what it takes to resolve an impending crisis. Why is this government unprepared to do that? I think one of the reasons is because the Premier is unable to be moved. In a media report earlier this year the Premier came out with an exclusive. His exclusive to Queenslanders was that he is not a dictator.

Ms D'Ath interjected.

Ms TRAD: He must have put out a direct mailer to some people saying that he is not a dictator. Mr Steven Wardill introduces this exclusive story by saying that Campbell Newman has conceded his administration is considered authoritarian and uncaring but insisted 2014 will be the year Queenslanders reap the benefits of tough decisions.

Ms Palaszczuk: Isn't that the year that it all comes together?

Ms TRAD: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition, I will take that interjection. The article states—
There is this narrative about us somehow just being too tough or being authoritarian, he told the *Courier-Mail*. I don't agree with that.

Further he says—

We made hard decisions in health—yes, there's been issues about job losses particularly in the central department—

They are about to see a hell of a lot more job losses, can I say, because the Premier is unable to live up to his utterances in the exclusive in the *Courier-Mail* and stop being a dictator, and actually sit down, do the hard yards and make sure that we have a public health system in Queensland that has some of the best specialist doctors in the world treating all Queenslanders equally.

Mr Cox: And pay them like you guys didn't.

Ms TRAD: I am not taking your interjections, member for Thuringowa, so you can be quiet. You can add your name to the speaking list.

What is this all about? This is actually about using a sledgehammer to crack a walnut, and we all know that. We know that the Auditor-General's report is being used in the same opportunistic way that the Costello Commission of Audit was used and is currently being used. The Auditor-General's report is being used to drive an ideological agenda that will see wholesale changes in our public health system to drive doctors out of the public health system and into the private health system. That is what is happening here. Absolutely, people should not think that anything other than that is happening. Thousands of doctors work in our public health system because they want to work in a public system. They believe in equity of access. They believe in working hard and helping people in a

way that many in this Assembly would not understand. It is an absolute disgrace for the Premier to come in here today with his jackboots on, proving that he is the dictator that he claims he is not, and say of the doctors' discontent with contracts—

It is about money and remuneration, it is about pay and conditions, it is about collective bargaining and not about patients.

It is an absolute disgrace for the Premier of the day to be disinterested in the long-term future of our public health system by trying to avoid this crisis. It is an utter disgrace that the Premier of our state of Queensland has such little regard for our public hospital system that he is prepared to wash his hands of this looming crisis. He is not prepared to step in to have his absence noted not only by the doctors of Queensland and not only by the people of Queensland but also by this House. His absence has been noted as has been his lack of leadership and, as the shadow health minister said, his lack of ticker. He is unable, unprepared and unwilling to engage in what is the most significant public policy crisis facing Queensland today. He is unprepared to engage in it. That is a mark of his poor leadership and, quite frankly, his inability to do the hard yards to find a resolution, to put his arrogance to one side, to take off his jackboots and to do what is needed to avert this crisis. He is incapable of doing it. The only thing he is capable of doing is increasing the temperature in this issue. He is feeding his arrogance, fuelling the fire and providing Queenslanders with no confidence that there is a resolution around the corner. It is an utter disgrace. Last night thousands of doctors attended a meeting.

Government members: Thousands?

Ms TRAD: Thousands of doctors—

Government members interjected.

Ms TRAD: Are the children okay, now? I will continue.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The member has the call.

Ms TRAD: I do. I am just waiting for them to quieten down.

A government member: You'll be waiting a long time.

Ms TRAD: Yes, I know.

Mr Dowling: This is becoming your best contribution.

Ms TRAD: We know what is the best contribution of the member for Redlands and we do not need to be reminded of it. The way in which the Premier and this government have come in and used the concerning findings of a small number of SMOs in the public health system and have said that they are the reason we need to introduce these draconian work contracts and that these are the reasons we need to ensure that we have control and command over every single senior medical officer in the public health system is an utter disgrace. If that is the new standard then I think we should look at how the LNP members have funded their \$50,000 levy to the LNP, in the same way that one should look at how Scott Driscoll funded his \$50,000 campaign levy to the LNP. The government has come into this place and suggested that a small number of senior medical officers, a small number of doctors, are doing the wrong thing. The Auditor-General acknowledges that not many of them are doing the wrong thing, but perhaps the procedures are not in place to audit and keep track of some of the issues that are of concern. The health minister should acknowledge that it is not all about people doing the wrong thing but also there being insufficient procedures in place. If this mob wants to come in here and say that the crimes of a few should be borne by all, that is exactly how Queenslanders should view the LNP after the Scott Driscoll fiasco. Quite frankly, if the sins of a few are to be borne by many, let us start looking at Scott Driscoll and the behaviour of the LNP.

It is very clear that what the Premier and the health minister are engaged in is a political campaign. It is a political campaign of their own making. If it was not a political campaign, I would suggest that rather than the one anonymous letter he received in support of his actions the Hon. Minister for Health may have brought into the House the many hundreds or thousands of letters he has received from SMOs condemning his actions and condemning this government's draconian authority and push to get SMOs on Work Choices-style contracts. Where are all of the letters to the health minister or the Premier condemning their actions and condemning these contracts? Certainly, they are not tabling those, are they?

However, I have a very interesting letter from a doctor who suggests that he was working in the public hospital system for, I think, 14 years during which time he saw his income increase by 300 per cent but his workload more than halved. I wondered where I had heard that before. Obviously, I read it in a column by the eminent and unbiased columnist—

Ms D'Ath interjected.

Ms TRAD: Yes, the member for Redcliffe knows exactly who I am talking about. It is the columnist Des Houghton. He had reported on this issue, stating that a doctor—

... who wrote to Health Minister Lawrence Springborg in support of doctor contracts said he worked for Queensland Health for 14 years and saw his pay jump by 300 per cent—while his workload halved.

Des Houghton got the exclusive on this letter before the Queensland parliament did. I wonder how he got it. It got me thinking about another doctor who gave Des Houghton an exclusive. I wondered whether this doctor was that doctor and maybe this doctor is not a medical doctor.

I do not think the health minister is following. I will join the dots. Once there was a doctor who gave Des Houghton an exclusive about government policy, just like this doctor gave Des Houghton an exclusive about government policy. I am wondering whether the two doctors are one and the same, because of course the letter that the health minister tabled does not have a name on it. This doctor's income increased by 300 per cent, but his workload more than halved. Every other letter from every other doctor that I have received—and I count 136 in my office so far—talks about huge work hours, understaffing, huge amounts of work that they have to do and their commitment to the public health system.

Mr Sorensen: And what were they like under yours?

Ms TRAD: I am not even going to take that inane interjection from the member for Hervey Bay. I do not know what language he was speaking.

Ms Palaszczuk: The tin man because he has no heart.


Ms TRAD: I will take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. I do not know what the tin man was talking about.

Every doctor who has contacted my office has been prepared to put their name, their position, their qualifications, the time they have worked in the public health system on the record to me, the member for Inala, the honourable Leader of the Opposition, and every other person on this side of the House because we have been prepared to listen to their concerns. It is not like this letter from a purported doctor who is making some outrageous suggestions. I would suggest that that doctor should come forward and be prepared to put his name to the claim.

Mr Springborg interjected.

Ms TRAD: Just the way you are bullying people. Let me end with this. The Premier is talking about this being all about patients. I had a father call my office this morning distressed because his daughter requires specialist attention from a doctor who has signed a resignation letter and lodged it with the union. Why? Because they are unprepared to work for a government that is prepared to squash them like this government is. He called the LNP member for Chatsworth's office and what did he do? Nothing. If it is about patients, start acting like it is.

(Time expired)

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (12.21 pm): I rise to speak to the motion moved by the Minister for Health. I consider this a very big issue—probably one of the biggest issues we have faced since 'Dr Death' and the Health payroll crisis. I table an article that appeared in the *Tablelander* two weeks ago.

Tabled paper: Article from *Tablelander*, dated 11 March 2014, titled 'Hospital set for meltdown' [[4710](#)].

This article appeared at the time when Campbell Newman said that there was not an issue and doctors were happy. The article titled 'Hospital set for meltdown—Resignations on the card' reads—

ATHERTON Hospital's services will be severely impacted if the State Government fails to change contracts proposed for senior medical officers (SMOs).

SMOs are hired under the Medical Officers Certified Agreement, but the state government has introduced a new contract which has local doctors reeling.

Atherton Hospital rural generalist Anthony Bloch said the contracts allowed 'for unprecedented unilateral power without the ability to challenge it'.

Queensland Premier Campbell Newman said in State Parliament last week that doctors would be better off under the new contracts.

'The contracts give them the same amount of money and allow them to get on and practise what they love,' he said.

'There are some great benefits to these new contracts.'

Dr Bloch, who has advanced credentials in anaesthetic and emergency, is set to resign when the new contracts come into effect, along with at least one other SMO at Atherton Hospital.

This is just the Atherton Hospital. It continues—

'This hospital is run on five senior doctors, two who share one full-time role ...

'I'm resigning. I'm 25 per cent of the SMO work force. You can't run a health service without senior doctors.'

Registrar Ben Gerhardy said he would be forced to leave and find work outside of Atherton where senior doctors could sign off his training.

'If the contract goes ahead I will no longer have supervisors here, so I will have to move interstate to have my training accredited,' he said.

Without intervention, Dr Bloch said Atherton Hospital's workforce would dramatically decline and the facility would be unable to admit patients.

'We'd be an emergency department only with no inpatient beds, no maternity, no chemotherapy, no surgery, nothing,' he said.

'Every patient who needed admission would be transferred down to Cairns.

'We'd admit anything from five, sometimes 10 patients in a 24-hour period. There are only four or five ambulances on the Tableland. How do you transport patients down to Cairns?'

I think this is a very important issue not just in terms of its impact on major hospitals but on rural and regional hospitals. We have been seeing rural decline. We are seeing the downsizing of our local hospitals. The effect of the exiting of senior medical officers will be worse.


The LNP is reading the Auditor-General's report and listening to the Auditor-General but not talking to the doctors. The SMOs are in the field dealing with issues day in and day out. They are professionals. They were out there campaigning by the thousands when Campbell Newman said that he had spoken to the SMOs and they were quite happy. They are now campaigning by the thousands and gaining momentum. The government did not ask the doctors if they would like to be forced onto contracts. They did not ask me or other Queenslanders. They are professionals who can get a job anywhere.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Members, there is too much noise and chatter in the chamber. Could members keep their conversations down, please. I call the member for Dalrymple.

Mr KNUTH: The hundreds of emails coming to me from senior medical officers are saying that they have never seen as arrogant a government as this in the state's history or their lifetime. The government has moved the cameras out of the parliament so the public cannot see the government's dictatorial arrogance. We are starting to see, as a result of the forced implementation of contracts and smashing of public servants, that arrogance filtering out into the electorates of Queensland. As Campbell Newman walked to the booths for the by-election he could not believe the anger out there.

Those opposite can laugh, mock, ridicule and say that we need to get out of our subterranean existence. The broken-down, squawking parrot over here is having trouble speaking at this time. It is great that he is silent. The reality is what Queenslanders are feeling at present.

The best thing for the government to do is to put the cameras back in the chamber and go out and talk to the SMOs and listen to them. They are professionals. All they are asking to do is to do what they know best—that is, look after patients at our hospitals throughout Queensland.

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (12.27 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the motion. My contribution will only be very short. I acknowledge the Auditor-General's report into public-private practice. The Auditor-General definitely highlighted the need for reform and the need for transparency. That is certainly what the community wants. They want to know that they are getting value for money.

I do not believe my community is a simple community. They are a mature, understanding community. They want to know that the doctors will be at their hospital when they need them and that the nurses will be at their hospital when they need them. In a practical sense, they go up to the hospital if it is an emergency. They understand if someone has something of greater importance that they have to wait. Fundamentally, they want to know that doctors are there and nurses are there.

This whole process is concerning because, from my perspective, it is quite unprecedented. In my 18 or 19 years in this place, I have not seen the reaction that the doctors have had. We can debate the events of the meeting at South Bank. Some say it was stacked with union delegates, and maybe there were union delegates there. We can say that there were only disaffected doctors there. People can say whatever they like. The fact is that there was a room of people, many of whom are practising, active public hospital doctors, who feel vulnerable, threatened and undervalued by this current process.


I would have to say that my dealings with the health minister have been honourable. He has been a very trustworthy man to deal with. That is my experience, and experience is a very strong influence. But I am concerned that the doctors feel the way they do. People in that sort of circumstance who see the worst in our community, see people at their lowest, tell the worst news to families must feel valued.

I am not naive. I know the sort of argy-bargy that happens in enterprise bargaining and in wage negotiations. There are always ambit claims and then there is the realistic consultation that occurs at the back of that. My concern with this is that the community is seeing yet again a side to the government that they cannot understand and cannot appreciate, that they do not understand and do not appreciate. I have great regard for Dr Davis, who, we have all acknowledged, is going through a very tragic time. It speaks volumes to me that, in the midst of this tragedy that he and his family are facing, he took time to go to the meeting last night. That speaks volumes to me about his views on the issue and his wish to be interventionist and positive in that intervention.

Whilst I will support the Auditor-General's report, I will also be accepting the amendment because I believe that the doctors in our state do feel undervalued. Irrespective of how much of it is union hype, there is a large cohort of doctors out there who are frustrated. They have been let down. Let us be honest: this is the straw that broke the camel's back. They have been through the health debacle of Labor and, I think in part, some of the venom in this process is a leftover of the frustration of that experience where the unions in that experience did not agitate—they did not become militant; in fact, they were almost nonexistent in their activity. I think, in part, this incident has given voice to some of the frustrations that had been building up over that time. I think the current health minister is copping the brunt of that as well.

Having said that, it is critically important that a proper solution be found—one that is acceptable to both sides, that demonstrates transparency and accountability but also that underscores and recognises the incredible contribution that SMOs and other doctors in our health service make. On that basis, I commend all of the doctors. I commend the health minister for his participation. But I look forward to a solution that values our health professionals—that values our doctors, our nurses and our administration staff in Health—because without them a great many people in our state will be left vulnerable and without support.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Minister for Health, before I give you the call, could you clarify as you begin if you are speaking to the amendment or as the mover of the original motion?

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (12.32 pm): I will be speaking to the amendment and, depending on what happens there, I do not have any intention on speaking beyond that. Is that sufficient clarification?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please proceed.

Mr SPRINGBORG: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, you have all had a good go. The Minister for Health has the call.

Mr SPRINGBORG: Wow! From the mob opposite who left us with a legacy of health wreckage, who said absolutely nothing when Paul Lucas was leaving human misery out there on the street, when we were sitting over there and we had nurses crying on the phone in the opposition office as they were seeking to get what were emergency payments and they were being told by the Labor Party government of the day to go to Red Cross and the Salvation Army and St Vincent's.

Mr Cripps: Absolved Gordon Nuttall.

Mr SPRINGBORG: They absolved Gordon Nuttall. We came in here today and moved a pretty simple motion, which is around supporting the Auditor-General in Queensland. The political brinksmanship has been elevated by those opposite as a part of that particular debate, because our contribution has been very much around what the Auditor-General did and found.

Do members know that there were brave people—there were probably many brave people—who actually went to honourable members opposite when they were sitting over here saying that this issue needed to be addressed? The issue of private practice arrangements—their loose management and the way that people were taking advantage of them—was not something that was just made available to me. I know for a fact that it was actually told to honourable members opposite, because

my director-general of the day said that no-one has been prepared to ever address this issue because of the consequences of it, because of the fact that people would threaten to resign, because of the fact that it opens a Pandora's box and all those sorts of things.

The honourable member for Bundamba should actually hang her head in shame, because in 2006 she was very asleep as the assistant minister to Gorton Nuttall or to Stephen Robertson at a time when this expanded private practice arrangement came into place. Information was made available to her government of the day and to the health minister that this was going to cost about \$125 million a year in its first year of operation, and they did absolutely nothing. Yet they dare come in here and criticise the Newman LNP government for taking immediate action and addressing what the Auditor-General said is a major problem where Queensland public patients in public hospitals have been treated at a disadvantage to private patients being treated in public hospitals by exactly the same doctor.

This is from a Labor Party that is supposed to stand up for egalitarianism. This is from a Labor Party that is supposed to rally against those sorts of things. This is from a Labor Party that is supposed to ensure that the public health system works in the best interests of those people in need, and it could not. Those opposite put in place a system which actually saw, in paraphrasing the Auditor-General's report, some additional \$800 million being spent on this over 10 years with no discernible additional benefit to public patients or to Queenslanders. Why is it so that the previous government put in place an arrangement which was supposed to be cost neutral, which was supposed to ensure that sufficient money was to be raised to offset that \$800 million, and they had no intention to do it and public patients missed out as a consequence?

No-one is being forced to sign these contracts. If doctors choose not to sign the contracts by 30 April then they will simply stay on the existing arrangement until 30 June 2015 at which time—

Mrs Miller: No, no.

Mr SPRINGBORG: No, they will stay on the existing arrangement until 30 June 2015, which is the expiry of the existing MOC arrangement, and after that it will have to go to contract because legislation passed through this parliament has indicated so. It is also true that if they do not sign then they will not be eligible for the private practice equivalent payment. That is for all of the reasons that have been outlined here. So if you want to be able to achieve something and be paid a private practice arrangement or equivalent, then you need to sign a contract, because then we can guarantee what is transparency and accountability as a part of this particular process.

I was not invited to last night's meeting and, if I had been, I would not have gone, and I will tell members exactly why: because it was never designed to resolve any issues. We watched the webinar and the people who tried to raise questions were told, 'No. We'll talk about that offline,' because it was carefully choreographed to make sure that the human tragedies, the human stories of people who did not like it, were actually going to be portrayed to the max. Indeed, if it were about getting the other side out then we would have had the director-general there. He rang up and requested to go to the meeting to explain what had been done to curtail his powers and, as he had been part of those three days of discussions, to explain exactly what had been done.

As he arrived, an ASMOF thug from New South Wales stood in his road and said, 'You can't go in there.' He said, 'I have been invited here by Professor Fraser.' He said, 'You can't go in there. If you go in there, we cannot guarantee your safety.' This ASMOF thug put a hand on his shoulder to try to stop him going in there. It was not until a doctor intervened to find out what was going on that he got in. He said, 'You have been invited and you will be there.' He was treated with respect by the doctors but he was treated with an abundance of disrespect by an interstate ASMOF thug.

The honourable member for Bundamba earlier mentioned a Dr Tan from the Gold Coast. I stand to be corrected on this—and I am always happy to correct the record—but my understanding is that Dr Tan wants to reduce his arrangements from a permanent SMO to a VMO arrangement on the Gold Coast, and he has been told by management that that does not suit. They want a permanent senior medical officer in that position. So there are often other reasons behind resignations. I just ask people to be careful in the way they portray these things. If that is not the case, then I am happy to correct to record.

There are also some interesting stories under the handful of other resignations that have been lodged to date—not the ones which are going into ASMOFQ, like the pilot strike back in the 1980s, where they are going to give the resignation document to ASMOFQ so they can drip-feed it out there when it suits them. If they choose to do that, it is a matter for them. We will make sure that, despite the threats, no patients in Queensland are disadvantaged because of the three-month notice period.

The honourable member for Bundamba stood in the chamber and asked why this issue has not been resolved. We are resolving this issue. We have brought the Auditor-General in and we are adopting his recommendations. Regardless of what happens with the contracts, we are adopting those recommendations. Why is it that the honourable member for Bundamba was unable to resolve these issues as the assistant health minister? Why is it that the honourable member for Bundamba, despite the fact that the government has known since at least 2008 of the failure of this system, for the subsequent four years did absolutely nothing? They cannot have it both ways.

If you want to see public hospitals in crisis, go back two years. No-one is talking about patient care being the basic underlying issue of concern anymore. No-one is talking about ambulance bypass. No-one is talking about ambulance ramping. There is less discussion around hospital waiting lists. There are still some challenges with regard to non-urgent outpatient waiting lists, despite the fact that we are doing a lot to put more outpatients through our system. We have also virtually reduced the long-wait dental waiting list in Queensland, and we are doing more and more each day.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPRINGBORG: We hear interjections from the honourable members opposite. They would love to know the names of people because of the bullyboy thuggery that goes on. I have spoken to some doctors who have signed contracts, and I can tell the House of the appalling conduct of some of their colleagues who contacted them—conduct that you would not see from the worst of wharfies. The threats against them have been extraordinary. I have spoken to professional body representatives who have said exactly the same thing. It is quite outrageous. We heard the attack from the honourable member for Bundamba on Christian Rowan. Everyone knows Christian Rowan has been a member of the LNP. I am not aware whether he is a current member. He may or may not be. What about Dan O’Gorman, who provided the legal advice to the AMA? He is a current member of the Australian Labor Party.

A government member: A Labor lawyer.

Mr SPRINGBORG: A Labor lawyer. What about him? He certainly was on the Labor Party membership list of 2009. But that is all okay. Let us go out and attack anyone who is on the other side because it is the bullyboy, thuggish standover tactics that we expect from the Labor Party again and again.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members will cease the crossfire across the chamber. The minister has the call.

Mr SPRINGBORG: Earlier the honourable member for Bundamba asked, ‘How did it get to this?’ Well, how did it get to ambulance bypass? How did it get to ambulance ramping? How did it get to people dying while waiting 2½ years for a colonoscopy when it should have taken much less than that? How did it get to a situation where under her watch the entire emergency department at Caboolture Hospital was closed down? What was their response? To bring in Aspen Medical, a private contractor, to fix it. How did it get to that, we would ask the honourable member for Bundamba? How did it get to a situation where a patient turned up to be treated at the Caboolture Hospital to be told they could not be treated there and needed to go to Redcliffe? Then there was an accident as that person was attempting to drive to Redcliffe in the hospital car park. The person was killed, another person was injured and they could not treat them at the Caboolture ED. They had to medivac them by helicopter from the Caboolture ED to Redcliffe. How did it get to that under the watch of the assistant minister and honourable member for Bundamba?

We heard from the honourable Leader of the Opposition a far less energetic and passionate contribution than we heard from the person standing loyally behind her and who is now counting the numbers. ‘Grumpy’ Trad it certainly was today—very, very grumpy—but with great anticipation she asked about fatigue. What did the Auditor-General say about fatigue? Under their system one doctor in one hospital and health service worked 180 days straight for more than 16 hours a day. We are trying to fix that system because rostering has been appalling.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SPRINGBORG: No, the Auditor-General found that this problem has been around for years under the current fatigue system. What we are doing is changing it to have better rostering and more flexibility in the system. As the Auditor-General also pointed out, look at the way that overtime goes up on Friday because of the four 10-hour rosters. Patient demand is still as much on Friday, but

overtime goes through the roof because rostering does not meet patient expectations. The fatigue issue has been an issue under the existing system that is carried forward. The example of the doctor who worked 16 hours a day for 180 days straight goes back to their time in government.

When was the last time that doctors contemplated mass resignations? It was 2006 when the honourable member for Bundamba was the assistant minister. They had suitcases full of them. What happened at that time? The government refused to ensure they got a proper deal for taxpayers and they buckled at the time. If you want to do the same sort of thing, you can do it but this is not the first time it has been done in Australia. It has been done in Queensland and South Australia. All I have ever said is the Auditor-General has reported on some serious issues. Those issues need to be given some cognisance. Those issues need to be investigated, and anyone found to be in the wrong should be held to account.

As was said, the Auditor-General decided to look at a high-risk cohort of some 88 people. They found eight people who had a right of private practice were not rebating an amount they were supposed to and were working outside the rules. Another four doctors who had no right of private practice were billing, and there was a range of other issues with regard to overtime which was questionable. He indicated that he only had time to look at the high-risk cohort. We know that it is a minority of people. It is a significant minority of people in what has been looked at, but unfortunately because of their actions they besmirch others. It was not me who said they should go to jail. It was not me who said that this system was designed to rip off Medicare. It was not me. Who was it? It was Alex Scott, a current or former member of the Labor Party and general secretary of the doctors union. He went on radio and said these 88 people should not go before a jury but should go to jail. There are not 88 people; there are fewer than that. He is saying these people should be prejudged. Our only issue is to get to the bottom of this.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPRINGBORG: These matters are before the CMC and other investigative bodies. They would love to get people out there so they can pursue them, bully them, harass them or whatever the case may be. That is not a matter that I will be involved in. It is a matter for the Auditor-General to refer to the appropriate authorities.

What a cracker of a speech from the honourable member for Gaven! The honourable member for Gaven variously wants to be the Premier or the Labor Party health minister depending on whom you listen to—probably the Labor Party health minister. These contracts are lifetime contracts. These are not contracts that you have for three years and then reapply for in three years. These are lifetime contracts.

These lifetime contracts exist in perpetuity. They need to be updated from time to time, and that is something that has to happen with lifetime contracts. Who else has lifetime contracts? I am not aware of anyone else who actually has lifetime contracts. And I have a review process too, honourable member for South Brisbane. It is the same as the honourable member is going to review the performance of the member for Inala in the not-too-distant future.

The honourable member for Gaven said, 'It's only a few so don't worry about it.' That is an appalling attitude. We only had one fake Tahitian prince, one person out of 80,000 who exposed extraordinary systemic failures in the grant system in Queensland. When I asked for a list, they said, 'No minister has asked for this for more than 10 years.' Let us talk about the people who are driving doctors out of the Gold Coast Hospital. Dr Butcher was maligned in this place in the last parliamentary sitting by the honourable member for Gaven. The member for Gaven has created absolute outrage amongst the clinical cohort down there, and I understand they have now got the board chair to write to the Speaker to say this was appalling treatment. This is another doctor who the member is trying to frame into actually saying that he has resigned to go to Victoria because of the conduct of the board or the CE. The doctor said, 'No, that's not right. I'm going because that's where my family is and I want to expand my opportunities.' So the member for Gaven is driving more doctors out of the Gold Coast Hospital than anyone else.

The negotiations were never, ever serious. We have addressed all of the issues, including what the honourable member for South Brisbane tried to say before. We do have a binding process around dispute resolution in relation to unfair dismissal; it is actually there. I will give the House a little bit of an insight—

Ms Trad: That can be changed by your DG at any time.

Mr SPRINGBORG: No, it cannot be.

Ms Trad interjected.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members will cease interjecting. The member for South Brisbane will cease interjecting.

Mr SPRINGBORG: For 13 years under the honourable members opposite, the Public Service Commissioner could actually change unilaterally the employment arrangement. It is an existing power.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I warn the member for South Brisbane under 253A for constant interjecting when you have been called to order. I call the minister.

Mr SPRINGBORG: That has all been addressed transitionally through a ministerial directive and by legislation which will expunge what existed under those opposite for 13 years, where the Public Service Commissioner could unilaterally change an employment condition.

I want to conclude by commenting on what the honourable member for Gladstone said, and she made some very good points. Can I say that trust and honour go both ways. I sat in those discussions with doctors' unions and leaders on Monday and I offered them an addendum to round up all of these issues in this agreed solution. Do members know what one of those senior doctors' unions said? 'This is good. We should get it out in time for the doctors meeting on Wednesday.' We said, 'Let's form a working group,' and they went, 'No. No.' That is what happened and that really showed me that trust is a two-way thing. They said, 'No, we don't want to do that.'

We said that we would translate that into the addendum and we would get it out for their consideration, and we asked them to come back to us by Wednesday. We did that on Tuesday—word for word, the agreed solutions. We were chasing them up on Wednesday morning and the lawyer said, 'We've been instructed to make no comment.' We know exactly what that was—it was because they did not want to put that to the doctors meeting last night. They did not want that because it would have derailed it and because it was all pre-arranged—all of the emotion, all of those sorts of things. They did not want that to destroy it. They have to be fair dinkum all the way around. There were a large number of doctors there, and I believe a lot of their emotion was genuine but a lot of their emotion was very stirred up by misinformation and by the way they have been treated in the most unconscionable way by those people who are supposed to negotiate in good faith on their behalf.

(Time expired)

Division: Question put—That the member for Bundamba's amendment be agreed to.

AYES, 15:

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

KAP, 3—Hopper, Katter, Knuth.

PUP, 2—Douglas, Judge.

INDEPENDENTS, 2—Cunningham, Wellington.

NOES, 66:

LNP, 66—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, Gullely, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Johnson, Kaye, Kempton, King, Krause, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Pucci, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Symes, Trout, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young.

Resolved in the negative.

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (12.59 pm): I move—

That the Minister's motion be now put.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question now is that the minister's motion be agreed to.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS


Gold Coast, Rail Infrastructure

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.30 pm): I am pleased to report to the House that I was involved in local government way back in 1992 when the heavy rail to the Gold Coast was proposed, ending at Coolangatta airport. We also looked at its connectivity to the coast at Southport, which was also heavily canvassed. However, that was completely dismissed because of the enormous cost of alignment to Southport, land acquisitions et cetera. So the Labor government at the time moved on with the heavy rail with the destination of Coolangatta. As we have seen over that period Coolangatta has become an impossible target. Unfortunately, heavy rail has only reached as far as Varsity Lakes, and it is wonderful to get the heavy rail there. However, going further than that is proving to be very difficult.

I was also involved in local government when the light rail was proposed to run from Parklands all the way to Coolangatta, again by the Labor government, with the first stage finishing at Broadbeach. Currently, we have light rail from a very limited place to another very limited place. Again, the cost of acquisitions needed to take the light rail all the way down the highway to Coolangatta is going to be very prohibitive. Today, as I rise in the House, I am suggesting a future planning process for something that I have always believed in, which is a connection between the heavy rail and the light rail, connecting the Nerang train station to the Broadbeach light rail station. That would provide an opportunity for people travelling on the heavy rail to Nerang, in other words from Brisbane, to travel right down to the Gold Coast, to Broadbeach, which is a fairly major centre. We have Pacific Fair going ahead with a major \$600 million extension as well as Jupiters Casino. It would also go past Metricon Stadium, which would be ideal for transport. The Commonwealth Games is just around the corner in 2018, and that connection would pick up Metricon Stadium, bringing people from the coastal region to Metricon Stadium as well as connecting with the heavy rail. That is a workable, financially feasible proposal because most of that route is over flood plains, which are not built on and could be easily covered by a raised rail line.

I ask the Gold Coast City Council planners, in conjunction with my state government minister, to put in place an affordable, achievable connection between the heavy rail and the light rail for the years ahead and look to the Nerang-Broadbeach solution to that problem. It would overcome a lot of the difficulties currently being encountered by further northern extensions. It would be a wonderful thing for the Gold Coast, a wonderful thing for the Queensland government and a wonderful thing for the Broadbeach area.

Harmony Day; International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; National Close the Gap Day

 **Hon. GW ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier) (2.33 pm): Tomorrow marks three important days for my portfolio: Harmony Day, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and National Close the Gap Day. Harmony Day celebrates the diversity and cultures that make Queensland such a great place to live. It is a national day of celebration for anyone who calls Australia home. It is a day to embrace the richness and diversity of all cultures.

People who call Queensland home include traditional owners of the land and also those who have journeyed from near or far to build their lives and futures in our great state. The message of Harmony Day is everybody belongs, and the Queensland government is recognising that as an important part of strengthening our cultural diversity. A key target of the Queensland Plan is to ensure that everyone who makes Queensland their home has employment opportunities and is welcomed into the community.


Harmony Day concludes with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination around the globe. I was proud to join staff from my department to sign up to the 'Racism. It Stops With Me.' campaign. This week it was a simple yet powerful way to show that there is no place in our community for racial intolerance and to highlight our cultural respect for one another. Events are happening right across the state for Harmony Day, and I encourage all Queenslanders to take part in an event or to create their own to celebrate our wonderful cultural diversity and embrace contemporary multicultural Australia.

The other significant part for my portfolio is overcoming historic disadvantage which has been suffered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Many initiatives are underway across different levels of government and others are provided by the non-government sector under the

umbrella of Closing the Gap. While some progress has been made in areas like housing, health and education, we can do more; we must do more. Closing the Gap Day is an opportunity for all Australians to reflect upon the plight of our first Australians.

The area I am focusing on is Closing the Gap on employment levels between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Queenslanders. Unemployment rates for Indigenous people are more than three times the mainstream rate. The best way to address historic disadvantage is through economic development, resulting in more cohesive communities where people have jobs and economic opportunity. Through the Queensland Plan, the cultural diversity policy and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic participation framework, the Queensland government is implementing initiatives to help all Queenslanders reach their potential and to participate fully in our community where they do belong.

Parer , Hon. W, AM

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.36 pm): I rise in this chamber to pay tribute to the late Hon. Warwick Parer AM, who was a distinguished Liberal Queensland senator from 1984 to 2000. As well as being an outstanding Queensland senator, Mr Parer was involved heavily in the resources and energy sector stemming from his years as a successful businessman in the industry and also a former Howard government minister for resources and energy from 1996 to 1998.


Experienced from his years as a distinguished businessman in the mining industry prior to embarking on a career in politics, Mr Parer brought real life experience and skills to the federal parliament. He will be remembered for, during his time as minister, removing restrictions that shaped the pathway for industry expansion and jobs growth. Years of public service were deservedly honoured on 26 January 2005 when he was appointed a member of the Order of Australia. This honour was to recognise not only his service to the Australian parliament but also his contributions made to the mining industry through policy development, broadening of export opportunities, education and market reform in the energy sector.

More recently, Mr Parer was chairman of Stanwell Corporation Ltd, as well as chairing the board of the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Foundation, amongst others. Mr Parer was a committed and active member of the Liberal Party and the Liberal National Party after its inception. Serving as president of the Liberal Party of Queensland from 2006 to 2008, Mr Parer was a staunch supporter of the Young Liberal movement, even being bestowed with life membership in the movement to show appreciation for his keen interest in youth politics. As a former Queensland Young Liberal president myself, I saw firsthand the interest Mr Parer took in nurturing the next generation of political leaders. His passion was infectious for the Liberal Party. Therefore, it was no surprise that his son Justin Parer became a Queensland Young Liberal president in the early nineties.

Since my time in the party organisation, beginning in the late 1980s, I can remember both Warwick and his wife, Kathi, getting involved at a grassroots level, whether by handing out how-to-vote cards or doorknocking with various candidates and MPs over many years. For many years they were both active members of the local Creek Road branch in my electorate of Chatsworth. Warwick provided me with support and mentoring since my election in 2012, even more recently attending an energy forum I hosted last November. At this forum I saw firsthand that Mr Parer was still as keenly committed to the energy and resource sector as ever, contributing to the robust conversation on the evening. His knowledge, indeed, in this public policy area was simply unsurpassed.

The Parer family should be justifiably proud of Mr Parer's achievements and be rest assured that this parliament and, more importantly, Queenslanders across this great state will not forget the incredible contribution and legacy he leaves behind. It was a privilege to have known the Hon. Warwick Parer AM.

Woodridge Electorate, Social Housing

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (2.39 pm): When the word 'discretionary' is replaced by 'mandatory' in the public housing context, tragic results are seen and indeed experienced by very vulnerable people. In my office we see the results of this on a weekly basis. Our once very responsive housing office now responds with, 'Sorry, our hands are tied.'

Madam Deputy Speaker, this government needs to understand that people living on the edge with few coping skills often do not make wise decisions, and with a government such as the LNP in power there is no mercy shown. Out the door you go, even if you have five small children. Case in point this week: Donna and her five children, aged 11 to one year old, is a victim of domestic violence with a partner who is now in jail. She did not follow advice to have deductions made through her

Centrelink payments. However, when she fell behind in her rent she did start paying an additional amount and, when she owed \$900, made a payment of \$500. She was taken to QCAT in February and, although her father had offered to help pay the debt, it was to no avail. Due to her husband not paying rent previously, she found herself on the tenancy history database, TICA, and couch-surfed for 12 months before getting her public housing home. Her husband found out where she was living and caused huge problems, including inflicting severe damage to the home. She admits she paid bills instead of the rent and was in the wrong.


This is the image of a family I would expect a government to place in the hands of a support agency. But no, they chose to evict this family, and they join the many families and individuals who my office will house and support. This government is adding significantly to homelessness.

Paul, another victim, has nine months to live. He is on oxygen and has other disabilities. He, his wife and two sons were sharing accommodation with an older son who, unbeknownst to them, was not paying his share of the rent. They had to leave the property, and when they went to the department for housing they were informed that they were ineligible because they had been suitably housed. Their application was torn up in their presence and tossed in the bin. They were referred to RentConnect, but Paul needs housing modifications and they no longer have a positive reference.

This is just a day in the life of my staff. There are constant calls for help. Yes, we have agents who help us, but some of those homes are substandard and require maintenance. Try to have those pressing issues of repairs done, and it often falls on deaf ears. Of course RTA is totally unavailable to assist in these issues. I can tell the minister if he comes to our office in Woodridge that there are countless people and families who require many services—

(Time expired)

Morcombe Family, Criminal Justice System

 **Mr DAVIES** (Capalaba—LNP) (2.42 pm): I rise today to give a few bouquets and a couple of brickbats: firstly, a bouquet to Bruce and Denise Morcombe. I do not know how they do what they do. Turning a nightmare situation into something positive, an amazing foundation that is an ongoing benefit to all of our children, is a gift. Again I say that I do not know how they do what they do.

The second bouquet is to the Queensland and Western Australia police. I do not know how they do what they do. The mere thought of going undercover and befriending a bloke like Cowan makes my skin crawl. But they got their man, and I am in awe of them. I do not know how they do what they do.

A bit of a brickbat goes to the Australian justice system and to those who in the past have seen fit to give lenient sentences—in fact, head-shakingly insufficient—to those who would hurt those who are most important to us. I surely do not know how they do what they do. Only 14 months behind bars for the rape of a seven-year-old boy and 3½ years for the rape of a six-year-old boy? Really! Those who give these sentences and review parole need to have a good hard look at themselves.


The Tahitian prince quite rightly received a sentence of 14 years for his crime, and he is a white-collar crim. In comparison, how can someone sentenced for the vicious rape of a child not receive something closer to life imprisonment? A little six-year-old lad in the Northern Territory was assaulted so badly that it was originally thought he was in a car accident and he was given little chance of surviving. Cowan received a sentence of seven years imprisonment but served only 3½ years. I am gobsmacked! It defies comprehension.

In speaking with a number of police in regard to sentences being meted out to two paedophiles in Australia, they were extremely frustrated that in many international operations a person arrested for serious crimes in the USA often gets 20 to 40 years, while in Australia a paedophile who is part of the very same bust with similar or even worse crimes often will receive very minor custodial sentences—if at all. It is time to have a victim—not perpetrator—focused justice system.

I take some heart in recent comments by the current Leader of the Opposition saying that Labor is open to changes in toughening up the law, but I am very dubious given their recent history. I commend the Premier and the Attorney-General on the Bravehearts inspired two-strike legislation and their tough attempt to keep serial child rapist Robert Fardon away from our children and making Queensland the safest place to raise a child. I also take great encouragement from the fact that the Attorney-General is appealing Cowan's far too lenient sentence of 20 years. According to this morning's paper, a judge actually let a one-puncher off! I think we need to have stronger laws. I commend the Attorney-General and the Premier on the great work they are doing to make Queensland the safest place to raise children—

(Time expired)

Lockyer Valley Regional Council

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.45 pm): I rise to highlight some of the issues of concern locally in the Lockyer Valley Regional Council area. I will table some documents that highlight the concerns that the Queensland Audit Office has with the Lockyer Valley Regional Council. What is of real concern is the fact that the Lockyer Valley Regional Council is receiving more damning reports on a yearly basis from the Queensland Audit Office. The report in 2012-13 highlights issues from 2010-11. This also called into doubt the 2011-12 figures. This is a qualified audit. I will also table page 90 of report No. 10 for 2012-13, where the council's relative risk assessment is low. I table a similar document to the previous 2012-13 relative risk assessment, report No. 14 for 2013-14.

This highlights that the Lockyer Valley Regional Council now has a moderate relative risk assessment. Unfortunately, the Lockyer Valley council is heading in the wrong direction. As highlighted in the table on page 49 of Queensland Audit Office report No. 14, the Lockyer Valley Regional Council has incomplete or undocumented plans for business and disaster recovery. I am astounded at that. On page 66 of report No. 14 the Lockyer Valley Regional Council is also mentioned as having an inadequate asset management plan. I will also table a comparison of the Lockyer Valley Regional Council rates from 2009 to 2014.


Tabled paper: Bundle of documents relating to Lockyer Regional Council [\[4711\]](#).

At an increase of 88.37 per cent, that is about 19.5 per cent a year, which is six times the rate of inflation. The council has had to deal with disasters, but I think they should start to manage their accounts to fit their budget. I am advised that the mayor has about five staff. I know Jamie Simmonds has a consultancy of about \$200,000 a year. Then I think there are a permanent cameraman and several others who apparently spend a lot of time cleaning up the mayor's chaos. I do know that a council has so many people who are not required attending events with the mayor. Of real concern to me is the fact that the current council has a negative operating surplus of seven per cent. It has a low asset sustainability ratio, yet rates have gone up 88 per cent in the last 4½ years. You cannot blame the other levels of government.

This appears to be a council that is overspending, underdelivering, and trying to be everything to everybody. The council has to start concentrating more on its core task and stop trying to take on state and federal government issues. Does the council need to have regular overseas trips that are not warranted, when information to improve the council is available in Australia? I encourage the council to be the best council in Queensland and Australia. They can start to examine some of the world's best councils when they have their own house in order. After attending a special meeting of the council recently and realising the council was struggling with the use of appropriate meeting procedures and using civil and reasonable language when in discussion—

(Time expired)

Central Queensland University

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.48 pm): I want to continue to highlight the Central Queensland University as a longstanding and well-respected institution delivering remarkable change to the communities which it serves—my own community being one of them. CQ University is the only higher education provider in a 1,000-kilometre stretch between the Sunshine Coast and all the way to Townsville, which represents about half a million hardworking aspirational Queenslanders. The university's commitment to its communities in this diverse region sees it run a dispersed, multicampus university model which prides itself on its engagement with local industries and the community's power of place.


The challenges the university faces under this model, which would not be found in a large metropolitan area, do not deter it from offering personalised student support and quality higher education that is far superior to any city campus. This is a testament to the university's guiding ethos to work with its communities and for its communities, to help transform the lives of those driving our local economies.

The university's continued investment in new courses and infrastructure to meet skills needs identified by our local communities has made a tremendous difference to critical industry needs where others have failed. In particular, recent new allied health offerings, engineering, law, accident forensics and agriculture courses will soon see local graduates entering our region and staying in our region, covering the skills gaps that our communities have cried out for for a long time. These graduates join the generations of nurses, teachers, accountants, social workers and business leaders that CQ University has been producing for our region for decades.

However, I feel that the university's greatest contributions still lie ahead. In particular, I see the upcoming merger between the university and many campuses of the CQ TAFE to be a game changer for the region. The creation of Queensland's first dual sector university was an initiative brought to CQ University by the industries of Central Queensland and is something that CQU pursued relentlessly over the last four years until finally receiving the approvals from both the state and federal governments. In July this year the merger will bring together vocational and higher education streams for the first time ever in Queensland's history, ending the institutional apartheid that has prevented generations of local kids from cherry picking the best elements of the learning spectrum required by our diverse and unique industries. Students will be better trained and ready for the existing and emerging jobs in the region.

Although this is outside the footprint of my electorate, I do get excited about the opportunities in the Wide Bay-Burnett region for the CQ University's Bundaberg campus to be the natural partner for our local TAFE campuses, working closely together to expand the educational pathways and opportunities for the local workforce. CQ University is a university of access, participation and support. No university has a higher proportion of low SES students, regional and remote students, mature-age students and Indigenous students. In my opinion, no university has done more to work with its communities to transform the lives of students on the scale that CQ University has achieved.

Nelson, Ms K


 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (2.51 pm): This afternoon I rise to pay tribute to a friend and a sister from the Labor movement, Katherine Nelson. On Friday, 14 March Kath lost her battle with leukaemia after 10 months. Kath was 43 years old. Today I wish to extend my condolences, along with those of other members of the opposition, to her family and particularly her partner, Brett, and her son, Spencer.

Kath was the elected secretary of the Services Union in Queensland, which is located in my electorate of South Brisbane. Kath was renowned for her passionate advocacy for working people and for her commitment to social justice issues. She was an accomplished industrial relations professional and she was widely respected across the industrial relations divide. Always ready with a joke or a wisecrack, Kath loved a laugh, and so she should have—she had an amazingly radiant smile and a contagious laugh. Kath was also the national vice-president of the national ASU, a member of the National Executive of the Labor Party and the Queensland Administrative Committee.

Kath was instrumental in major wins for Queensland workers, but most notable was her role in the historic social and community services pay equity case in Queensland in 2008. This case delivered a finding which confirmed that Queensland's social and community workers performed work which was undervalued because of gender and laid the essential groundwork for the federal pay equity case, which was completed in 2012. All social and community service workers owe Kath a debt of gratitude for her work on that project. I got to know Kath during my time as assistant state secretary of the Queensland branch of the Labor Party and, like many who will attend her funeral tomorrow, I will reflect on the fact that I am all the better for having known her.

To all those who participated in the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave last Friday, can I salute you; to all those who donated to this much needed fundraiser, can I thank you. Some \$12 million was raised across the nation for this very important research initiative. I want to place on the parliamentary record my very special thanks to all of the children at Junction Park State School and particularly to Joah Nelson, whom I sponsored, who took part in the World's Greatest Shave in honour of a school mate who is now fighting the disease. Junction Park State School has once again shown that it is a small school with a very huge heart.

Maryborough Electorate, Timber Industry

 **Mrs MADDERN** (Maryborough—LNP) (2.54 pm): The Maryborough electorate is very fortunate to have as one of the major components of its economic base the timber industry. Growth in the timber industry is a key target of the LNP government in growing agriculture—one of the four pillars of the economy. The Maryborough electorate has extensive plantation softwood timber, originally developed and maintained by the state government but since sold to HQPlantations. These plantations are the source material for the Hyne and Son timber mill at Tuan, one of the largest and most technologically advanced in the Southern Hemisphere.


Hyne and Son is the largest privately owned timber company in Australia, originally started by the Hyne family in Maryborough in 1882. The Tuan plant specialises in engineered, structural and decorative softwood products. As with all production of this type, there is waste product. However,

this 'waste' product has in actual fact become the source product for other manufacturing plants. A significant amount of waste timber fibre is sent to the laminex plant at Toolara to the south of the Tuan mill and within a distance which makes for the economic transfer of this raw material.

I was fortunate last week to be invited to see a second utilisation of the waste sawdust and wood shavings. Altus Renewables Ltd, a company specialising in the production and marketing of biomass based fuels for the generation of renewable electricity, has established a pellet production facility adjacent to the Tuan timber mill to utilise timber sawdust and shavings. The plant is designed to produce 125,000 metric tonnes of densified fuel pellets for both the domestic and export markets, and I understand it is the largest mill of this type in Australia. This plant is state of the art, fully computer controlled and, because of its location adjoining the Tuan mill, is able to utilise some of the infrastructure of that mill to gain maximum efficiency and production.

The end result of this production is a small pellet of compressed sawdust and timber shavings which can be bagged up and sold on the domestic market for such things as material on the floor of stables. It is an ideal material for this purpose due to its high rate of absorption of fluids and the breakdown of the product to soft sawdust and timber fibres. The product can also be shifted in bulk to a port—in this case the Port of Bundaberg—for sale overseas to fire up power stations. This is a great example of the innovation which can be utilised to increase and maximise economic returns from the agriculture industry—local plantations, local timber mill, local plants utilising the last remaining material, no waste, minimal transport costs and a win for the Maryborough community.

Morayfield Electorate, International Women's Day


 **Mr GRIMWADE** (Morayfield—LNP) (2.57 pm): Last week around Queensland and around the world we celebrated International Women's Day. International Women's Day is an opportunity to recognise the valuable contribution that women around the world, in Australia, in Queensland and in the Morayfield electorate make not only politically but socially, family wise, business wise, economically and to industry.

For the second year now the Speaker of this parliament has held an International Women's Day breakfast to recognise women around Queensland, and last year the theme was pioneering women. Last year it was a great honour of mine to get amongst other women in the community to see if together we could work out who the most pioneering woman in the Morayfield electorate was. Throughout that consultation it was decided that a lady named Jenny Butler was that pioneering woman and she attended the Speaker's International Women's Day breakfast last year. It would be hard to find anyone in the community who would argue against that selection. Jenny is associated with so many different community groups in the electorate. She is involved with Rosies, the Leukaemia Foundation, the Caboolture Special School, Caboolture Rotary, and she is on the board of many other schools and many organisations in the community in order to make our community a better place.

This year we went out looking for somebody else to represent our area, and the theme this year was women of generosity. This year I chose a lady named Rosemary Worthington. Again, it would be very difficult to find anyone more generous in our community and, for that matter, more humble in terms of what they do for our community. Rosemary is associated with Caboolture Rotary as well, she is on the committee for the Chaplaincy Fun Run, she volunteers at the Caboolture Hub learning centre, she volunteers at the Urban Country Music Festival, and she volunteers in our local radio station as well as a huge number of other organisations. Rosemary is one of those ladies whose generosity is most definitely one of her assets, and it was a privilege to have her here representing the Morayfield electorate for International Women's Day.

I will finish my speech by acknowledging Michelle Lember, who was also at the event. Michelle is another lady who does a lot for my community. Michelle is a lawyer in my local area and was at the event with the member for Murrumba. It goes without saying that Michelle also makes a very decent contribution to my local community.

Health, Wellbeing and Safe Living Day; Premier's XI

 **Mr CAVALLUCCI** (Brisbane Central—LNP) (3.00 pm): I rise to inform the House of an initiative that I am launching this Saturday morning, 22 March, in my electorate. The Health, Wellbeing and Safe Living Day at the Gasworks Plaza is a great initiative, providing inner-city dwellers with important and very relevant information for getting the best out of our busy modern-day lives. I will be hosting this event alongside many local leaders in the health and fitness industry, with a special presentation scheduled from Kidsafe Queensland.

We all know that healthy living assists in many ways, particularly with the onset of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, mental health disorders, cancer and chronic respiratory diseases. We also know the alarming statistics of child and adult obesity, which show that they are out of control. The best cure is prevention. When our bodies and minds are healthy, we feel better, we look better, we have more energy and we are able to get more out of life. Our economy benefits from a healthy and productive workforce.


Health, fitness, nutrition and safety are key elements to a great life. From 9.30 am this Saturday until lunchtime, the Health, Wellbeing and Safe Living Day at the Gasworks will feature presentations and events from several specialised groups, including Paleo Heroes, the Strong Kids performance group, Joe Pitt Fitness and Nutrition, the Invincible Woman, Kidsafe Queensland and many more. Importantly, the Health, Wellbeing and Safe Living Day promises to be one where Brisbane Central families and residents will walk away with tips on how to eat well and strategies on how to get the best out of life. I commend the many organisers and local businesses in the Gasworks precinct for their participation and support for this great initiative. I know that it will be a great day.

I would like to use my remaining time to mention and thank the honourable members of this House who comprise the Premier's XI. As captain of these fine 11 footballers and lovers of the world game, I will lead them into battle this Saturday night on to the hallowed turf of Suncorp Stadium as the curtain-raiser for the Brisbane Roar's match against the Melbourne Victory. I want to thank the Corporate XI, who paid for the opportunity to play against us: Russell Smith from the Port of Brisbane; Gwilym Davies from the Brisbane Airport Corporation; Richard Kennerley from the NAB; Jason Scott from News Queensland; John Birmingham from Fairfax; Tony Stower from Channel 7; George Drivas from the Coffee Club; Dean Merlo from Merlo Coffee; Adolfo Salvatore from Hyundai; Angelo Catalano from GA Wallace Group; Elie Moubarak from Laruche—I swear these are not all my cousins—Greg Harten from Hart Sport; and Tim Forrester from Aria Property. My mate Craig Moore, a former Socceroo and Brisbane Roar captain, is coaching the corporate team against us and is intending to throw on the boots as well to play. I say to Moorie: bring it on, buddy.

I want to thank the Brisbane Airport Corporation, in partnership with the Brisbane Roar, for the tremendous work that it has done. The \$30,000 raised by the Premier's XI match will be presented to Yalari at half-time during the main game. Yalari is an extraordinary not-for-profit organisation that offers education scholarships at Australia's leading boarding schools that are targeted specifically at our Indigenous children from rural, remote and Indigenous communities. Yalari is truly a worthy cause. I thank all who helped put this together.

(Time expired)

National Disability Insurance Scheme

 **Ms D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (3.03 pm): The National Disability Insurance Scheme is being introduced across Australia to provide individuals with a disability choice over what services they receive and from whom they receive these services. This is a proud Labor initiative, a once-in-a-generation reform that has the potential to transform the lives of Australians with a disability, their carers and their families. Somehow, the Newman government has interpreted this national social reform as, 'We need to privatise disability services in Queensland.' But the NDIS is not about privatisation; it is about choice. This interpretation and the government's action are not the result of national reforms and do not stem from social policy development. The government's privatisation of disability services is the direct result of the recommendations of the Costello audit charade. Newman's mate, Peter Costello, said that the government could make a quick dollar by privatising services that are meant to support some of the most vulnerable Queenslanders.


This mode of thinking focuses solely on cutting costs and slashing services, not on the provision of quality services by experienced and hardworking staff. Disability Services Queensland employees working in accommodation support and respite services have spent the last two years in limbo not knowing whether their positions will be terminated by this government. DSQ employees are decent, hardworking Queenslanders, of whom many have been caring for the same client for 20 years, essentially becoming part of their family. That means that they understand their client, they can read their moods, they know their triggers and they can anticipate how their client will react in certain situations. These are not things that can be learned through reading a case report; these are things that one learns through years of interacting with and caring for an individual one on one.

It is not a requirement of the NDIS that registered service providers be non-government organisations. This is yet another example of the Newman government making decisions that will have detrimental effects on people's lives without listening and without consultation. Rather than

embracing choice and providing clients and their families with real choice, this LNP government is taking away choice. Dismantling DSQ is removing a client's choice and this is the real risk with the ideological pursuit of this government in embracing the Costello recommendations. DSQ deals with the most difficult and complex cases—clients who will be at real risk of falling through the cracks under this privatisation model. These decisions are affecting people living in communities right across Queensland. Carers are scared that they are going to lose their jobs and families are scared that their loved ones will lose their carer, who they have grown to trust and depend on over a long period.

It is not good enough. It is time this government started listening to Queenslanders and stopped its ideological moves to privatise services that are being provided by hardworking men and women serving vulnerable clients.

Alcohol Management Plan


 **Mr JOHNSON** (Gregory—LNP) (3.06 pm): This afternoon, I wish to speak to the House about an issue that has been concerning me for a long while. Over the past four and a bit years the Aboriginal community of Woorabinda has been located in my electorate. Over that period I have seen it become bigger and better. The provision of new housing and some of the initiatives of the people of Woorabinda have certainly taken that place forward.

The issue that I want to address this afternoon is, I think, one of the greatest divides between black and white in this state and possibly in this nation and it is the alcohol management plan. Although our communities in Queensland are dry communities, this alcohol management plan is certainly causing a lot of heartache and a lot of hurt for people of the Central Highlands region who live around Woorabinda. Many of those people at Woorabinda do not drink at all. A lot of them have never taken a drink. But there are people there of European extraction and Indigenous extraction who like to have a drink. They go to Duaranga, to Bluff or to one of the other towns nearby that have hotels. They have to sign the register to say where they are going with that alcohol or show their licence or show their identification.

I think it is time that we looked further afield at this issue of questioning people's honesty and integrity and why they have to sign that register. I think it is an embarrassment. I think it is a blight on our people. Regardless of whether you are black, white or brindle, I know Woorabinda is a dry community and if those people take alcohol back there they know what the consequences will be. We have to move forward. I know the minister and the assistant minister is in the House. We have to look closely at this issue. All it is doing is causing further division between black and white. It is creating an environment in which if you are a whitefella you are pretty right but if you are a blackfella you are not.

I believe that we have to look into this process. I know that the minister is in the throes of seeing how we go about addressing some of these anomalies in these communities. The one thing that I say here today is that I think it is draconian for people to have to sign a register to say, 'Yes, I am taking a carton of stubbies back to Emerald with me'—or back to Rocky, or wherever. People have to show their proof of address or show proof of identification. At the end of the day we have to get rid of this process and let people be honest with themselves and fair dinkum to the cause. This practice at Woorabinda will certainly be addressed and managed by the police themselves. I hope that we will see an outcome in the very near future.

Samford Eco-Corridor Project


 **Mr SHUTTLEWORTH** (Ferry Grove—LNP) (3.09 pm): I rise in the House this afternoon to speak briefly about an initiative undertaken through the Samford Progress and Protection Association titled the Samford Eco-Corridor Project. On 15 March the association held a planting day. The project is based largely on replicating the native vegetation in an upstream location near the Samford showgrounds at Highvale. The project is about educating the community about the local native plants of the Samford Valley and also restoration of biodiversity along the South Pine River.

The project has been underway for an extended period of time. It was part funded through an Everyone's Environment Grant of \$39,185 which was issued in December 2012. There was also an investment of time through the Parliamentary Internship Program where a group of undergraduates from QUT who are studying a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Development assisted the project team to look at ways in which they can better review their public engagement with the local community.

The planting day which was undertaken last Saturday was a great success. There was an expectation that there would be about 60 volunteers. On the day 166 people showed up which meant that the planting of approximately 1,900 plants on the day was undertaken within a much shorter time frame. The plants that were put into the ground on the day were largely lomandras. Over 500 lomandras were planted. Among the plants that were planted were banana bush, native holly, diamond laurels, pitted leaf steelwood, crown of gold, odour bush and Brisbane wattles. There were several other species as well.

In essence, this program is a great example of an initiative undertaken by this can-do government that will provide a great legacy for future generations. Unlike the legacy those opposite have left us in the form of \$80 billion worth of debt, this legacy is one which future generations will enjoy for a very long time. I recommend Everyone's Environment Grants, and programs like it, that this government has implemented to establish great foundations within communities and great strength around the re-establishment of our biodiversity and our environment.


North Region Visitor Information Centre Volunteers Conference

 **Mrs MENKENS** (Burdekin—LNP) (3.12 pm): The Burdekin region will be in the spotlight this month when visitor information centre volunteers from throughout North Queensland visit the district. The North Region Visitor Information Centre Volunteers Conference is expected to attract about 100 delegates from the Townsville, Ingham, Bowen and Charters Towers region, as well as all of our local volunteers. I look forward to welcoming all conference delegates. I am sure they will have a great time in the Burdekin. There are some great facilities and services, not to mention our friendly and hospitable people. Treena List is the chairman of the Burdekin Tourist Association and I know that she will be a wonderful hostess, as will all those other wonderful volunteers who make up the tourism association.

March heralds the start of the tourism season in the Burdekin. The grey nomads start rolling into town with many staying at the comfort stop at Home Hill. Home Hill relies heavily on passing tourists, with businesses doing it particularly tough over the past few years. Nearby Groper Creek is a popular fishing village with direct access to the Burdekin River. The Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads has advised that work on the \$219,000 Groper Creek boat ramp is expected to commence this month. This will replace the flood damaged ramp and is welcome news to the anglers in the area as it will attract many visitors.

The Burdekin electorate has some beautiful beaches in Bowen and Ayr. Also of interest off the Coast of Alva Beach is the wreck of the *SS Yongala*, which sank over 100 years ago following a cyclone on 23 March 1911. The wreck was discovered 50 years later just off the coast. It attracts divers from all over the world. It is an internationally known dive site. Next Monday the Townsville Maritime Museum will be holding a memorial service for the over 100 people on board that ship who were lost. It is a timely reminder that cyclone season is still not over. I am delighted to announce the tender for construction of the \$2.7 million cyclone shelter, which will be built at the Ayr Showgrounds by local builders Malas Constructions. This was recently announced by Minister Crisafulli, which we were absolutely delighted about, and work will commence very soon. I also recently represented the Minister for Health, Lawrence Springborg, in officially opening the \$2.48 million rural and remote infrastructure rectification works at the Ayr Health Service which was great.

Rural and Remote Mental Health

 **Hon. JJ McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (3.15 pm): I would like to remind the House that the Newman government is committed to addressing mental health in droughted communities across Queensland. Last Thursday, 13 March, in Charleville I helped convene a ministerial round table on rural and remote mental health. The round table was chaired by the Minister for Health, Lawrence Springborg, and was attended by key representatives from the health industry across southern Queensland. The discussion focused on better ways to assist, prevent and manage the increasing risk of stress and depression that producers are facing, including the financial hardships of living on the land in the current drought, which is now affecting almost 80 per cent of our great state.


Mental health issues are long-term problems which require vision for a suitable long-term solution. The problem will not simply disappear when the drought breaks. The industry needs to be specific about where the mental health service gaps are and how we can make service delivery more accessible. Agriculture organisations such as AgForce, the Queensland Farmers Federation and the

various natural resource management bodies are helping producers link to mental health service providers, and certainly my department, the Department of Health and, of course, the Department of Communities are focused on the same outcome.

In addition to our \$2 million for mental health package announced by the Premier and myself some weeks ago, the federal government's drought assistance package includes \$10.7 million for social and mental health support. These funds will be delivered through existing NGOs for family crisis, mental health support and outreach programs. The round table identified that producers need clear information on who to contact as a first port of call. The Department of Health will develop a plan for rural mental health. This will be an overarching framework with the ability to make it specific to specific regions. Health will develop a one-stop portal specifically for drought stricken communities to access information and assistance.

Agriculture is a key pillar in our economy and the Newman government is committed to assisting our primary producers through the financial and emotional hardship of drought. We need to do that along with industry organisations. We have also called on local government to work with us to identify those areas of need. We are anxious to see the detail of the federal government's support come through and be implemented as soon as possible. It is certainly time for all Queenslanders to recognise the stress in the bush and to recognise that this drought is affecting local communities quite severely. They will recover, but they certainly need our assistance and our recognition during these tough times.

Volunteers

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.18 pm): I would like to speak today about the invaluable work that the 1.2 million selfless volunteers do within Queensland and how they contribute to our communities. I would like to encourage all members to get behind and celebrate National Volunteer Week in May and I would certainly like to thank the volunteers—the judges, organisers and various other people—who give up their time throughout the year to make sure that we have a fabulous show in Toowoomba which is coming up shortly. Another great event that is coming up in Toowoomba at Easter that the government gets behind is Easterfest. Hundreds of volunteers will be lining up to make sure that people have a great time and get involved in the various activities that are available.


I would also like to talk about the volunteers in my electorate of Toowoomba North who give up their time to help people such as those who are homeless and those with learning difficulties. At the Toowoomba Flexischool, volunteers give up their time for mentoring and being involved. Others volunteer for the SES and, obviously, all the sporting clubs. We have many sporting clubs and I would like to name just a few.

The President of the Toowoomba BMX Club, David Budden, gives up a great deal of time to making sure that kids in Toowoomba, particularly some from the Wilsonton area, get out there and start competing in what is now an Olympic sport. Peter Klein is the President of the Northern Brothers Diggers Cricket Club. With the support of the Minister for Sport, this year the club installed some fantastic cricket nets and has seen its junior ranks grow because of it. Ryan Myler is the President of the Toowoomba Mountain Bike Club. Going down off the edge of the range and on to Withcott are some fantastic mountain bike tracks that start in my electorate and end in that of the member for Lockyer. The guys do a fantastic job of making sure that that track is excellent for people to use. This year the Bears Rugby League Club was successful in getting \$100,000 to install lighting so that they can start using one of the school ovals.

Most particularly, recently I had the pleasure of hosting the Toowoomba Probus Club here at parliament. Forty-eight members and their partners came to Parliament House on Tuesday, 11 March. I acknowledge the efforts of John Clift who coordinated that tour on behalf of the Probus Club of Toowoomba. I think it was a great success. They certainly enjoyed their time here. I thank the staff at Parliament House who helped me to show them around and inform them of the different things that go on. I encourage them to come back in the future and have a look at the different things that happen here at the parliament.

(Time expired)

Bulimba Electorate, Events

 **Mr DILLAWAY** (Bulimba—LNP) (3.21 pm): This afternoon I rise to highlight some recent activities held throughout the fantastic electorate of Bulimba that were well represented by the youth of today, our leaders of tomorrow. On Sunday, 1 March, a merry band of volunteers joined with me to

participate in Clean Up Australia Day. Our target was the Colmslie Recreation Reserve and our efforts saw 37 bags of rubbish collected in a little over two hours of work. That event was made even more special because I put the call out to both the students at Balmoral State High and the club members of the Bulimba Junior Bulls Hockey Club to see if they would join with other dedicated community members to clean up this well-used part of our suburb. Over 50 local volunteers came out on the day, which was a fantastic display of the community coming together for such a great cause. I thank all the community minded students and teachers from Balmoral State High School and the young players of the Bulimba Junior Bulls Hockey Club for participating and making the park a cleaner place for all to enjoy.


On Saturday 8 March, as the patron of the *TS Gayundah* Navy Cadets, I had the pleasure to attend the boat-naming ceremony for their long awaited safety boat, which our government provided to them through the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sports and Racing. Having been off the water for five years, over 60 of our district's youth will now have the opportunity to do what they signed up to do, which is to take part in water activities. With the delivery and official naming of the *MV Fraser* they can do this in a safe environment. I also wish the contingent of 20 Navy Cadets who are heading to Hawaii in April all the best. It was my pleasure to further assist the cadets by securing sponsorships for their daily backpacks from Mark Kelly at Corporate Designs and the team at Breezway Louvre Windows for branded polo shirts.

The Bulimba Barracks is home not only to the Navy Cadets but also to the 12ACU Bulimba Army Cadets. During February, their new unit commander, Captain Graham Heslin, engaged with me and highlighted gaps in their current equipment, in particular, issues surrounding backpacks. The simple fact was that some of the units 32 local youth are not physically built to carry the packs issued by the Army stores. The following day, I contacted Mr Greg Nunn, the Chairman of Australia's own Mountain Designs, which manufactures and retails outdoor clothes and equipment. I would like to thank Greg, who enthusiastically and generously donated to the cadets special sized backpacks and other equipment worth \$1,500 at a special barbecue held last week. We have now ensured that the cadets will be appropriately equipped as they undertake future activities.

On Sunday 9 March, I had the pleasure of joining Jesse 'Tha Monstar' Williams at the Deadly Choices Traditional Indigenous Games Day held at Balmoral State High School, run by the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health. The day saw 40 local Indigenous youth play a variety of games with Tha Monstar. Jesse is a fantastic role model to the youth of today and a fitting ambassador for Deadly Choices. I wish Jesse all the best for the 2014 season with the Seattle Seahawks.

The youth of Bulimba have so many opportunities to be involved and engaged in our community. I believe that these events demonstrate how fabulous our youth truly are. I thank them for representing the next generation so admirably.

Gladstone Harbour

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (3.24 pm): I rise to again speak on behalf of the fishing families in my electorate, and particularly Simon and Ted Whitingham. Those brave and tenacious people continue to pursue their concerns in relation to the Gladstone Harbour. I have already acknowledged and continue to acknowledge the work of the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, the Hon. Andrew Powell. Minister Powell has been very diligent in working with the Gladstone community and has now established the Healthy Harbour Report Card process, which will deal with the present and future health of the harbour. However, while many people in my community accept that process and welcome it, they still feel that there is justice to be gained for incidents that occurred in the past.

I have to acknowledge that already there have been a number of studies and investigations. On that basis it is very easy to dismiss yet another call for an inquiry or yet another submission. However, I ask the minister and anyone who takes the opportunity to read these documents to keep an open mind when considering the additional information.

The material that I intend to table asserts that there had been two sets of books in relation to information and data relating to the Gladstone Harbour. It asserts that while there have been several inquiries into the harbour health and fish deaths, those responsible for inquiring into and reporting on problems faced by the community and challenges to the harbour health were not given access to all the environmental data available.

I table a copy of a document provided to me by Ted and Simon Whitingham. The submission appears to omit a covering letter, which I will check and table at a later time. The submission summarises the concerns that they have. It was legally prepared. It indicates that there has been information known but not made available to those making inquiries. They are calling for the federal government to institute what was initially going to be a commission of inquiry. I support that call.


Tabled paper: Risk Assessment document for implementation of proposed amendments to the Western Basin reclamation project acid sulphate soil management Plan (70 page report) [\[4712\]](#).

I also table a copy of a submission from the same gentlemen, which holds concerns in relation to harbour health and, in this instance, the breaches in the western basin bund wall. They relate directly to the federal government inquiry, which is in relation to that bund wall failure.

Tabled paper: Submission to the independent review into the leaking bund wall at the Port of Gladstone [\[4713\]](#).

Both those gentlemen and others are calling for what Minister Hunt originally proposed, which was a royal commission. They believe that is the only way this information will be properly accessed.

Muscle Up for MND

 **Mr KAYE** (Greenslopes—LNP) (3.27 pm): Last Saturday, it was my pleasure to take part in the Muscle Up for MND world record attempt and fundraiser at the hallowed Gabba cricket ground. The event was the creation of the MND & Me Foundation, headed by Scott Sullivan. Scott himself has MND. He was diagnosed in 2010 and at that time he was given three to five years to live. I have spoken in this House before about MND. I am passionate about raising public awareness about this disease.

There are over 300 terminally ill Queenslanders with Motor Neurone Disease. There is no cure and the symptoms of the disease can change rapidly, depending on the person. As a result, the needs of people with MND change, both physically and emotionally. The disease causes atrophy and weakness throughout muscles in the body, ultimately resulting in the loss of use of both arms and legs, speech and the ability to swallow. Most sufferers of this terrible disease pass away from respiratory failure, usually within three to five years.


Muscle Up for MND was terrific, with 10 workout stations spread around the Gabba. Participants took part in Zumba, shadow boxing, disco, shuttle runs, hula hooping and other exercises such as push-ups, burpees and sit-ups, to name but a few.

I am going to take the time to recognise some of the main sporting heroes and identities who made the day possible, although it would not be possible to mention them all: Brendan Cannon, Fletcher Dyson, Jarrod Fletcher, Van Humphries, Peter Hynes, Chris Handy, Susie O'Neill, Trent Grimsey, The Hon. Peter Dutton MP, the QAS water polo squad, Mark Connors, David Stagg and Christian Sprenger. The commercial event sponsors and supporters were AJ CrossFit, the Brisbane Lions, Aspire Fitness and Rehabilitation, the Queensland Sports Medicine Centre, Fitnance, MAD Dance House, Shred'Em Fitness, Hart Sport, the Clem Jones Centre, Pat Carroll and PCRG, the Gabba, Triple M, goa advertising, the *Courier-Mail* and *mX*, Suncorp and, of course, the MND & Me Foundation. I do not know where I fit into that list, but I was there.

The previous world record for the largest circuit based personal training session was 2,061 people. Unfortunately, on the day we fell short by approximately 190. But the day raised enough money for the Queensland MND Centre located at Coorparoo to employ a support person to help those suffering from this disease. There were plenty of smiles on the day, although some of us had sore muscles to go with that smile for several days afterwards, reminding us that perhaps we need to get back into the gym. I truly hope that this will be a yearly event and that next year it will be even bigger and we will see the world record smashed. I also challenge all members of this House to come and be a part of this event if it is to occur again next year. I am sure the member for Nudgee will be there.

I commend Scott Sullivan for his work for those suffering from this terrible disease, for his fundraising for research and for his determination to raise public awareness. I would also like to pay special tribute to Scott's wonderful family—wife, Sarah, and children, Abbey and Charlie—for the support they provide. I am determined to do what I can to raise awareness of this terrible disease both within the community and in government.

Coomera Town Centre

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.30 pm): I rise to tell the House of some wonderful news about recent events in the northern part of the Gold Coast—the Coomera electorate. The fantastic news given to us yesterday is that the Coomera town centre project, a \$450 million development, has


received the recommendation at committee level to go through to full council level. There are some provisions around the development. One restricts the development at this stage of the game to around just under a quarter of the size intended until such time as we are able to duplicate exit 54.

Members who were here in 2009 would know that I spoke about exit 54 in my maiden speech. Members have heard me talk about exit 54 many times since. There are two aspects to this issue that need to be discussed. The first is that for 18 years now the Coomera town centre has been on the drawing board. The good news is that it is beyond that now. We have a development application that has been approved at committee level. It will go before the full council next week. I am confident that the full council will provide a tick of approval to that development application.

Once that development application has gone through it is a catalyst for those who are involved in the duplication of exit 54 to come together and become far more serious about how we are going to fund the duplication of exit 54. We all know that, thanks to the Labor Party and the \$80 billion of debt that we inherited—the \$450,000 an hour that we spend on interest, the \$15,000 of debt for every man, woman and child in Queensland—that we have some challenges. We know that there are innovative ways to solve this issue. We are working towards resolving the issue of funding. There are innovative ways to ensure that exit 54 can be duplicated in a timely fashion. This would then allow Westfield to fully develop the 93,000 square metres of space that will become Coomera town centre. We are not talking about a shopping centre; we are talking about the Coomera town centre. It has been 18 years in the making. Another two years from now, I will invite all members down to enjoy the Coomera town centre highlights.

(Time expired)

Rail Industry

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (3.33 pm): The member for Dalrymple and I have been speaking a lot about the recently announced Aurizon job cuts along the great northern line in North-West Queensland. This is a devastating blow to the towns along this line. I am not sure the government is listening and that they realise how serious the effect of these job losses will be. Some of this will be irreversible and unnecessary because the basis for some of these changes is flawed.

The genesis of the problem was national competition policy and privatisation—the babies of economic rationalists. It allowed competition along the line to provide a cheaper service to some customers. Pacific National entered the line but there are false economies. There are so many hidden costs that this provider is producing on this line.


I would like to go through some of them. Pacific National has been involved in many near misses along the line which are not public knowledge. Their drivers have less stringent requirements than the Aurizon drivers. Pacific National has put it to local councils that they should provide maintenance or heavy equipment services to them when they break down because they have no personnel positioned outside of Townsville. If they have breakdowns they have no option but to use subcontractors based in Townsville which is poor. Aurizon have maintenance crews along the line so that they can do repairs quickly. Pacific National has no commitment to that. Therefore, they have no commitment to these small towns and to providing jobs that everyone in this chamber knows is critical to the survival of these towns. There is no social responsibility on the part of Pacific National, which is bad.

Aurizon is trying to compete with them on the line. The government is making them compete. So now they are making the same cuts as Pacific National and it is killing these towns. Please understand that it is killing these towns. We need to change something. I know it is tough. I know it will take stringent measures to turn that around, but it needs to be done. The only outcome at the moment is that these towns will die.

While we are looking for efficiencies, I think it is offensive that the CEO of Aurizon, Lance Hockridge, took a 34 per cent pay increase. That takes his pay to \$6.1 million. He is one of the highest paid executives in Australia. This is occurring while they are looking for efficiencies down the line and canning eight jobs in Hughenden—that will ultimately equate to 30 jobs. It is a devastating blow to that town.

I am pleading with the government to listen. This problem will not go away. The damage that this is doing to these towns can be irreversible. Road funding is not available to these local councils. Road funding is critical to their survival in the next few years. A lot of their revenue from rates is not coming in due to the rural crisis. For example, 60 per cent of the Flinders Shire Council's budget comes from road funding. That has been cut for four years. That funding needs to come forward. It needs to come from other places, like Brisbane, to keep these councils alive.

Moreton Bay, Recreational Fishing

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.36 pm): The LNP government is delivering better and fairer access to recreational fishing in Moreton Bay with the building of new boat ramps and through the recent announcement to introduce special management areas for one-line fishing in selected green zones, in line with LNP fishing policy. For the almost five years that I have been in this House, I have heard Labor members singing from the DERMS-Green party song sheet when it comes to fishing. The Labor way was to unfairly kick recreational fishers out of their favourite fishing spots of Moreton Bay, with little science, to secure green preferences. Under Labor we have seen more closures than a Rugs-A-Million store. That Labor lock-the-doors approach has hurt tourism and small businesses, destroyed jobs in marine industries and needlessly restricted harmless recreational activities that have been part of the everyday life of coastal Queenslanders.

On 16 February 2014, Premier Campbell Newman, fisheries minister John McVeigh and national parks minister Steve Dickson made an historic joint statement on recreational fishing—an announcement that the LNP state government would ease Labor's unnecessary restrictions upon recreation fishing. I table the media release.

Tabled paper: Media release, undated, titled 'Proposal to allow recreational fishing at Scotts Point' [\[4714\]](#).

The media release states—

Recreational anglers could soon be able to wet a line at Scotts Points ... under a proposal to change marine park zoning ...

The Premier said he wanted—

... to change the zoning at Scotts Point marine national park zone to allow recreational fishing from the shore ...

He went on to say—

The current zoning deprives families of the pleasure of fishing ...

and that—

the proposed change of zoning is a common-sense approach. The new zoning will have minimal impact on the environment, while producing great lifestyle benefits for the community.

I agree with the Premier. Minister Dickson went beyond Scotts Point with the potential scope of this proposal saying—


If there's an area near you with good public access to the shoreline, where recreational fishing would have minimal impact on the environment, I urge you to tell your local MP.

Well, I have been told. Recreational fishers and fishing clubs in the Cleveland, Redland City and the Moreton Bay region, together with state-wide and national associations, have contacted me to thank the government for fulfilling a longstanding commitment to reform this area in line with LNP policy. These recreational fishers and environmental scientists in Moreton Bay have identified about 12 of 33 zones in Moreton Bay as appropriate and desirable to become special management areas. I look forward to them receiving proper consideration as I forward their information on to the minister.

I wish to also commend Prime Minister Tony Abbott, Queensland senator Ron Boswell and the federal coalition government for their leadership on this issue. Prime Minister Tony Abbott has done the right thing and kept the LNP commitment to suspend Labor-Green's management plans for 33 marine parks that were to come into effect on 1 July 2014. The federal LNP has shown that we do not have to put up with the bully-boy tactics of international green groups. The LNP government is delivering on its commitments to all Queenslanders on recreational fishing.

(Time expired)

Murrumba Electorate, Events


 **Mr GULLEY** (Murrumba—LNP) (3.39 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of Murrumba, the Aboriginal word for 'good place'—and my role is to assist it to be a great place. Transport features as a major priority in the lives of the residents of Murrumba. During my campaign, the Rothwell roundabout featured as one of the key issues for my electorate. Shortly after the election I met with TMR staff and asked for copies of the plans and budgets to upgrade this important intersection, only to be told that the roundabout did not exist in TMR long-term budgets, let alone a business case or even a draft engineering design. I was surprised at the inaction of the previous elected representative and confirm for the House that engineering drawings commenced shortly after my initial conversation with TMR staff.

There is currently a community petition led by local resident Bob Giddens for the upgrade of the Rothwell roundabout intersection at Anzac Avenue and Deception Bay Road. I thank Bob for the manner in which he is conducting the petition and was pleased to photocopy the petitions for the action group. I am actively lobbying the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for this upgrade and I will continue to work tirelessly as the elected representative to deliver this vital piece of infrastructure.

I had the privilege of being a stallholder at last week's Under 5's Teddy Bear Picnic in Deception Bay. The sun was warm, the skies were clear and about 300 parents, grandparents, families, preschoolers and toddlers were making the most of the wonderful corner of Queensland—that is, the good place Murrumba. Special thanks goes to the organisers, the Deception Bay Child and Family Alliance and the Moreton Bay Regional Council. A special thank you goes to the generosity of Pastor David and Cheryl Rauchle from the Lighthouse church foodbank which provided not only free lunches for all the children that day but also free food for many worthy people in Deception Bay each Wednesday night.

This week I had the privilege to be able to represent the Minister for Education at the opening and dedication of buildings at the Grace Lutheran Primary School at Clontarf. The state government provided \$675,000 towards the project, which included a new classroom block, refurbishment of the administration area and additional senior student amenities, parent meeting area and landscaping. And what could be more constructive than providing inclusive, comfortable, state-of-the-art facilities in which to educate our children? I would like to thank all those who worked on this commendable project, including the delightful Leanne Wheeler, the former business manager at Clontarf. As a prior employee of Lutheran Education Queensland, it was my great privilege to be there in the capacity as an MP to open one of their worthy facilities. I am proud to represent Murrumba, a good place.


Holloway, Ms R

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (3.42 pm): It is certainly an honour for me to speak in this debate in the House about the inspiring women in Ipswich and, more particularly, about Ros Holloway. Ros is the Director of the Ipswich Hospice, an organisation which not only looks after and cares for the terminally ill in Ipswich but also cares for the families through an organisation called Hilda's House, which provides grief and bereavement services. It is a very tough job for anybody. It is fitting that I talk in this House today about Ros Holloway, the person whom I nominated to attend the Speaker's function as an inspiring woman in Ipswich.

Ros Holloway has been the Director of the Ipswich Hospice since 2007. She is a person who gives her all when it comes to making a commitment to any cause. She has many causes in her life—Ipswich Hospice is just one. The important feature of being a director of an organisation such as this is that you need to be inspiring, and she has that quality. She has 50 staff members and 250 volunteers. She has four organisations to control. This is also an organisation that has raised over \$1 million through fundraising to care for the terminally ill in Ipswich. I am certainly very proud to speak in the House today about Ros's capabilities and the inspiration that she gives not only to her workers but also to the families who are placed in a position of grief. They need to care for their loved ones, and so it is quite pleasing to ensure that their loved ones are at a place where there is an atmosphere of care for those who are so ill.

Ros displays a lot of qualities in the way she conducts her business. She is involved in the Baptist Church. She is also involved in delivering care packages not only to the unfortunate but also to people who are down and out in our society, people who need extra care. She has this compassion that allows us to see the best qualities of the women in our community—and we have a lot of inspiring women. It is not just a matter of singling out Ros. Ros just epitomises all the women in our society who give their all. It was around the International Women's Day that this event occurred, and it was very pleasing for me to accompany Ros to the function at Parliament House and for her to receive a certificate. I say to Ros: thank you very much. On behalf of Ipswichians, my community, we thank you very much for what you are doing and for what you will do in the future. You are a great, inspiring woman in Ipswich.

Sunnybank Electorate, Philippines Disaster Relief Effort

 **Mr STEWART** (Sunnybank—LNP) (3.45 pm): I would like to draw to the attention of the House the remarkable generosity of residents in Sunnybank in response to the devastation in the Philippines caused by Typhoon Haiyan or Yolanda. Typhoon Haiyan was one of the deadliest typhoons to ever strike the Philippines. In its wake, communities were devastated—millions of people were left dispossessed and thousands lost their lives. After being bombarded with images of this destruction, a

very special Robertson resident, Imelda Spoljarevic, felt compelled to act. Within days, Imelda had organised for a shipping container to be sent to the Philippines. All that was required was donations from the community.

Such was the huge response from individuals, schools and organisations—and indeed from all over Queensland—that not one but three containers full of donations were packed and shipped to the Philippines late last year. The containers were filled with shelters, clothing, food, toiletries and toys. The first container also had 300 brand-new tents and brand-new sleeping bags that were generously donated by PanAust. PanAust has employees all around the world and understands the importance of people, community and the landscape—and this can be seen by its support.


As with all relief efforts, someone has to be the instigator and take the initiative. I firmly believe that sometimes many people would like to assist but have no means of doing so. That is why it is tremendous that Imelda was able to inspire and work with the local community to give so generously. However, there was a long list of people who pitched in and lent a hand—people like Joe De Gregorio, Jennifer Parke, Leonie Hall, Diane Bradbury, Charles Lentini, Ian Strange, Jeremy Ferrett, Colin Seed, Michael Smyth, Danny Williams, Bernie, Chris, Brian, John, Anna and Steven Huang, the councillor for the Macgregor ward.

I would also like to give special mention to George Polites from the Ascot based shipping company EPL Group. George was able to arrange for the delivery, collection and shipping of the containers at next to no cost, along with donating many empty boxes to assist with the process. George and the EPL Group recognised the need and had the expert skills to have the aid delivered as effectively and efficiently as possible. Thank you for your generous support.

Mention must also go to the students and the school community at MacGregor State School, Warrigal Road State School and MacGregor State High School. Within a very short time frame, the generosity of the school communities shone brightly as they helped in filling the shipping containers with much needed donations.

I was personally overwhelmed by the level of support for the relief effort at a local level, with other events raising funds to support the Philippines. As the member for Sunnybank, it is very pleasing to know that so much goodwill exists within the local community and that in times of need the Sunnybank community can be counted on to work together and overcome adversity.

Overseas Visit

 **Mrs OSTAPOVITCH** (Stretton—LNP) (3.48 pm): I rise to speak about my recent journey to Southern China and Hong Kong, led by Madam Speaker, the honourable member for Maroochydore. We were joined by the member for Woodridge, Mrs Leanne Clare and Mrs Ruth Limkin. Quite by accident we ended up being an all-female delegation, much to the delight of our Chinese hosts.

The purpose of our visit to mainland China and Hong Kong was to reaffirm and build upon the parliamentary friendship agreement and to participate in educational briefings to improve understanding and enhance cooperation. The friendship agreement states that, through friendly contact, the Queensland state parliament and the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of Guangdong Province shall work to improving understanding and mutual friendship and work towards promoting economic and social development. I am pleased to report that I feel we certainly did accomplish that.


My electorate of Stretton is home to the largest population of people of Chinese origin in Queensland—Queenslanders who are largely entrepreneurial small- to medium-sized business owners. For those who can afford to send their children to another country for higher education, Australia offers a unique and healthy way of life. Our journey began in Guangzhou, then onto Shenzhen and we completed our journey in Hong Kong. The Guangzhou Ministry of Foreign Affairs was very kind and generous to us and looked after all of us extremely well from the moment we left our flight to the moment we left at the bridge that joins China with Hong Kong.

For me, I think the most interesting visit was to Nova Deko, which is a Queensland business joint venture between Australian and Chinese companies. Its humble beginning as a manufacturer of modular kitchens has grown to manufacturing modular housing which is being trialled in Brisbane and one was recently installed in Laidley. This visit proved to me that not only do opportunities exist for Australian goods and services in a country hungry for quality but opportunities certainly exist in China for Queensland businesses to set up shop. It is not about identifying the opportunities; it is working out how to harness them.

Shenzhen was an incredible experience. This sister city to Brisbane was a small city only 10 years ago and is now a thriving metropolis of over 15 million people. It is impossible to describe just how many tall buildings there are in this city that lights up at night. The powers of persuasion that the father of Shenzhen must have had to convince Beijing to build a megacity in southern China to encourage enterprise was visionary and nothing short of extraordinary. Shenzhen is home to mega ICT company Huawei Group, which is owned through shares by 70,000 of its 150,000 employees. This is a company driven by innovation. I have to commend the great work that our Queensland trade investment commissioners are doing in China and Hong Kong. I would like to make special mention of the commissioner to Hong Kong, Ms Angela To.

(Time expired)

Gympie Rattler

 **Mr GIBSON** (Gympie—LNP) (3.51 pm): I rise to update the House on the progress of the work within my community to reboot the Rattler. The Rattler is an iconic steam engine train within the Mary Valley and has been running on community support for a long, long time. I know there are many electorates that would like to have the Rattler, Thuringowa being one of them, but we have it in the Mary Valley and we are very fortunate for that.


The Rattler unfortunately had to stop operations when the rail safety regulator had some concerns with regard to the track and its condition due to its age. The Mary Valley branch line has a long history in servicing the Mary Valley and the toils of time have taken its toll upon the track itself. That resulted in me forming and chairing a local business advisory group that put together a business plan that was presented to the department. I thank the Deputy Premier and his department for the provision of \$2 million in the budget last year for work to go ahead. That work has been undertaken with regard to the preliminary planning, and we have now seen detailed engineering inspection work undertaken on the track and preliminary work undertaken on the rolling stock to identify work that needs to occur in that area. I can advise the House that with the funds that are available we will be able to restore the Rattler running to Amamoor within the Mary Valley. We hope that we will be able to source other funds, whether it be from the federal government or other sources, to restore it to its full length to Imbil, but at this point in time we are aiming to have operations back to Amamoor.

I want to thank Gympie Regional Council, which has been instrumental in its support. We have now seen the establishment of a not-for-profit company, the Rattler Railway Company. I want to thank the directors who have agreed to serve on that company. We have a broad range of expertise and the great wisdom of many people who will be working to deliver on rebooting the Rattler.

I also thank the communities within the Mary Valley who have struggled with the cessation of operations of the Rattler. Whether it be Imbil, Kandanga, Amamoor or Dagon, they have all felt that, as has the broader community of the area and Gympie itself. Those communities have all worked together so hard. They have focused on what they need to do to be ready so when the Rattler rolls through those communities again they will be able to take advantage of having that iconic steam railway in the Mary Valley.

Finally, I wish to thank all the volunteers—those who are involved at the moment and those who have been involved over the years who have been instrumental in ensuring that Gympie and the Mary Valley have a steam heritage railway experience. It has become, as I said, an iconic tourism railway experience. We look forward to having it back and we look forward to having the Premier of Queensland race the Rattler in 2015.

Charters Towers Fire Station

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (3.54 pm): I would like to bring to the attention of the House a very important issue relating to the Charters Towers urban fire service and the important need to upgrade staffing hours. Emergency services is one of the most important services and it is important that staff are ready and available when called out to severe circumstances in the quickest, safest time. It is also important that our emergency service personnel are not fatigued and are equipped with the resources to carry out emergency services tasks in a professional manner. It is unbelievable that Charters Towers is one of only two stations in the state which maintains a five-day, eight-hour roster. There is a permanent crew of four members who work a 35-hour shift Monday to Friday. Outside these hours the district is protected by an auxiliary crew who respond by pager activation, with the permanent members also carrying pagers. At present there are 10 valuable and active auxiliary members with an average availability of four outside normal work hours and two during the week. In

comparison, centres such as Ingham, Ayr and Bowen allow for seven-day, 11-hour rosters with two shifts, working a continuous four days on, four days off roster and averaging the same number of auxiliaries. Charters Towers has half the permanent staff yet travels more distance than Ingham, Ayr and Bowen put together. Charters Towers Fire Station has the largest boundary per population in the state, with a travelling distance at times of more than 400-kilometre round trips.


When Charters Towers is called out, Wulguru has to cover, which then leaves Wulguru to provide their backup. Charters Towers also has valuable nursing facilities—Charters Towers Hospital, Eventide aged care facility and the rehabilitation centre. Charters Towers has three private schools including one high school and seven primary schools to attend to in the region, with 70 pubs existing or converted to heritage listed buildings and historical buildings in Ravenswood.

The boundary extends up to Greenvale, out to Pentland and down to Belyando. Charters Towers also meets four ways—Townsville to Charters Towers, Charters Towers to Hughenden, north to Greenvale and south to Clermont, servicing an area of more than 60,000 square kilometres. There were eight heavy transport accidents in 2013. Charters Towers is a major rail corridor for Townsville to Mount Isa. Besides transporting people, the rail carries hazardous material with a major spill after a derailment on Mingela Range last year.

Charters Towers urban fire service is also called to provide and assist in medical duties. The urban fire service is one of the highest per station in comparable size in North Queensland, with 335 call-outs last year. Our urban fire service needs to be self-sufficient for natural disasters, and I believe that in this day and age the Charters Towers region deserves the same coverage as every other town in this state. I call on the minister to review the Charters Towers urban fire station staffing hours to ensure they are in line with the urban fire service across this state—

(Time expired)

Townsville, Red Cross Blood Service

 **Mr HATHAWAY** (Townsville—LNP) (3.57 pm): I rise today to pay tribute to a Townsville woman who was known as the pioneer of the Queensland blood bank. I recognise the story of this lady's life as presented by her long-time friend, colleague and a stalwart of the Townsville Red Cross Blood Service, Bruce Muller. Bruce was honoured to present the eulogy at her funeral on 20 January this year.

Dorothy Jean England, known as Jean, sadly passed away in January at the age of 97 but her legacy lives on. Jean was born in New Zealand and did her nursing training at Auckland Hospital. She then started her nursing career at the Colonial War Memorial Hospital in Suva, Fiji. After the war, Jean went on to work at the Auckland Blood Bank and later became the sister-in-charge of the Auckland Blood Transfusion Service. In 1950, Sister Jean and her late husband moved to Australia. She was keen to continue nursing so she offered to be a volunteer at the Red Cross in Brisbane and within just two weeks was offered a full-time job. This was at the same time the Red Cross was looking to expand its services across the state.

After the rapid development of blood transfusions during World War II, the focus had changed to saving lives at home so the Red Cross wanted to recruit 100-plus blood donors in every town and city outside of Brisbane. Sister Jean was keen to take on the challenge and became known as 'The Blood Lady'. She travelled the state any way she could—bus, train and plane—to set up the original emergency donor panels. These donors were blood typed and were then on call for when transfusions were needed. Of course, the medical equipment was nothing like we know today. Her tools of the trade were a large wooden box filled with glass test tubes, syringes and a blood pressure cuff. I take my hat off to all those volunteers who rolled their sleeves up for 'The Blood Lady' to become part of this amazing network of emergency blood donors—particularly considering the needles might not have been as sharp and as small as they are today.


In 1955, Jean's husband took up a job in Townsville and she took up a position at the original Townsville General Hospital in North Ward as the first sister-in-charge of the Red Cross blood bank. It all started in a small room on the second floor in the hospital. Collections were set up in the outpatients and about 20 donations were collected in each session. From those small beginnings, our local blood bank has grown considerably and now takes about 500 donations per week from donors in the Townsville region. Over many years, Jean continued to do her part for the Red Cross. Long after her retirement, she spent many hours as a volunteer. She also played an active role in the community as a volunteer at a number of organisations until her passing in January. Her legacy will

live on, as we remember an amazing woman who played an integral part in making what the Red Cross blood banks are today. Her ashes were scattered at sea at the exact GPS location as her husband's in a simple, moving and dignified ceremony courtesy of Sergeant Mattie Pegg of the Townsville Water Police. Lest we forget.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time for private members' statements has expired.

PUBLIC GUARDIAN BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.00 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for a Public Guardian to promote and protect the rights and interests of adults with impaired capacity for a matter, relevant children and children staying at visitable sites, and to amend this Act, the Child Protection Act 1999, the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Disability Services Act 2006, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Forensic Disability Act 2011, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Health Ombudsman Act 2013, the Integrity Act 2009, the Mental Health Act 2000, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Powers of Attorney Act 1998, the Public Service Act 2008, the Public Trustee Act 1978, the Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002, the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health and Community Services Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Public Guardian Bill 2014 [\[4715\]](#).

Tabled paper: Public Guardian Bill 2014, explanatory notes [\[4716\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Public Guardian Bill 2014, which represents an integral part of a suite of three bills that comprise the initial stage of the government's reforms to build a new child and family support system in Queensland over the next 10 years. The other bills I am about to introduce are the Family and Child Commission Bill 2014 and the Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2014. Together, these bills are instrumental in laying the foundation to make Queensland the safest place to raise a child and to improve the lives and futures of our most vulnerable children.

The Newman government made an election commitment to make a full and independent inquiry into Queensland's child protection system due to widespread concern that the child protection system in Queensland was failing vulnerable children and their families. On 1 July 2012, the government delivered on this election commitment by establishing the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry led by the Hon. Tim Carmody QC. The commission undertook 12 months of extensive investigations and research. The commission received over 440 submissions, held 54 days of hearings, called more than 220 witnesses and convened more than 150 meetings across the state with individuals and organisations with knowledge of the system. The commission also took into account the findings of an advisory committee and focus groups and surveys held during the inquiry that invited the views of children in care, front-line government and non-government child protection workers and legal practitioners. The commission found that, despite the hard work and good intentions of many and the large amounts of money invested in it, the child protection system was not ensuring the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children, and was unsustainable.

Over the last decade, child protection intakes have tripled, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care has tripled, the number of children in out-of-home care has more than doubled, and children in care are staying in care for longer periods. The budget for child protection services has more than tripled, going from \$182.3 million in 2003-04 to \$773 million in 2012-13. Information provided to the commission suggested that the two main factors contributing to the unsustainable demand on the Queensland statutory child protection system were the high number of intakes or reports to Child Safety and too many investigations consequently being conducted by Child Safety.

On 1 July 2013, the commission released its report—*Taking responsibility: a roadmap for Queensland child protection*—making 121 recommendations to build a sustainable and effective child protection system over the next decade. The roadmap has three tracks:

- reducing the number of children and young people in the child protection system;
- revitalising child protection front-line services and family support, breaking the intergenerational cycle of abuse and neglect; and
- refocusing oversight on learning, improving and taking responsibility.

The overarching tenet of the commission's recommendations is that parents and families should take primary responsibility for the protection of their children and that, where appropriate, parents should receive the support and guidance they need to keep their children safe. It is only as a last resort that the government should intervene in a statutory role to ensure the protection of children who are at significant risk of harm.

In December 2013, this government committed to implementing all of the commission's reforms, accepting 115 of the commission's recommendations and accepting a further six of the recommendations in principle. This government is determined to deliver a reformed child protection system in Queensland that supports parents and families to provide a safe and secure home for their children, that provides the right services at the right time for families and children in need, and that better provides for the safety, wellbeing and best interests of our most at-risk children when they cannot be properly cared for at home. The reforms place greater emphasis on supporting vulnerable families to take appropriate care of their children and reforming the system in Queensland to better provide for the safety, wellbeing and best interest of our most at-risk children. Implementing the reforms will require a fundamental shift in the way government agencies, child safety professionals and community organisations work with vulnerable families and with each other. Strong collaborative partnerships between the government and the non-government sector will be an essential component of the reforms.

This government accepted the commission's recommendations to improve advocacy services and the community visiting program for children in the child protection system. These recommendations form the basis for the Public Guardian Bill 2014. The Public Guardian Bill 2014 establishes the Public Guardian and the Office of the Public Guardian, a new independent statutory body that reports to me as the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice in accordance with recommendations 12.7 and 12.8 of the commission's report. The Public Guardian will provide individual advocacy for children in the child protection system and administer a child visiting program for the most vulnerable children. In doing so, the bill reflects the commission's findings that children in the child protection system are particularly vulnerable and need to have their voices heard, and that assisting children and young people to understand the system and allowing them to be involved in decision making processes sets them on the right path for the future. By focusing on advocacy services to individual children in the child protection system and visits to the most vulnerable children, the bill refines the scope of the services—which are currently provided by the Child Guardian and community visitor program within the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian—as suggested by the commission to ensure that they are targeted at the children who need them most.

The Public Guardian Bill 2014 prescribes guiding principles to be considered by the Public Guardian and staff when exercising functions and powers in relation to children. The best interests of a child will be a paramount consideration. By requiring that children are valued, respected and protected and that the importance of the child's relationship with family and community are considered, the wellbeing of individual children will be the focus of programs rather than lost in bureaucracy.

The Public Guardian Bill 2014 provides for child advocacy officers who will provide a continuum of child advocacy services to children and young people. Services include general information provision and support, assistance with making complaints, case planning, advocacy, mediation and, where requested or necessary for performance of child advocacy functions, visits to children. The service delivery model for the child advocacy program of the Public Guardian will enable services to be responsive to local needs and conditions and allow some services to be outsourced where cost-efficient and appropriate. The Public Guardian will also have the right to appear in child protection legal proceedings to explain proceedings to a child and make submissions to the court to ensure the child's voice is heard.

The bill transfers the functions and powers of the current Adult Guardian and the community visiting program for adults with impaired capacity under the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 to the Public Guardian. This means the position of Adult Guardian is not necessary, so the bill abolishes the position of the Adult Guardian but of course focuses it into the Public Guardian.

The Public Guardian will be responsible for the community visiting programs to children in the child protection system, children in detention, corrective service facilities and mental health facilities as well as adults with impaired capacity. This reform will promote a cohesive culture to maximise efficiencies in the visiting programs. The bill repeals provisions of the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000 and the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000

related to functions and powers that have been transferred to the Public Guardian under the bill, such as functions and powers related to the current community visitor programs. This clarifies that responsibility for these functions rests with the Public Guardian and is necessary to avoid duplication and to use resources efficiently so that they can be diverted to front-line services as recommended by the commission. The initial appointee to the Public Guardian position will play a pivotal role in establishing the new Office of the Public Guardian, setting its direction and authority in the child protection system.

To provide certainty in relation to this leading role, I am pleased to advise that the Public Guardian Bill contains provisions to allow the appointment of the current Adult Guardian, Mr Kevin Martin, as Public Guardian until 12 August 2015, the end of his current term as Adult Guardian, if he agrees to this. As the Adult Guardian, Mr Martin has been closely involved with the implementation of the commission reforms and he has previously served as Public Trustee of Queensland and as the Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Mr Martin's demonstrated leadership in organisations that protect and assist vulnerable people will ensure that the Office of the Public Guardian is effectively managed through its first year of operation.

The reforms in the Public Guardian Bill represent an important first step in overhauling the child protection system in Queensland. This government is committed to implementing the next stages of reform over future years, which will include legislative and non-legislative reforms, to comprehensively change the way Queensland protects, cares for and supports its most vulnerable children. The Public Guardian Bill underpins this government's objectives to build a sustainable and effective child protection system for the future. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.11 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 Health and Community Services Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Community Services Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.11 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Health and Community Services Committee report to the House on the Public Guardian Bill by 13 May 2014.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

FAMILY AND CHILD COMMISSION BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.12 pm): I present a bill for an act to establish the Queensland Family and Child Commission and for related purposes, to amend the Public Service Act 2008 and to make consequential amendments to this act and other legislation stated in schedule 1. I table the bill and the explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Family and Child Commission Bill 2014 [[4717](#)].

Tabled paper: Family and Child Commission Bill 2014, explanatory notes [[4718](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Family and Child Commission Bill 2014, one of the three bills that comprise the initial stage of this government's reforms to build a new child and family support system in Queensland over the next 10 years. The bill establishes the Queensland Family and Child Commission, amends the Public Service Act 2008 and makes consequential and minor amendments to other legislation as stated in schedule 1.

One of the findings of the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry was that the current layers of oversight were at the expense of delivering services to the public and reforms were needed which take into account and manage risk in a new and different way. The commission of inquiry recommended that it was time to place appropriate levels of responsibility on each department responsible for child protection to avoid duplication and to use resources efficiently. Currently, the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, or CCYPCG, carries out a range of functions including individual advocacy for children, working with children checks, investigations and monitoring of complaints, review of child deaths and is the oversight body for the child protection system.

The commission identified that the CCYPCG is no longer required in its current form and that its functions should be performed by other entities. The commission of inquiry proposed the establishment of a new entity, the family and child council, to provide systemic oversight of the child protection system and to coordinate research, with remaining functions being transferred to other entities. All other Australian jurisdictions, except for South Australia, have a commissioner for children, rather than the family and child council. As such, the bill establishes the new entity as the Queensland Family and Child Commission. This ensures that Queensland is aligned with other jurisdictions, and that issues pertaining to children and young people are accorded significant and equal status to that demonstrated across the rest of the country.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission will be a statutory body reporting directly to the Premier. It will provide systemic oversight for the child protection system, including secondary family services to vulnerable children and young people and their families. The bill transfers the current CCYPCG functions of systemic oversight, research and maintaining a child death register to the new Queensland Family and Child Commission.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission will have two commissioners with at least one commissioner being an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander. One of the commissioners will be a principal commissioner for the purpose of overall management of the Family and Child Commission. In exercising its functions, the Queensland Family and Child Commission will be required to ensure the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders are adequately and appropriately represented, and will be required to report on the outcomes of actions taken to reduce overrepresentation and to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, children and young people.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission will be independent from line agencies and will provide the cross-sectoral leadership required to successfully deliver a new child protection system for Queensland. The primary mechanism through which stakeholders will be involved in the strategic work will be through the establishment of one or more advisory councils.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission will provide systemic oversight of the child protection system delivered by public sector and publicly funded non-government agencies providing child safety services or support to families. The bill provides that its functions will include driving best practice in the provision of services, by developing a workforce development strategy, coordinating a research program, and by evaluating the performance at a systemic level.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission will also have a key role to inform and educate families and communities about their responsibility for protecting and caring for their children. The Queensland Family and Child Commission will have an important role in coordinating efforts across government and non-government agencies and in strengthening the capacity of the sector through collaboration and information sharing.

The bill proposes that the Queensland Family and Child Commission will report annually to the Premier on its functions and the performance of the child protection system. The bills underpin this government's objectives to build a sustainable and effective child protection system for the future. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.16 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 Health and Community Services Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Community Services Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.17 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Health and Community Services Committee report to the House on the Family and Child Commission Bill by 13 May 2014.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

CHILD PROTECTION REFORM AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.17 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Child Protection Act 1999, the Childrens Court Act 1992, the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000, the Magistrates Act 1991, the Ombudsman Act 2001 and the Public Health Act 2005 for particular purposes and to make consequential amendments to the acts mentioned in schedule 1. I table a copy of the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Health and Community Services Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2014 [\[4719\]](#).

Tabled paper: Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes [\[4720\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill, one of the three bills comprising the initial stage of this government's reforms to build a new child and family support system in Queensland over the next 10 years. The bill includes amendments to the Child Protection Act 1999, the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Childrens Court Act 1992 and the Magistrates Act 1991 to:

- guide when reports about a child must be made to the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services—Child Safety;
- allow prescribed entities to share information with service providers when children are likely to become in need of protection if support is not provided to their family;
- make it clear that people who report concerns about a child to Child Safety are protected from liability when they honestly and reasonably provide information;
- establish a child death review panel process to review the deaths and serious injuries of children known to Child Safety and other cases if required;
- clarify leadership of the Childrens Court and improve court processes;
- allow the Queensland Ombudsman to delegate functions and powers to appropriately qualified officers, including the power to write reports and make recommendations which are not currently delegable, to ensure timely resolution of child protection complaints;
- transfer the responsibility for administering the blue card scheme to the Public Safety Business Agency in a new stand-alone piece of legislation;

- support the seamless transition of relevant functions of the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian, CCYPCG, to other agencies and entities;
- streamline annual reporting by departments with child protection responsibilities by introducing more efficient and effective mechanisms to monitor the performance the system.

In terms of reporting concerns to Child Safety, the bill includes amendments to guide decision making about when a report about a child must be made to Child Safety and clarifies and consolidates the various policy and legislative reporting requirements into one place: the Child Protection Act 1999. Child Safety investigates concerns and takes necessary action when a child is considered to be a child in need of protection.

Child Safety's intervention in a family's care for their child is as a last resort, when a child has or is suffering, or is at an unacceptable risk of suffering 'significant' harm and does not have a parent who is able and willing to protect them from the harm.

The Child Protection Commission of Inquiry recommended that this should be emphasised by amending what is meant by 'a child in need of protection', so the first element about harm to a child should require 'significant' harm. Previously the definition and interpretation of 'harm' varied across agencies. The bill includes an amendment to implement this recommendation and make the definition consistent.

Any person can report concerns about a child to Child Safety in Queensland. To help people make a decision about whether to report concerns to Child Safety, the bill will insert a new section into the Child Protection Act to make it clear that reports may be made when a person reasonably suspects a child may be in need of protection.

This will bring Queensland into line with other jurisdictions in Australia such as New South Wales and Victoria. Currently Queensland's mandatory reporting provisions about children in need of protection are contained in a range of acts and policies of government departments. These arrangements set different obligations and different definitions for a range of professional groups. The Commission of Inquiry noted that this has meant that there is inconsistency across mandatory reporting requirements, and requirements do not line up with the requirements in the Child Protection Act that require Child Safety to take action.

The bill includes provisions to make it clear that doctors and nurses, teachers working in schools, police with child protection responsibilities and the staff of the new Public Guardian and Child Safety staff who visit residential case services have an obligation to report child protection concerns when they have a reasonable suspicion that a child is in need of protection that is caused by physical or sexual abuse.

The bill assists people by providing guidance about the things they may think about in forming a reasonable suspicion about whether a child has suffered, or is suffering, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering, significant harm. The bill also clarifies when concerns about a family can be referred to local family support services to avoid unnecessary reports to Child Safety. These provisions set the foundation for this government's commitment to increase the support to families who need help as recommended by the Commission of Inquiry.

The bill also authorises prescribed entities to share information about a child and their family with a service provider without their consent if this is required so that the service provider may assess what help the family needs and then offer them that help and support. Service providers will continue to engage with families with their consent.

The bill extends protection from liability for people who make reports to Child Safety to continue to encourage appropriate reporting and to protect those who do report. This protection from liability will apply when information is provided to Child Safety that is honest and reasonable to encourage people who report concerns to provide reasonable information to support their concerns.

When professionals or people in the community have concerns about a child's wellbeing, making a decision about what that person or professional can do to support the child and their family can be very difficult. These provisions together provide greater clarity about when a report to Child Safety is required and when a referral to a support service may be the most appropriate option.

Implementing these provisions will require changing culture and practices within schools, hospitals and police. Information, training and tools to help decision making will be required to support this change. This is why we propose that these provisions will commence from 1 January 2015.

The bill amends the Child Protection Act 1999 to streamline child death case reviews undertaken by Child Safety and refocus them on learning. The death of every of a child is a tragedy. The Commission of Inquiry noted that there is high public interest in the death of a child and in

demonstrating that any faulty policy, practice or service delivery issue has been addressed to reduce the likelihood of a similar tragedy occurring in the future. However, the commission argued that there is scant public benefit in subjecting matters to review if there is little or no scope for anything to be learned.

Given the time, effort and expense invested in such reviews, there is an imperative that the issues that are identified are of current value and used positively to inform policy, practice and professional development. Reviews are now undertaken only when a child dies and extends to them having been known to Child Safety within three years of their death. The bill will refocus this so that the department will be required to undertake a review in all cases where a child dies or is seriously injured and they were known to the Child Safety within 12 months of their death or injury.

The Minister will be able to ask Child Safety to review any death or serious injury of a child that falls outside of the one-year time frame if the minister considers the circumstances may be relevant to the chief executive's functions. All reviews conducted by Child Safety will be provided to an independent panel for review.

The bill disbands the current Child Death Case Review Committee chaired by the Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian and gives the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services the ability to select appropriately qualified experts to form part of a pool of people from which a panel will be called upon to independently review the department's review of their involvement with a child when the child dies or is seriously injured.

The panel will be independent and multidisciplinary and must include a minimum of three external child protection specialists, at least one and not more than three departmental officers, at least one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person, and at least one public servant from another department. To further ensure independence, the chief executive will report annually to the minister about the performance of the panel's functions.

The bill repeals section 248 of the Child Protection Act which requires agencies across government to give information each year about their operations to the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services to be collated into an annual report. The bulk of the information included in the annual report as it exists now is already published elsewhere. The implementation of the government's response to the Commission of Inquiry's report provides the opportunity to re-evaluate reporting requirements to make sure we are reporting on the most salient information about how the system is performing.

To improve processes for handling complaints in relation to the child protection system, the bill streamlines complaint functions by removing the duplicated oversight role performed by the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian in favour of the oversight currently provided by the Ombudsman. This is in line with the recommendations of the commission that improved and refined oversight of the child protection system would be achieved by placing appropriate responsibility on each department with child protection responsibilities, avoiding duplication and uses resources efficiently.

To ensure the timely and efficient handling of complaints, the bill amends the Ombudsman Act 2001 to allow the Queensland Ombudsman to delegate work to appropriately qualified officers.

Amendments are also made to clarify the leadership of the Childrens Court when constituted by magistrates. Under the amendments, the Chief Magistrate will be responsible for the administration of the Childrens Court when constituted by magistrates. This will allow the Chief Magistrate to ensure that Childrens Court matters, including child protection, youth justice and adoption matters are dealt with in an efficient manner.

Amendments are also made to allow Childrens Court magistrate appointments, including current appointments, to continue for the length of the magistrate's appointment rather than being limited to five years to increase the number of Childrens Court magistrates over time and assist with implementing the Commission of Inquiry's recommendation that more existing magistrates be appointed as Childrens Court magistrates.

Finally, the bill transfers administration of the blue card scheme to the Public Safety Business Agency, the new government entity providing corporate service capabilities for the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service under a stand-alone act, Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000.

A comprehensive, independent policy and business process review, including a review of workforce requirements and a consideration of whether the scheme should be simplified, will be undertaken after 1 July 2014.

This government is committed to implementing the next stages of reform, which will include legislative and non-legislative reforms, to comprehensively change the way Queensland protects, cares for and supports its most vulnerable children. These changes will provide the legislative foundation to support and enable the extensive non-legislative reform agenda to implement the road map. For example, this will include joint training and capacity building tools and guidelines, strengthening the child and family support services sector to provide families with the support they need earlier and minimising the need for Child Safety intervention. It will also include building the capacity of the sector by establishing initiatives such as community based intake pathways, a new practice framework for Child Safety and non-government staff and expanding intensive family support services.

This bill, as well as the Public Guardian Bill and the Family and Child Commission Bill, underpin this government's objectives to build a sustainable and effective child protection system for the future.

I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.29 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 Health and Community Services Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Community Services Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.30 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Health and Community Services Committee report to the House on the Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill by 13 May 2014.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ELECTRICITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MF McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (4.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Electricity Act 1994, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Electricity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 [[4721](#)].

Tabled paper: Electricity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes [[4722](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Electricity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. This bill is another action of the Newman government putting downward pressure on electricity prices and water prices. This bill will reduce the impact of Labor's Solar Bonus Scheme on Queenslanders' electricity bills. Two weeks ago I announced that with the cessation of the transitional 8c Solar Bonus Scheme we would mandate an Ergon funded feed-in tariff for regional and rural Queenslanders who did not have access to fair offers from retailers, as occurs in South-East Queensland. Not only are we giving certainty to regional and rural Queenslanders; we are saving Queenslanders about \$110 million over the next six years. This bill will also deliver more effective governance arrangements for our role in the national energy market. It ensures the cost of national energy market regulation is structured

around those who benefit most from a well-regulated national market. The bill also cuts red tape and duplication in reinforcing this government's treatment of CSG water as a resource—not a waste. This involves removing regulatory duplication in the management of CSG water.

I want to take the opportunity to elaborate further on the key elements of this bill. Firstly, let me talk about Labor's Solar Bonus Scheme. The bill includes important changes for how the Solar Bonus Scheme will work for regional and rural Queenslanders. The bill amends the arrangements legislated in the Electricity Act 1994 to ensure that regional and rural Queenslanders will continue to receive a payment for their exported solar energy after 30 June this year. The current transitional 8c Solar Bonus Scheme ceases, as set out in the Electricity Act, on 30 June 2014. The amendments establish a new requirement for Ergon to replace the current regulated 8c Solar Bonus Scheme. We are doing this so that regional and rural Queenslanders who were on the 8c Solar Bonus Scheme will continue to receive a fair sum for the electricity they export to the grid. The bill also requires that this will be paid by Ergon Retail, recognising that Ergon Retail benefits from onselling the exported electricity.

The Queensland Competition Authority will be responsible for setting the regulated regional feed-in tariff, which is considered appropriate given the QCA's role in determining the notified prices. The changes proposed by this bill mean the cost of 50,000 existing 8c Solar Bonus Scheme connections in Queensland and the cost of new solar customers will be no longer flowing through to electricity bills. This saves Queenslanders about \$110 million over the next six years. The amendments are a vast improvement on the 44c scheme introduced by the former government where costs are paid by electricity distributors and then passed on to all Queensland consumers via higher electricity prices. Labor's scheme will add \$67 to your household bill this year, rising to \$276 in 2015-16 and will ultimately cost Queenslanders \$3.3 billion by 2028.

I want to make it very clear, however, that the new mandated feed-in tariff will not apply in the Energex network area, reducing red tape for Energex and retailers in the south-east corner. Customers in the Energex network can currently access market driven feed-in tariffs of between 4c to 10c offered voluntarily by competing electricity retailers. I must also make it absolutely clear that these changes will have no impact on customers receiving the 44c feed-in tariff. Importantly, the new arrangements meet the commitments that this government made to review the Solar Bonus Scheme once the QCA had determined a fair value for exported solar energy. Given the rapid and changing pace in the way we generate and use electricity, there is also a commitment to review the requirement for Ergon to make these payments within five years of commencement. Ultimately, the amendments deliver a fairer solar scheme for Queensland's future, certainty for regional and rural Queenslanders without access to competition and without any added costs for other electricity consumers.

The bill also amends the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 to repeal the provisions treating CSG water as recycled water where it may enter the drinking water supply. These CSG water amendments reflect the outcomes of the QCA's review into the regulation of the CSG industry, which recommended that part 9A of chapter 3 of the water supply act be repealed and that the release of CSG water be managed solely under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. The QCA review considered that the protection of public health cannot be compromised but that the water supply act imposes specific and prescriptive requirements on CSG water that do not apply to water from other sources of similar quality, such as mine discharges, and which are not commensurate with the risk.

The amendments to the water supply act also align with the CSG water management policy approved in 2012 by my colleague the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection which makes it clear that CSG water should be used and managed in a way that is of benefit to the community and reduces impacts on the environment. Despite the proposed changes, there are no implications for the quality of drinking water. If CSG water is to be used directly for drinking water, then it will continue to be regulated through the drinking water quality management provisions of the water supply act which ensure the protection of public health. The bill contains a transitional provision that will ensure that existing CSG recycled water management plans or exclusion decisions stay in force until relevant environmental authorities or specific beneficial use approvals are amended to ensure that they contain conditions to protect public health. The transitional provision will expire on 1 July 2015, by which time the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection will have amended all appropriate approvals.

This bill also makes amendments that will allow Queensland to recover from industry its share of the costs of funding the Australian Energy Market Commission, which is a key governance body for the national energy markets. This will be achieved via minor amendments to the Electricity Act 1994

and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, providing for an increase in fees charged to electricity and natural gas transmission companies that are subject to the national energy rules. Industry cost recovery means the cost of regulation is borne by those who benefit from a well-regulated industry. The AEMC is the rule maker for the national energy markets and provides strategic advice on market development issues. The AEMC's work supports efficient, reliable and secure energy market frameworks which ultimately serves the long-term interests of consumers. This brings Queenslanders in line with other states and territories that already recover the costs of national regulation from industry.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the contribution of the QCA in reviewing and providing advice on the regulatory frameworks for the solar feed-in tariff and management of CSG water, as well as participation by key stakeholder groups in those very important review processes. As a package, the measures set out in the bill will improve the efficiency of our energy and water industries and put downward pressure on prices. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MF McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (4.38 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 State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. MF McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (4.39 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provision of standing order 136 the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee report to the House on the Electricity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 13 May 2014.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

FORESTRY AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. SL DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (4.40 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Forestry Act 1959 and the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 for particular purposes and to make minor and consequential amendments to the act mentioned in schedule 1. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health and Community Services Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014 [\[4723\]](#).

Tabled paper: Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes [\[4724\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill 2014. This bill will mend the Forestry Act 1959 to facilitate the remaking of the Forestry Regulation 1998 which is due to expire in August this year. The bill also amends the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 to insert provisions relating to the renewal of commercial activity permits to ensure consistency across other relevant legislation administered by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service.

Like some of the forests it used to administer, the Forestry Act is quite old. While it continues to serve its purpose well in providing the necessary legislative framework for managing Queensland's forest lands, the act has been reviewed in the process of preparing to remake the Forestry Regulation and there are several areas that require amendment to bring it up to date. This bill will transfer a

number of specific provisions from the Forestry Regulation into the Forestry Act to achieve consistency with modern drafting practice and to meet the fundamental legislative principles set out in the Legislative Standards Act 1992.

Offences and the penalties associated with committing a number of offences under the Forestry Act will also be standardised with more contemporary legislation and will streamline the administration and management of forest lands. This will assist the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, as both departments have responsibilities under the Forestry Act. The general community will also benefit, as it will remove confusion caused when the law in relation to carrying out a particular activity is unnecessarily different across lands such as national parks and state forests.

The first category of amendments relates to transferring officer powers from the Forestry Regulation into the Forestry Act. Currently, the Forestry Act provides for the appointment of forest officers and plantation officers. Forest officers are generally Public Service employees, such as Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service rangers, with responsibility for the management of state forest lands. Plantation officers are employees of HQPlantations, the company licenced to manage plantation timber within specific state plantation forests. Forest officers and plantation officers can exercise powers specified in the forestry legislation. The majority of powers granted to forest officers and plantation officers are specified in the Forestry Act. However, at present the Forestry Regulation also contains some provisions specifying officer powers. These provisions will be moved from the regulation and consolidated into the act.

The second category of amendments involves inserting officer powers into the Forestry Act for the management of camping and animals. This will allow forest officers to be provided with the power to give a person direction verbally rather than in writing to leave a camping site if there is a safety risk such as an approaching forest fire. Since 2006, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service officers have had the ability to give verbal directions to leave camping sites in protected areas and recreation areas; however, similar powers do not exist for managing state forests. Further, these amendments will allow forest officers to give directions to a person to remove an animal if it is unlawfully in the area, it has been causing a disturbance, or it is a danger to persons or wildlife. These amendments will provide consistency in this regard over state forests, protected areas and recreation areas.

The third category of amendments in this bill involves updating maximum penalties for offences to ensure consistency with other contemporary legislation used to manage Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service lands. Currently the maximum penalties for a range of offences on state forests relating to inappropriate conduct and damage to state assets and property are significantly lower than penalties in more contemporary legislation. Some examples of these offences include unlawful lighting of a fire, polluting watercourses, littering, burying waste, dumping noxious materials, unlawful use of vehicles and vessels, unlawfully possessing traps, firearms or explosive devices. Most of these offences are currently located in the Forestry Regulation, with a maximum penalty of only 10 penalty units, which is the equivalent of \$1,100. Now, I do not believe a court imposed fine to a maximum of \$1,100 is adequate in cases where, for example, a person causes a fire in a state forest that destroys native forest or commercial timber and/or damages public infrastructure and private property. To address this matter, this bill will increase the penalties for such offences to be consistent with other contemporary land management legislation such as the Nature Conservation Act 1992. In order to provide higher penalties for such serious offences, the existing offence provisions in the Forestry Regulation will be moved to the Forestry Act to comply with requirements for offences with penalties above 20 penalty units to be located in the primary legislation. There are several instances where current penalties in the forestry legislation are higher than those for the same offences in the other legislation. This bill will reduce the maximum penalty in the forestry legislation to achieve consistency.

The fourth category of amendments relates to simplifying commercial activity permit requirements in the Forestry Act and the Recreation Areas Management Act. When conducting commercial activities on protected areas, state forests and recreation areas, businesses are required to hold a commercial activity permit. This allows the activities to be effectively managed to avoid conflicts with other visitors such as overcrowding and generates a financial return to the state from the use of these state assets.

As part of this government's continued pursuit of reducing red tape for the community through streamlining legislative and administrative processes, this bill will simplify arrangements by introducing a simple renewal process for commercial activity permit holders. Currently, there is no ability to renew a commercial activity permit. Instead, when a commercial activity permit expires a

new application must be lodged and a new assessment must occur even when the permit activities remain the same. This wastes valuable commercial operators' and departmental resources' time. The bill will remedy this situation by inserting new provisions to enable renewals to occur.

This bill will also remove the need for people undertaking commercial filming and photography on state forests to obtain a permit where there are fewer than 10 people and no structures involved in the activity. This is yet another example of this government's commitment to simplifying access to state forests and reducing red tape.

The fifth and final category of amendments is miscellaneous provisions to clarify and improve the operation of the Forestry Act. Some of these amendments include:

- allowing officers to produce identity cards instead of their letter of appointment;
- allowing for a warrant granted to a forest officer to be exercised by another forest officer;
- increasing the term of stock grazing permits from seven to 10 years to be consistent with the Nature Conservation Act 1992;
- amending the definition of 'recreational purposes' to include recreational services provided to forest users by a business; and
- include provisions allowing users to book a campsite over the phone or online.

This bill will improve the administration and management of forest areas and continue with this government's aim of reducing red tape and simplifying access to forests and other lands managed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. SL DICKSON (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (4.48 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 Health and Community Services Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Community Services Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. SL DICKSON (Buderim—LNP) (Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing) (4.49 pm): by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Health and Community Services Committee report to the House on the Forestry and Another Act Amendment Bill by 26 May 2014.

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

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Regional Planning Interests Bill resumed from 19 March (see p. 762), on motion of Mr Seeney, and Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill resumed from 19 March (see p. 762), on motion of Mr Hopper—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr YOUNG** (Keppel—LNP) (4.50 pm): I rise to support the Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013. This bill provides the framework for managing the impact of resource activities, including mining and coal seam gas, in areas of regional interest. This is a very significant piece of legislation for all Queensland, but more so in regional areas that have had to balance resource activities but at the same time protect our food and fibre priority agricultural areas.

We have seen massive growth in resource exploration, extraction and production right across Queensland but nowhere near the gas exploration and extraction developments. They have been substantial and not without their challenges. I had a role within the stakeholder workshops in the lead-up to the implementation of the Central Queensland Regional Plan. The Central Queensland Regional Plan provided strategic direction and policies to deliver local and regional outcomes which align with the state's interests. The Central Queensland Regional Plan provided me with an insight into the Regional Planning Interests Bill introduced to parliament by the Deputy Premier in November last year and referred to our committee and thus began the committee's inquiry into the process.


Because of the nature of the bill and the complexity of hearing all of the stakeholders' views, which at times were quite opposed and competing in argument, the committee received 99 submissions, including supplementary submissions, from a broad range of stakeholders which provided a considerable depth of valuable information. I thank the submitters for their views. I will read a sample of the submitters to the House to illustrate the level of interest and involvement. We had such groups as the Cooper's Creek Protection Group, Queensland Tourism, Ipswich City Council, Rio Tinto Coal, Cape Alumina, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Friends of Felton, SEQ Catchments, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee, the Gladstone Regional Council, the Local Government Association of Queensland, the Cape York Land Council, the Queensland Farmers' Federation, the Queensland Resources Council and the Queensland Law Society. As members can see, the submitters represent every aspect of this great state from councils to resource, environment and water protection groups.

Last night we heard the Deputy Premier talk about the previous government's inability to engage with all levels of community and business. Their failure in this most important area of management created the biggest divide between the resource sector and the landholders and smaller regional communities. This bill does something that the previous government could not achieve. It summoned all stakeholders to obtain the information to produce a road map or flow chart to develop the criteria to protect prime agricultural land, communities and regional towns and strategic environmental areas but at the same time give the resource companies certainty.

The bill introduces four areas: priority agricultural areas, PAAs, over cultivated and broadacre cropping; priority living areas, which provides certainty for growth in towns and regional cities; strategic environmental areas, for example the Channel Country and areas of Cape York; and strategic cropping areas, formerly strategic cropping land.

The committee visited properties affected by coal seam gas activity. The member for Gympie and chair of the committee spoke about how the property owners had embraced the coal seam gas infrastructure on their properties. I feel the resource companies have shifted in negotiations to provide property owners with real benefits in terms of infrastructure and financial compensation and property owners have moved to accept that gas activities on their properties are now seen as an integral part of their business plan. It was interesting to engage with all the parties at the briefing in Toowoomba and the second briefing here in parliament. One could see a movement towards agreement.

The committee, after careful consideration, made 22 recommendations. I applaud the cabinet for endorsing in principle all 22 recommendations. I would like to thank all the groups and individuals who submitted to the bill and especially those who travelled to public hearings. This bill provides the framework and flow chart that provides protectionism and certainty for our valuable agricultural and mining industries. I wish to thank the chair and the members of the committee, the secretariat and staff who put in a large amount of work on this substantial bill and the Deputy Premier and his departmental staff for their constant advice which we sought on many occasions. I look forward to this significant bill being passed in the House.

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (4.54 pm): I rise to contribute to this cognate debate and also to commend the committee for its work in preparing its report on the Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013 and also the report on the Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill 2013. My initial comments will be on the Regional Planning Interests Bill. I was fortunate to be part of some of those meetings, although there were a number that I missed because of parliamentary committee obligations. I was impressed, as were other members, with the

inclusiveness of those meetings. There was a wide range of people who were involved and consulted. As the meetings rolled through it was evident that there was regard being taken by the planning consultants and by the minister and his team in relation to the comments that were made and the concerns that were aired.

A regional plan that recognises the diversity of this state and the integral validity of different areas of the state is very important. From day one it has been an argument from rural and regional representatives that one size does not fit all, that concerns in the south-east corner may be replicated in the regions, but regional concerns often are not even a consideration for more urban dwellers. This bill talks about things like negotiation between landowners and proponents. I think the notion of consultation and negotiation is very sound. Without being critical of recent industry—in fact, I am not going to separate out any industry in particular—can I say that the rhetoric often does not match the intent of the legislation. Whilst the bill rightly says that proponents must negotiate in good faith with landowners, it is very often the case—and it would be in the minister's electorate as I know it is in my electorate—that landowners have felt disempowered, they have felt that the dialogue from some of the proponents and, indeed, sometimes from the government representatives, whoever that government might be, the bureaucrats who are sent in to discuss projects, might be intimidatory to landowners. Quite a number of landowners who have talked to me have felt very much at a disadvantage in regard to negotiations. Indeed, some have felt threatened by either the proponent's representatives or the government's representatives in relation to their position in that negotiation.

I think that the consultation for this Regional Planning Interests Bill has been amongst the most effective that I have been involved in and I certainly commend the process for that. There was a comment made in this place yesterday when a request was made for the regulations to be tabled. I note that there is an exposure draft of the regulations and I commend the minister for that. It was an across-the-chamber comment with one side saying that regulations are never put out when the bill is tabled. The fact is that it can occur and has occurred in the past. Given the truth of the statement that the devil is in the detail, it is always important for members of parliament to have some knowledge of the regulations when they are debating the head of power—the legislation.

Given the short time that is available to me, I wish also to comment on the Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill 2013. I listened to the debate last night and it was sadly very personally critical of some of the contributors. It is very easy to take a person on and criticise and ridicule them, but it is important to have regard to the issue that is being raised and the impact that the issue may have on residents of our state.

In a comment made during his contribution, the member for Lockyer said, 'Tell them they're dreaming.' I believe he was aiming that comment at members of the Katter's Australian Party. I may be wrong and I am sure that I will be corrected if I am. Great things have been achieved by people who dream. Indeed, some of the best things in our state, our nation and our world have been achieved by people who dream beyond what is the norm or what is acceptable. I commend people who dream, and I do not care in what environment. There can be times when there have to be constraints and limitations on that, but it is the dreamers in our society who see us extend beyond what we think is achievable.


I believe that as Queenslanders we will live to regret our lack of protection of our food supply. Currently we are in a period where the bottom line is the dollar, as opposed to the bottom line being the needs of the people. As an island nation, we have had opportunities in relation to genetically modified food. We have an opportunity in relation to the protection of our food supply through this legislation in relation to LNG.

In my electorate, we deal with what happens downstream, rather than retrieving the product from underground. In the debate about the impacts that LNG and coal seam gas have on water supplies and the artesian basin, I felt a bit of an interloper because the impact on my community has been in the very big industry that is required to process LNG and then ship it overseas. However, we all must remember that, to get to the point where we achieve a benefit, a lot of people in the interior of South-East Queensland have had to face amazing challenges—personal, emotional and financial challenges—for the LNG to be retrieved. We should never underestimate the cost on families of industrial development.

I intend to support this private member's bill. It is aspirational. I hope the member for Condamine is going to table the map, because there was a lot of criticism of his bill as he wants to cancel exploration permits without compensation. When one looks at the map, one sees that very few of those permits would be affected—very few indeed. There were several contributions about sovereign risk and cancelling people's exploration permits without compensation.

Not that many years ago, we sat in this place late at night and voted to remove dairy quotas. No compensation was paid. Dairy farmers had paid a quarter of a million dollars or half a million dollars or whatever to be able to provide that quota of milk to the processor. We never gave them any compensation. Dairy farmers used that quota as their superannuation. Overnight, with the stroke of a pen, it was worth nothing. We saw farmers harm themselves because they saw their ability to provide for their families disappear overnight.

Therefore, it is really nonsense to be critical of the member for Condamine because in this bill he has not allowed for compensation, without looking at the package that he is talking about. It affects very few exploration permits to my understanding, and he can clarify this. There are no wells developed on the area that he wishes to protect, but it is the food bowl for Queensland. I hope that in years to come, subsequent representatives do not stand in this place and regret our not taking the opportunity to protect that very plentiful area of our state where much of our produce comes from. Not only that, I hope that we do not regret failing to take an opportunity to give protection to those farmers who, day and night, work selflessly to provide food for our tables. I believe we will regret not taking some steps to protect our food supply. Time will be the prover of that and, sadly, it may be too little too late. I commend both bills to the House.


 **Ms MILLARD** (Sandgate—LNP) (5.04 pm): I rise to commend to the House the Regional Planning Interests Bill, which will deliver on the LNP's commitment to protect prime agricultural land and resolve land-use conflicts. This bill seeks to implement a robust and effective planning system for regional development in Queensland and I commend the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee for its comprehensive review of the draft bill and hours of consultation with a diverse range of stakeholders in bringing its recommendations before the House. I also wish to thank the secretariat. Without them, our job just would not be possible. Well done, ladies.

There exists in some arenas a great fallacy of thought that we must choose between our environment, agriculture and resource development. That is exactly the kind of scenario that this bill and this government seek to avoid. We Queenslanders are rich in both natural attributes and the skills to develop those responsibly. We know that we are not just a state of farmers or miners or environmental lobbyists or city dwellers or consumers: we are all of those things and more, with a need to balance multifaceted interests.

The Regional Planning Interests Bill introduces a system of regional planning to manage the impact of resource and other activities. It covers gaps in terms of activities not adequately assessed under other relevant or related acts and that would be consistent with regional plans. The bill centres around identified areas for regional interest, including priority agricultural areas such as the Darling Downs and the Central Highlands, strategic cropping areas identified in the current Strategic Cropping Land Act, priority living areas that exist around towns and urban or semi-urban areas, and strategic environmental areas such as the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve on Cape York and the Channel Country. Under the bill, new regulated development in one of those areas would need to obtain a regional impact development approval to ensure compatibility with regional interests. Exemptions would include private landowners where impacts are limited to their land only. These approvals would allow appropriate controls or restrictions to be applied, similar to the development approval process that has long been used in urban development.

What benefits would it deliver? The Regional Planning Interests Bill promises the scrutiny and control over regional development impacts that have been absent and accords a similar priority to development in our regions to what we have seen in urban areas. The simple geography of Queensland speaks for itself if you need to know why this would be an important outcome. The assessment process established by the Regional Planning Interests Bill seeks to restore a balance of power and provide certainty for rural producers, and will deliver on the government's commitment to protect prime agricultural land and provide greater power to landholders in negotiating with resource companies. The laws will be the level playing field for landholders negotiating with the resource sector and the framework ensures that landholders have a say in any potential development that occurs on their property.

This bill is about the government laying down rules and safeguards to ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity to benefit from development in our regions, to ensure that planning is not random and, most of all, to see that we act as a responsible guardian of this agriculture- and resource-rich state. I commend the Regional Planning Interests Bill to the House. I am pleased that I am part of a government that can deliver sensible and clearer outcomes that will strengthen this state and make it the powerhouse state of this country.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (5.07 pm): I rise to speak to the Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill. The explanatory notes state—

Objectives of the Bill

The primary objectives of the Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill 2013 are to:

1. Prohibit all coal seam gas and exploration mining activities east of the Condamine River from Chinchilla to the New South Wales Border and from the Longitudinal line running directly through the Chinchilla Post Office east to the coast; and
2. Protect any land under the Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011.

Reasons for the Bill

Fundamentally the Bill is intended to protect prime agricultural land from coal seam gas exploration to ensure the sustainability of the agricultural industry and food security into the future for all Queenslanders.

That is quite sensible. The explanatory notes continue—

Importantly, the designated areas described in this Bill are identified as one of the richest agricultural areas in Queensland.

The current Liberal National Party Government and former Labor Governments alike, have failed to protect the agricultural land defined in this Bill. Accordingly, this Bill is intended, without discretion, to unreservedly protect the defined agricultural land.

It is held that there is an urgent need for a firm stance against the coal seam gas industry, pending the establishment of science to guarantee risk mitigation of Queensland's prime agricultural land including that defined within this Bill.

For the purposes of absolute clarity, this Bill does not seek to prohibit the coal seam gas industry but it specifically excludes coal seam gas exploration and mining in the areas designated in the Bill—including to protect underground water that may potentially be affected either for a particular period or irreversibly.

Importantly, the Bill is also intended to contribute to food security for all of Queensland.

I reflect on what the member for Condamine has been saying. I believe that government members need to change their speaking notes because otherwise they are misleading the House when they say that this bill will result in massive compensation and cost the gas industry in Queensland billions of dollars. You need to change your speaking notes because you are misleading the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! I remind the member for Dalrymple to direct his comments through the chair.

Mr KNUTH: Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. I have a map here of the productive wells and the exploration wells. The member for Condamine saw that there was great concern for the valuable prime agricultural land in the Darling Downs region. I table this map for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Map from Google Earth, dated 14 October 2012, titled 'Coal Seam Gas Wells, "Excluded Area": Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill 2013' [4725].

He used his initiative and introduced this bill. He saw that farmers wanted to invest in their properties. He saw that they wanted to put money into their properties. He saw that they wanted to sow good seed and plant good crops but they were hindered by the fact that massive multinational gas companies were going to sink wells and suck the living daylight out of their underground water aquifer. There was no-one out there protecting those farmers. All those farmers wanted was someone, some government, some department, some minister to say, 'We are going to slow this up. We want to set aside prime agricultural land.' This is a \$14 billion industry.

It is not the Deputy Premier's fault that he has taken this position on the member for Condamine's bill. I believe he has been misled by the committee with regard to the bill. He has been misled by the committee. It is not the first time the committee has misled the parliament with regard to legislation. The same occurred with my fair milk mark bill. I was able to clearly rule out all of the myths put forward by the LNP in opposing the fair milk mark bill.

The Deputy Premier has been misled by the committee in terms of what the member for Condamine is trying to achieve here. He is trying to protect prime agricultural land east of the Condamine River from Chinchilla to the New South Wales border.

The committee went to Dalby. We arranged to meet the gas companies. The landowners we met were those in the Condamine alluvium area who will possibly be affected. The council identified very strongly that this—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr KNUTH: There was a Pat Weir. I hope that he continues on as a good farmer rather than try to become a politician. He will not get there. He has no hope of getting there.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair, member for Dalrymple.

Mr KNUTH: The council identified the Condamine alluvium area as an area that we cannot afford to touch. At the moment, the gas companies are frothing at the mouth as they desperately attempt to get into the Condamine alluvium area.

The member for Condamine was compassionate enough to see that there are areas that need to be protected. He did not draw a line over gas wells that are already in production. He did not do that. He could see within his electorate—other members of parliament were invisible; the members for Lockyer, Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South were invisible—the passion of farmers when it comes to the impact that coal seam gas will have on them. All they were asking for was a clear definition.

That is why it is common sense to support the member for Condamine's bill. It is about protecting this \$14 billion industry. We need to remember that this \$14 billion industry was what saved us during the global economic crisis. We have governments backing these massive gas companies. They will be around for 20 or 30 years but after that they will be gone. They will leave holes in the ground. Then we will not have an agriculture industry. We will not have good food, good fibre, good fruit, good vegetables and good beef. We will have to look elsewhere to supply what this state and country needs.

When we went out to meet the gas companies the committee organised to show us the best of it. This was not the area the member for Condamine was talking about. We went to an area outside where the member for Condamine was talking about. The council said that it did not want coal seam gas mining in the area the member for Condamine is talking about.

When we met with the farmers we did not have the opportunity to go out and see the beautiful prime agricultural land in the Condamine alluvium area which we are talking about. We invited the farmers in, gave them a nice feed and said, 'We will see what we can do, but we cannot promise you anything because you have to learn to co-exist.' That is what was given to the farmers.

We went out and saw the gas companies in the area that the member for Condamine outlines are outside the area contained in his bill. We have nothing to worry about when it comes to the area that the member for Condamine is talking about. He is talking about protecting the area east of the Condamine River down to the New South Wales border.

I table the peer reviewed articles, academic journals and reports which the Katter's Australian Party's research division has utilised in a comprehensive literature review which underpins the logic behind the member for Condamine's private member's bill titled Protection of Prime of Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining 2013. The literature presents a clear picture that there is uncertainty about whether the gas industry has the ability to ensure water quality, land quality, human health and environmental effects. My colleague the honourable member for Condamine will table the international comparative literature review when delivering his reply speech.

Tabled paper: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research report, dated October 2012, titled 'Large scale export of East Coast Australia natural gas: Unintended consequences' [\[4726\]](#).

Tabled paper: Bundle of peer reviewed journal articles regarding coal seam gas [\[4727\]](#).

In speaking to the Regional Planning Interests Bill, the government pats on the back those who participated in the inquiry. They give a standing ovation to the committee members who packaged this together. I sense the Deputy Premier is not really confident in this bill. The submissions showed that people were unimpressed with the Regional Planning Interests Bill. The committee report states—

- Springsure landowners stated the Bill 'sets out broad and generalised purposes and achievements ... about regional planning and regional interests.' They see the failure to state 'the preservation of highly suitable cropping land' as a purpose of the Bill as undermining the Bill's objective to manage coexistence of resource and regulated activities.

The committee gives the perception that they might have changed a few little recommendations and sweetened up a few things, but all the submitters believe that it has gone from a bad bill to a very ordinary bill. There is a little bit of difference but not much—from a bad bill to an ordinary one. So there is a little bit of change there. It continues—

- the Queensland Resources Council raised concerns about the use of the term 'coexistence' as a purpose of the Bill.

I think the National Farmers Federation also raised a lot of concerns about the issue of co-existence. The committee report states—

... some submitters have expressed concern that the term 'coexistence' appears only once in the Bill ... QRC states that it would have preferred to have seen the term used throughout the Bill.

...

AgForce was also concerned with the lack of definition of coexistence in the Bill and suggested that agreed principles around coexistence be included.


The report also states—

Stakeholders from the agricultural and resources sectors raised issues regarding this definition. Some submitters were concerned that the definition is too broad and ought to be clearer.

The definition is too broad. It talks about co-existence. It talks about sustainable management. It talks about development. That all sounds good. But the member for Condamine's bill is clear and it says there will be no coal seam gas mining from this area forward, whereas the Regional Planning Interests Bill does not that say that at all and it is hard to define. So all the submitters have put forward a view that they are not getting a detailed plan or process, because after this bill is passed it will take them years to understand what on earth this bill is talking about, whereas the member for Condamine has made it clear where there is to be no coal seam gas mining.

I admit that the Deputy Premier has a lot on his mind. He has a big job. He is the Deputy Premier in Queensland. But, as I said, he has been misled by the committee. At the same time I believe that he is not confident with regard to this bill that has been brought forward.

I commend the member for Condamine for taking the initiative and for stepping forward, challenging establishments and supporting farmers but giving them security so they can invest—so they know that 30 years down the track they can still farm, that they can provide food and fibre and put meat on the table. That is not seen in the Parliament of Queensland. It is very good to see that someone has the intestinal fortitude to make a decision. I fully support the member for Condamine's Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill, and I commend his bill to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (5.22 pm): Firstly I thank my colleagues for allowing me to make this brief contribution on this bill. I rise to speak in support of the Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013, which demonstrates this government's commitment to providing a sensible strategic approach to land use planning in Queensland. The issue of managing land use is central to our economic, environmental and social wellbeing. So I welcome the intent of this legislation to provide a clear framework for managing the interests of growth, development, conservation, the environment, agriculture and resources in areas of regional interest.

As a result of this extensive consultation, I note that the committee's report includes a long list of recommendations and points for clarification, and I applaud the Deputy Premier for his response to the committee's report in which the government has agreed to accept all 22 of the recommendations either in full or in principle. This represents community consultation at its best. Personally, I have observed with interest the conflicts over land use that have arisen in the past in regions such as the Darling Downs and Central Queensland. With resource exploration activity in my electorate also on the increase, I am very mindful of the fact that any conflicts need to be carefully managed, taking into account the interests of all stakeholders from a long-term point of view.

On a daily basis we all receive phone calls, emails, letters and visits to our offices to discuss potential land use conflicts. I am sure all my colleagues have had much the same experience. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions made recently by Ken and Paula Outzen from Yandaran, Estelle and Bod Poulsen, Lorraine Heyes and Vicki Perrin from Avondale and Winfield on behalf of concerned residents. The consistent issue raised has been their concerns around protecting priority agricultural areas and priority living areas. The Regional Planning Interests Bill will deliver on the LNP's commitment to protect prime agricultural land and resolve land use conflicts where they arise.

In acknowledging their concerns, it is important that we share the significance of the opportunities in this bill, particularly the strategic environmental areas. The region will benefit from the opportunities that are now available under this government to protect pristine areas in the electorate, areas like Baffle Creek and Kolan River. They are just some areas that may be reviewed under this legislation. The towns of Winfield, Avondale and others on our delicate coastal strips with important artesian basins all should have and will have an interest in the strength of this legislation.

I remind the constituents with an interest in regional planning issues that they now have, under this government, with this legislation, four key areas of regional interest: priority agricultural areas, strategic cropping area, priority living areas and strategic environmental areas. I remind those

constituents and other stakeholders of what is required before approvals are considered. Any new regulated development in areas of regional interest will need a regional impact development approval, known as a RIDA.

Further enhancements include priority agricultural land use assessment criteria. This ensures that any activity must not result in material impact at the property level and at the regional level. It should be stated that the landowners are in a stronger position. This empowers landowners and deals with underground water management. This legislation will provide the people in the Burnett electorate with a greater degree of certainty when it comes to what can and cannot be done on land—that is, in areas of regional interest. In particular, it gives effect to regional plans which are designed to not only ensure long-term sustainable land use but also empower landowners and give them certainty. When we talk of landowners, I add that I support the recommendation by the committee to include pastoral leaseholders under the definition of ‘owners’.


The regional plans that are currently being rolled out identify and include long-term land use policies that protect areas of regional interest. Such areas include priority agricultural areas, priority living areas and strategic environmental areas. This bill also expands on those areas of regional interest by identifying strategic cropping areas and integrating the objectives of the Strategic Cropping Act 2011 and thereby reducing unnecessary duplication.

With the process of regional planning now underway, it makes sense to pass this bill, which will manage the impact of resource and other regulated activities in those areas of regional interest. One of the committee’s recommendations was to develop a definition of co-existence or co-existence criteria relevant to each area of regional interest. I agree with the committee that this would enhance the ability of both landowners and resource companies to arrive at a mutually beneficial outcome and provide clarification for all involved. I look forward to seeing this recommendation implemented.

A resource activity or other identified activity cannot occur in an area of regional interest unless a regional interest authority has been given. The process of obtaining an authority under the bill ensures that a comprehensive and effective assessment process will take place before any resource activities occur within an area of regional interest. It also allows for appeal by affected stakeholders such as a landowner. In some cases, certain aspects of an application may be referred to a third party such as a local government. Any conditions applied by the third party must then be added to the authority. These arrangements ensure that local planning schemes are able to work in conjunction with the new regional plans.

As the Deputy Premier said when introducing this bill, the introduction of land use planning to Queensland is a new concept but it is a necessary concept because we all now face challenges that we have never had to face in the past on such a wide scale. We have always promised to deliver a stable four-pillar economy to the people of Queensland. Taking positive steps towards ensuring that sectors such as resources and agriculture are able to co-exist is clearly a vital part of being able to deliver on that promise.

I sum up by thanking the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and the committee. Again, I thank my colleagues for their indulgence this afternoon in allowing me to make a small contribution to this legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (5.28 pm): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise to participate in the cognate debate of the Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill 2013, introduced by the member for Condamine, the leader of the Katter party in Queensland, and the Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013, introduced by the Deputy Premier of the Liberal National Party government in Queensland. I take members to the stated purposes of the member for Condamine’s bill. It is very clear and very simple. The bill states—

The purposes of this Act are to—

- (a) protect certain land, in particular Queensland’s prime agricultural land, from the destructive effects of coal seam gas exploration and mining, and activities associated with coal seam gas exploration and mining; and
- (b) preserve the productive capacity of Queensland’s agricultural land—

not just for now but—

for future generations.

The bill then sets out how the purposes are to be achieved. It states—

To achieve its purposes, this Act—

- (a) identifies land that is protected land; and
- (b) prohibits the carrying out on that land of coal seam gas exploration or mining, or activities associated with coal seam gas exploration or mining.

I have seen the map that the members for Condamine, Gladstone and Dalrymple referred to, and I understand that departmental officers also referred to this in the committee's report. When I looked at the map, I only saw a few dots and I understand they were identified areas of interest for coal seam gas. I raised this matter with the member for Condamine, and he made it clear that he was very deliberate in his consideration of what was proposed to be a no-go area for coal seam gas in Queensland. He said, 'We only looked at protecting the really good land where there were not already established significant coal seam gas industries.' I understand that is in the *Hansard* record. He stated that he expressly excluded this high-value industry in Queensland where it was already a well-established industry.

I now take members to the Deputy Premier's bill, and I note that the stated policy objectives of his bill and the Newman government's bill are to 'identify areas of Queensland that are of regional interest'—and 'regional interest' is a very important phrase here—and to 'give effect to the policies about matters of state interest stated in regional plans'. Again, 'state interest' is an important use of words because we have seen how an identified state interest enables the relevant minister to take planning considerations out of the hands of local council.

The other component of the Newman government's policy under this bill is managing the impacts of resource activities and regulated activities in areas of regional interest and managing the co-existence of resource activities and regulated activities with other activities in areas of regional interest. Can I say quite clearly that I do not think it is appropriate to even talk about co-existence in good agricultural land.

The Deputy Premier and some of his ministers spoke about the great precedent we already have in South-East Queensland whereby we have this wonderful planning system and a regional plan and that local councils know where they can go. They said that there is some certainty in knowing that there will be no future inappropriate development in some of the areas.

Let us look at the record. The record shows very clearly that those so-called no-go boundaries change—that the government has the capacity to change those boundaries—so there is no certainty, in my view, that the proposed no-go areas will remain no-go areas in the future. I believe that if we want to be genuine and we want to protect our good agricultural land and good farming land—not just for today but into the future—we need to be adamant and say that these are no-go areas. We need to be prepared to legislate for them to be no-go areas. We should not be talking about co-existence, because if one business has its toe in the door and another application comes along they rely on the existence of that other business to say it has already started. We see the government use the words 'state interest' to justify taking planning issues.

I will just use a hypothetical case as an example. A business may go to the appropriate minister and say, 'We're going to invest all of this money in this part of Queensland if you support this request for making some changes and say there is a state interest in this development happening.' And guess what? Under our legislation, the government would be able to change and make those decisions. What do we have? We have the Coordinator-General's involvement and he comes up with some conditions.

I understand that one of the earlier speakers—and I think it might have been the member for Condamine—spoke about the outcome of a right to information search. He referred to a precedent where I understand a government decision was made purely on an economic basis and not to look after the area for the best interests of the community and for the future. We sometimes see governments make decisions that are short-sighted in their focus, and that may be because they want to bring in a significant amount of money now for some reason. Sometimes they are not prepared to look at the long-term impact of those decisions. They might say, 'I won't be here after the next election. I might retire and take on a consultancy business, or I might join another business which I have some capacity to assist in and work in.'

Mr Cripps: We can only hope.

Mr WELLINGTON: Don't worry, I am here for the election. I am just waiting for the Premier to announce the date and I say, 'Bring it on and let the contest begin.' I see the minister for national parks is in here and he knows we have a contest. He is a former councillor and he knows how the system goes.

I return to the bill. I commend the member for Condamine, the leader of the Katter party, for having the strength of character and the courage to know that no matter what he put forward he was going to be criticised. He knew that the government would throw whatever they could at whatever he introduced in here to try to discredit him and the people he is trying to represent. I can assure members that by introducing this bill he is trying to represent not just the people in his electorate but


the many people throughout Queensland. So the member for Condamine was prepared to take on that challenge knowing that the government would throw everything at him because he thought he was doing the right thing. I think he deserves to be congratulated for having a go. Sometimes we see people in here who want to throw bricks and criticise but they are not prepared to have a go. He was prepared to have a go and I think that is what we need in Queensland. We need people who are prepared to have a go. It is interesting that, after he had a go, the government introduced their alternative some months later in November 2013.

I have touched on the issue of the urban plan and about how the state government is able to make changes and that there is no real certainty about the future. I have also touched on the issue of my concern with co-existence—really we need to be adamant and say that we want to protect some parts of Queensland because of the good farming potential. That is certainly where I am coming from.

Before I resume my seat, I would like to note that the government's bill refers to miners not reaching agreement with the landowners. If they cannot reach an agreement, what happens? I understand the proposal is that they then apply to the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning to seek approval for their project. So if they cannot reach agreement with the landowner, they go off to the state development department. Can I say that, quite frankly, I do not have any confidence in this government. I certainly do not trust this government, and I think the record will clearly show why I have that view. They are simply saying that, if the mining applicant cannot reach agreement with the farmers, then they make an application to the department and the department processes it. The track record shows why I do not have confidence.

Mr Molhoek: Who do you trust? Labor?

Mr WELLINGTON: I trust the voters of Queensland at the next election to elect the people who will represent them. I congratulate the member for Condamine for having a go. I look forward to this matter proceeding to the debate on the clauses.

 **Hon. JJ McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (5.38 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013. This government is determined through this bill to address community conflict arising from competing land use demands between the agricultural industry and the resources industry. As such, it delivers on the LNP's very deliberate commitment to protect prime agricultural land and resolve the conflicts that have plagued significant parts of Queensland in recent years. The bill demonstrates the Newman government's commitment to getting the best outcomes for two of Queensland's key economic pillars—agriculture and resources. Agriculture is of course a significant contributor to Queensland's economy, with over 80 per cent of our state used for agriculture. It is therefore imperative that we protect and ensure the future of this grand industry. Of course the resources industry will continue to be one of the four pillars of our economy.

This bill introduces four key areas of regional interest as outlined by the Deputy Premier: priority agricultural areas such as the Darling Downs, where I am from, and the Central Highlands; strategic cropping areas; priority living areas; and strategic environmental areas. As we have heard the Deputy Premier explain so very clearly, the bill will require any new regulated development in areas of regional interest to obtain a regional impact development approval. I am thrilled that the bill will see the interests of landholders of priority agricultural areas protected and, at the same time, ensure that resource companies are held accountable for their activities in a fashion that finally ensures real partnerships between resource companies and primary producers.

By way of background, put simply, this bill finally provides the clarity that was so sadly lacking under the former Labor government. This reality brings me to the genesis of the bill and the leadership of the Deputy Premier over many years in bringing us to this point. As he himself said, the former Labor government was simply incompetent in terms of both ham-fisted approaches to vegetation management, for example, and the land use conflicts that are being addressed through this bill. They had no real desire or capacity to consider any form of regional planning legislation. They simply did not care.

The resource industry expansion that this bill addresses happened with effectively no planning from the former Labor government. As the Deputy Premier, again, put it himself, this bill puts in place the sorts of planning mechanisms that should have been there 10 years ago when we began to see the significant expansion and the beginnings of land use conflict.

In terms of appreciating the input to the development of this bill, I speak as a member of the regional planning committee for the Darling Downs. This region has some of Queensland's most productive and resource rich land in its remit. It is where I grew up and it is where I am raising my

family. The Darling Downs has the potential to grow the Queensland economy with its significant resources. In that context, I can confirm the bill strongly encourages resource companies and landowners to reach agreement on outcomes. That is in contrast, I must note, to the paternalistic approach that is clearly favoured by the Katter party in suggesting that a state government should intervene and dictate how a farm, a property or a business should be run.


Given my appreciation of the practical and meaningful approach of this bill, I wish to place on record, as a Darling Downs local and especially as Minister for Agriculture, my sincere appreciation, firstly, to the Deputy Premier for his leadership in the development of this bill and landholders who have worked through the challenges that they have faced over many years since this development has occurred across Queensland through no fault of their own. In particular, I also express my appreciation of the likes of AgForce, led by Ian Burnett and Charles Bourke, and the Queensland Farmers Federation, led by Joanne Grainger and Dan Galligan. They have proven to be a solid team representing broadacre and intensive agricultural production. It has been a pleasure to work alongside them in making contributions to the Deputy Premier and his team on this legislation. I thank local government and community leaders who have sat down as well to deal with such challenges. I also acknowledge the sterling efforts of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee under the leadership of the member for Gympie, David Gibson. The various submitters to the committee's deliberation should also be acknowledged, as should the resource industry representatives who have engaged in the process.

In reflecting on this bill, it is important to understand what I believe and what I hear from across the state as to what Queenslanders really want. As has been mentioned by honourable colleagues in this debate, landholders want to know that resource industry development happens in a balanced way. They want to make sure it will not displace traditional industries and they want to know they have input into the necessary controls on their properties and in their communities. It is for this reason that the bill gives landholders a right to appeal decisions made by a regional interest authority if a decision negatively affects their property. It is for this reason the bill absorbs strategic cropping land legislation, as confusing as it was, and also replaces other complex legislation. To follow up on these commitments, I welcome the tabling of the exposure draft of the Regional Planning Interests Regulation by the Deputy Premier.

I also know what Queenslanders do not want, and I note some of the comments made by others in relation to the contribution of the member for Condamine and the Katter party. Their baseless scare campaigns and reckless commentary is just astounding. They have a proven track record of running away from responsibility, running away from the obligation of a government to lead and work through community debate on complex issues. It is clear they found it easier to run away, to simply sit on the sidelines only concerned with their own welfare and to create stunts when they realise that they are not being taken seriously by Queensland at large. Suffice to say, I agree with the observations of the Deputy Premier, the committee chair and others in relation to the contribution of the Katter party to this cognate debate.

In summation, I think it is important that the House notes the very history of much of the development of our nation and, of course, our great state of Queensland. I refer to our two great primary industries of agriculture and mining, particularly as agriculture has been so integral to the history of where I come from, the Darling Downs, and mining has been so integral to the history of where my wife comes from, Charters Towers. As one who has worked on an agreed code of conduct between farmers in the Nandi area outside Dalby and the CSG industry about 10 years ago, I can confirm that our job would have been far easier if we had the sort of oversight and vision outlined in this bill from the former state government at the time, but that was sadly lacking.

It has been a pleasure to work alongside the Deputy Premier and other colleagues in this House and, most importantly, agricultural industry representatives in making contributions to the development of this bill. I share with the House that I met with AgForce earlier this afternoon for a regular catch-up, as I do as Minister for Agriculture. They stated very clearly their appreciation and their admiration for the efforts of the Deputy Premier in leading this legislation, as do their members from areas such as the central Darling Downs. I am pleased, therefore, to strongly support the Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.46 pm): I rise this afternoon to speak briefly in support of the Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013. The Regional Planning Interests Bill is part of a suite of important planning reforms by this government to reduce red tape and return powers to local governments. I would like to highlight some of the significant planning reforms undertaken by this

government over the last two years. Our efforts to date have been boosting confidence and optimism. The creation of a single state planning policy has replaced the 14 ad hoc, disjointed policies that existed under Labor and consolidated the state's interests and policies into one document.

Another piece of significant planning reform is the new State Assessment Referral Agency, or SARA. SARA replaced seven separate referral agencies with a single agency. It is a one-stop shop for applicants to receive a coordinated, whole-of-government approach to state development assessment. As reported in the House yesterday by the Deputy Premier, as well as winning the Planning Institute of Australia's 2013 Queensland award for improving planning processes, SARA has won the Planning Institute of Australia's 2014 national award for improving planning processes. SARA has been recognised by Queensland and now Australia as a significant planning reform.


Within the local government areas of Logan, Redlands and the Gold Coast, which contains my electorate of Southport, the Gold Coast SARA office has, since 1 July 2013, received approximately 650 applications and requests, of which 600 have already been determined. Since our first annual planning forum in early 2013, we have been hosting regular monthly forums with stakeholders including industry, local government and consultant planners. Last week the Deputy Premier hosted our second planning forum at the Royal International Convention Centre. The mood and optimism amongst industry leaders was palpable. Clearly, they are pleased with the progress our government has been making in respect of red-tape reduction and planning reform.

The Regional Planning Interests Bill before the House establishes a regulatory framework to apply existing, well used land use planning concepts contained in regional plans to resource activities and regulated activities. The Regional Planning Interests Bill will deliver on the LNP's commitment to protect prime agricultural land and resolve land use conflicts where they arise.

The assessment process established by this bill restores the balance of power and provides certainty for rural producers and resource companies when new mining or gas developments are proposed. This bill will ensure ongoing growth in jobs and opportunities in regional Queensland.

I want to acknowledge the work of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee for their comprehensive and thorough review of the bill. I particularly congratulate the committee chair, the member for Gympie, David Gibson, for his outstanding leadership in balancing the many competing views of stakeholders. I also want to congratulate the Deputy Premier's staff, the Director-General David Edwards, Deputy Director-General Greg Chemello and his team for their contributions.

Mr Deputy Speaker, it is a pleasure to stand in the House this evening and speak in support of this bill.

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—PUP) (5.50 pm): This is the debate one has to have when one party thinks the debate is a poker game. I say this because the critical regulations that are very important parts of the Campbell Newman government's Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013—and I take into account what the member for Southport has also said about the bill—are being delivered only in the minister's second reading speech. Regulations do follow legislation. I spent many years on the Scrutiny of Legislation Committee, so this was an area we had a lot to do with. Regulations do follow legislation, but sometimes some legislation does need those regulations to come through at the same time, and the Deputy Premier would be well aware of that and this was one of those bills that needed that. This is a very poor example of how a government should legislate—even as bad a government as the Campbell Newman government is.

With regard to the legislation introduced by the Katter's Australian Party and the member for Condamine's bill, his aspiration is to restrict all CSG extraction and mining exploration activities east of the Condamine River at Chinchilla to the border to the south and to the coast to the east. It is very sensible on many levels, but it is a blunt instrument when one might have said that it might not be necessary—that is, if you did not have a government like the LNP governing at the time.

I say this because most of the reasons for the restrictions fall into the category of blind Freddy reasons, to which I acknowledge this government is ideologically opposed for reasons that have much to do with self-interest and far too little to do with public interest. This is to be weighed against the valid commercial interests which the government is pandering to when addressing its needs and it is probably more appropriate that it should be considerate of the broader public interest.

To begin with the last first, it is no secret that New South Wales has a restriction on CSG mining exploration to such an excessive level that New South Wales is now short of gas for local, domestic and commercial consumption. AGL this week has released a quantitative list of the shortages that will occur from 2016 onwards. I am sure that the minister is aware of that. Santos has

made public statements confirming this. AGL, as most would know, have a strong position in New South Wales and are fiercely protecting what they have, and Origin and Santos are chasing them very hard. The Queensland market is somewhat different, but we are also somewhat similar. It could all be so much the same, because so much gas has been precommitted to forward sales contracts from Queensland companies, and most of that is heading offshore at relatively low prices.

Most would know that there are three major projects at Gladstone: one by BG, one by Origin, one by Petronas, and the gas is going north. The proposed fourth company that was emerging was Shell Arrow—Shell took over Arrow—and remember that Shell is the global player in gas. But because of the global gas surplus, they could not get a go. The difficulty was that they could not get their wells into production as fast as they wanted, but their locations are critically in many of the areas that come into play here, and the minister would be well aware of that.

In spite of some of the statements by a variety of speakers, particularly the member for Lockyer, there is very little activity east of the proposed Chinchilla border, not because the gas is absent but because the wells that were drilled were of a much lower standard and the distance to pipe to bring the gas to the north-west major line linking to Gladstone was that much further away and cost too much.

The land east of the proposed Chinchilla border is better quality land, and it is no secret that, along with the Lockyer Valley, the Darling Downs is primarily one of the most productive agricultural land masses in the country and the land is priced accordingly. It has never been any secret that below the fertile land there are significant gas deposits in the coal seams under these loamy plains, and we might well need that gas one day.

In contrast, the government bill is not a bad bill, but what it does not do is correctly prioritise that production and exploration activity needs to be very heavily regulated in these types of areas, particularly where there is serious agricultural activity. In general, it is inappropriate to mix those two activities when one intensive food production area has to share its existence with the coal seam gas industry. I say this particularly for the member for Lockyer, because how would he feel if suddenly the Lockyer and Brisbane valleys were moved into full-time production wells when those areas are critical food bowls for the whole nation?

There is nothing wrong with doing this, but the government bill seems like a misleading attempt to be procedurally fair, to leave open the types of exemptions which lead to the situation that occurred in Wyoming in the United States. Interestingly, there is a flawed premise being pushed by a variety of government speakers who claim that the Katter bill, the member for Condamine's bill, is locking up the whole state. It does nothing of the sort. It is basically locking up one critical food bowl region to the east where there are very few wells that are currently in production and, you could argue, could be moved into production.

It is imposing restrictions which are similar to those in other parts of Australia and have close parallels with policies associated with the national strategic interest in other states. That is how it is listed. We do these things to prevent not just exercising ATPs—as is occurring in suburban Sydney and surrounds—but moving to production following exploration wells in those cities and their surrounds. Clearly these things are incompatible when one combines the critical problem of potential groundwater contamination and GAB breakthrough, which is always a concern.

I table the most recent article by Paddy Manning, which is actually listed on Crikey but is in a variety of spots. It is about the most recent breakthroughs.

Tabled paper: Article from *Crikey* (Online), dated 20 March 2014, titled 'Santos' open flame: can it snuff out the protests on coal seam gas?' [[4728](#)].

The reality of the bill presented here by the Deputy Premier is that, despite his claim of the legally worrying aspects of the KAP bill—which was summarised very well last night by the member for Pine Rivers, who represents an outer Brisbane suburb—it is all about what is good for Brisbane people and their economic fortunes, and in fact we should be talking about what is in the best interests of the whole of Queensland. But because it is a food bowl, we should be talking about what is in the national interest as well: the priorities are wrong.

To state that the bill he presented will give strategic cropping land priority in the amalgamated sector of regional and urban town planning is a problem and is wrong because, if the minister's bill goes ahead, the gas suppliers will most likely land bank the prime agricultural land overlying the critical gas aquifers which lie very close to the water aquifers. They will not intentionally degrade land, but cropping land will take a very low priority on their blocks and parts thereof may suddenly become offset application land. Those same gas companies will then diligently submit their plans under the minister's bill, and undoubtedly they will never be knocked back.

I would also like to discuss the threats that were made here last night by the member for Pumicestone which were obviously drafted by her department. Honourable members, the Deputy Premier will always tell you that the Crown owns the resources. We allow various resource companies the right to access it. Property owners are not always entitled to compensation. For those who have dairy farmers in their electorates, as I do, they did not receive compensation as the member for Gladstone stated here. They did not receive it. They all thought that they would, but they did not. People who say that this is going to put us at sovereign risk are wrong because a precedent has been set. We have laws, but things change. Needs and circumstances change and governments change.

No resource company, however good a corporate citizen, has any greater right than any other Queensland. Just because those companies have pegged the ATPs does not mean we will allow those wells to move to full production. The idea that we are putting sovereign risk at greater risk or opening the floodgates to compensation is nonsense, and you know it. If the member for Pumicestone is so frightened by her department, then I suggest she needs to be moved to another ministry.

In conclusion, if the impact of this critical piece of legislation by the KAP is merely just achieving a critical strategic gas reserve to insulate domestic and commercial supply in South-East Queensland, then I would think it has done a lot more than any other poor quality or weak legislation that this government puts forward. It bothers me not a jot that regions to the east of the KAP Chinchilla western border exclusion zone do not wish for this proposal to occur, because this proposal should occur. My reasons are that there are times when decisions have to be made for the majority and not the minority, in favour of food security over insecurity. Food security must win, especially when those critical borders are then locked up and governments, as the member for Nicklin clearly stated, can change those borders at a whim. This government bill is about appeasing sectional interests on our prime agricultural land and weighing the balance far too heavily in favour of the oil and gas industry when we have an historic opportunity to prevent a problem developing when, by possibly a trick of fate, most of the production and exploration wells are just outside the proposed exclusion zone.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (6.00 pm): I rise to support the Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013, introduced by the Deputy Premier, and to oppose the alternative Katter party bill, introduced by the member for Condamine. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Deputy Premier on delivering this particular piece of legislation to the House. This bill fulfils the Newman government's commitment to reform the state's planning system and supports its efforts to encourage greater co-existence between the agricultural and resources sectors to drive economic growth in Queensland.

My portfolio of Natural Resources and Mines spans two important pillars of Queensland's economy—agriculture and resources. Over recent years resource development has boosted the state's economy, but many regional communities have been concerned by its rapid advance into traditional farming areas, particularly in Central Queensland and on the Darling Downs. While the Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011 attempted to alleviate the concern of the agricultural sector, it failed to strike a sustainable and economically responsible balance between the agriculture and resources sectors.

The Regional Planning Interests Bill addresses reservations I have previously expressed in this parliament about the provisions of the Strategic Cropping Land Act. As I stated in this parliament in 2011, there is an essential need to protect prime agricultural land in Queensland. We need to support the basis of our intensive cropping industries and our broadacre farming systems. While our agriculture and resources sectors have co-existed in harmony for many years, our resource industries have continued to grow and expand rapidly. Resource projects can have a significant impact on farming activities. This reaffirms the long-held belief by the LNP that a greater balance between the agriculture and resources sectors is required.

Resource development is, without a doubt, an important factor in the current recovery and long-term growth of Queensland's economy. The government recognises that resource development is an underlying driver of employment and economic prosperity in many local and regional communities. However, such development cannot be undertaken at the expense of Queensland's best agricultural land, which is critical to the government's vision to double the state's food production by 2040. The Regional Planning Interests Bill delivers the framework for a new generation of statutory regional plans to address the issues most critical to these regional areas of the state. Regional plans

for Central Queensland and the Darling Downs are already in place and work is well underway on Cape York's regional plan. This new generation of regional plans will not only address land use conflict and foster co-existence between the agricultural and resources sectors but, unlike previous regional plans, will be used to inform and guide decision making for the resources sector as well.

A review by my Department of Natural Resources and Mines of the Strategic Cropping Land Act provided a valuable opportunity to re-examine the balance between the agriculture and resources sector and consider how the government might better deliver on its commitment to grow Queensland's four-pillar economy. The review recommended we improve technical guidelines, enhance flexibility in approvals and update strategic cropping land mapping. It also recommended the incorporation of essential elements of the Strategic Cropping Land Act in new stand-alone legislation that addressed regional planning interests while maintaining the important protection of strategic cropping land. The Regional Planning Interests Bill does just that. It gives effect to these recommendations and, together with the new generation of regional plans, creates a more streamlined approach to land use planning. It will empower local government, engage communities and provide greater certainty for both landholders and industry.

It provides clear and unambiguous restrictions on the allowable impact on affected properties. It provides for planning based on what the land is actually used for rather than just inflexible soil criteria considered in isolation and without reference to what is actually going on on the ground. It addresses and resolves conflict through real planning, not knee-jerk reactions, which is what the Strategic Cropping Land Act was from the previous Labor government. The bill remains faithful to the core principles of the Strategic Cropping Land Act—that is, to protect strategic cropping land—but goes further through the identification of priority agricultural areas, priority living areas and strategic environmental areas, in addition to strategic cropping land. By going further than the Strategic Cropping Land Act, this bill protects not only the important physical resource—that is, our high-quality agricultural soils—but ensures the business of agriculture is protected through practical criteria that will deliver a framework for co-existence between agricultural and resources activities.

This bill is a perfect example of what makes us different from the previous Labor government. The Newman government has listened to the feedback of industry and local communities and is moving to restore the balance between our agriculture and resources sector. This bill protects our best agricultural land, enables responsible resource development and fosters co-existence between two important pillars of the economy in Queensland. Along with the GasFields Commission legislation, which the Deputy Premier has previously delivered and had passed through this House, the Regional Planning Interests Bill is a suite of legislation brought to Queensland by the Newman government that really commits our state to having strong resource and strong agricultural sectors into the future.

In the time remaining to me I want to reflect on the Katter party's alternative piece of legislation which is being considered by this parliament in cognate. I do not plan to reflect on the contribution of the member for Condamine in speaking to his legislation. I am quite happy to associate myself with the remarks made by the Deputy Premier during his second reading speech, both reflecting on the content of the member for Condamine's bill and on the content of his character—or lack of it. When the division bells ring at the end of this second reading debate, my eyes instead will turn to the member for Mount Isa and what he will do when the question is put to the House. The reason that I will be looking to the member for Mount Isa is that he has made quite a campaign in this parliament about an issue which he believes is important to his electorate of Mount Isa, and that is the availability of gas supply to his electorate and to the community in Queensland. I have read his contributions on several occasions. He made one on 27 August last year, on 17 September last year, on 11 February this year and again on 6 March this year. The member for Mount Isa consistently said that he had concerns about the availability of domestic gas to the manufacturing industry and to power industries in his electorate and to households in his electorate.

When the question is put to this House, the member for Mount Isa will have a very important decision to make, because he has made all of these contributions about domestic gas supply in Queensland subsequent to the member for Condamine tabling his bill in the House to restrict the development of the gas industry in the state of Queensland. That is a very important thing for all of the members of this House to understand in respect of the proposition that the member for Mount Isa has put forward. If he votes in favour of the member for Condamine's bill, the member for Mount Isa will prove himself to be either a hypocrite or someone who does not understand the way in which the gas industry has developed in Queensland and the availability of gas for not only the export market but also the supply of domestic gas to this state. It will be very interesting indeed to know the way in which the member for Mount Isa will vote.

If he votes against the government's bill, he will be saying that he does not believe that we should be progressing the development of our available gas reserves in this state. It will be very illuminating indeed to see what the member for Mount Isa does when the question is put to this House, because he has made all of these contributions in the full knowledge of what was in the bill introduced by the member for Condamine, which seeks to constrain the ability of the gas industry to develop in Queensland, to constrain the delivery of gas not only for our export markets and contracts that have been entered into but also for Queensland consumers and manufacturing industries. It will be a test for the member for Mount Isa, who should know that simplistic politics will not get him anywhere in this state. I await his decision with bated breath.

Mr COX (Thuringowa—LNP) (6.10 pm): I did not realise that Mount Isa was thinking of seceding from Queensland and becoming part of the Northern Territory. The member for Mount Isa suggested that the minister should be looking at the Northern Territory's gas industry. I thought he was elected to the Queensland parliament.

I stand here to speak briefly in support of the Regional Planning Interests Bill. Before I go any further, I would also like to table two documents. I do not want to risk misleading the House, but I know a certain map of wells has been tabled by the member for Dalrymple. I would also like to table two letters from the committee, of which I am a member, that looked into the Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill 2013. One is a letter to a Mr Brett Heyward, the Director-General of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, asking for some figures in relation to exploration wells and production wells and the other is the reply from the director-general addressed to the chairman of the committee, the member for Lockyer, Mr Ian Rickuss. I refer to a paragraph in the reply by the director-general, which states—

In relation to 'prime agricultural land', 282 exploration, 357 appraisal and 653 development wells have been drilled.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 21 November 2013, from the Agriculture Resources and Environment Committee to Director-General, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, and letter of response, dated 28 November 2013, from the Director-General [\[4729\]](#).

Mr HOPPER: I rise to a point of order. The member is deliberately misleading the House. Those figures relate to prime agricultural land across Queensland. They do not relate to the defined area as referred to in this bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Berry): Order! Thank you, member for Condamine. It is not a point of order; it is a point of view.

Mr COX: Both of these bills try to address some of the long-held fears of landholders and our resources industry. I know that one bill has achieved that. I am not really sure what the other bill has achieved or attempted to achieve other than being another political stunt by the KAP. The member for Lockyer, in his opening statement in the committee's report, said that private members' bills are a vital part of our work. I agree with that. However, I refer to his following comments in relation to this bill—

Sadly, as with the previous KAP Bills we have examined, the Member for Condamine's Bill is a piece of sophistry. It is, quite simply, a pantomime with no fresh ideas or genuine legislative reforms. It appears instead to be aimed at helping KAP win support from a group of people in the community who are feeling vulnerable and threatened. This time it is people affected by the rapidly expanding coal seam gas industry.

Again, like previous KAP Bills, the Member for Condamine's Bill has more errors than detail, is ill-conceived, and short on substance. Frankly, I'm not sure that the honourable Member understands fully what he has proposed in this Bill. Furthermore, the member showed very little interest in responding to issues and questions raised by the committee or submitters in our consideration of the Bill.

In no way does this bill help or address the issues concerning the most vulnerable or threatened. I also note that the committee, of which the member for Dalrymple is a member, visited Dalby. We did not see the member for Condamine on that visit—

Mr HOPPER: I rise to a point of order. I was not invited to attend. That is why I did not attend. He is deceiving the House once again.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.


Mr COX: I just noted that we did not see him on our visit. As members have mentioned previously, when the committee went to Dalby we met with the Western Downs Regional Council. The committee also had a meeting with Save our Darling Downs and the GasFields Commission and also visited some of the work that is being done by Arrow Energy.

In relation to the Regional Planning Interests Bill, the Deputy Premier said that the assessment processes established by the legislation restore the balance of power between the rural producers and resource companies when new mining or gas developments are proposed, giving both parties the

certainty they need to plan for the future. He went on to say that the framework ensures that landholders have a say in any development that occurs on their property. He said further that it also removes the right of resource companies to take action in the Land Court after 40 days if agreement cannot be reached for land or priority agricultural areas. Further, if agreement cannot be reached between the landholder and the resource company, the company must seek a regional interest development approval from the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning with advice provided by the independent GasFields Commission.

In wrapping up, I would like to say that there was one recommendation made by the committee in relation to the bill put forward by the member for Condamine and that was that the bill be not passed. There were 22 recommendations made in relation to the bill introduced by the Deputy Premier. I note that all of those recommendations have been looked at and will be accepted.

I know that the Deputy Premier was, as he said earlier, a proponent of the new committee system and I thank him for that, because he has proved with his bill that the committee system works well. I think the committee that I am a member of has also proved that, when bills that come before it are not workable and cannot be implemented, they are passed over. I would like to finish by saying that again we see the north-west arm of the Queensland Labor Party—and we know that because the previous election indicated where their preferences went—cannot introduce workable bills into this House. All the ALP, the PUP and the KAP do is vote against good bills. We saw that occur this week when the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was debated in this House. I cannot believe that all three parties voted against that bill. I commend the Deputy Premier's bill to the House.

 **Mr HOPPER** (Condamine—KAP) (6.16 pm), in reply: I will not speak for very long at all. I will just wrap up a couple of things. I would like to table the peer reviewed articles and academic journals and reports that Katter's Australian Party research division has utilised. That comprehensive literature review underpins the logic behind my private member's bill, the Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill 2013.

Tabled paper: AEA report, dated 10 August 2012, titled 'Support to the identification of potential risks for the environment and human health arising from hydrocarbons operations involving hydraulic fracturing in Europe' [4730].

Tabled paper: Document, titled 'Literature review' [4731].

Tabled paper: Report, dated June 2012, titled 'Hydraulic fracturing and water resources: separating the frack from the fiction' [4732].

Tabled paper: Centre for International Minerals and Energy Law report, dated October 2013, titled 'Coal seam gas: An annotated bibliography' [4733].

Tabled paper: EPA report, dated December 2012, titled 'Study of the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources' [4734].

This literature presents a clear picture that there is uncertainty if the gas industries have the ability to ensure water quality, land quality, human health and environmental effects. This research that I have tabled is the international comparative literature review, which Katter's Australian Party research division conducted during the development stage of this bill.

On a day when we saw the education minister rightly come out against bullying in schools, I think the Deputy Premier must have had a talk to his backbenchers but missed the member for Thuringowa, because I have never heard a debate on a bill in this parliament turn so personal as it did last night. The members of the LNP should hang their heads in shame. I ask anyone who is interested in this bill to google the speech made by the member for Lockyer and read it. He is the chair of the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee. The member for Callide and Deputy Premier would be one of the most respected politicians in this chamber. At times when we come into this chamber we fight head to head, but I say that his experience in politics is very respected. I know that he has sat in this place and watched the chair of this committee perform in this House. I know that in his heart he knows—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Condamine, what you are saying is really irrelevant to the bill. I would like to draw you back to it. You said that you were going to make a few points

Mr HOPPER: That is what I will do. I will quote from the member for Lockyer's speech. I was not going to lower myself to the extent that members lowered themselves to yesterday, the day before the education minister had his antibullying day. The member for Lockyer should apologise to the people of Africa for one of the quotes in his speech last night. Anyone in Africa should Google the LNP member of the Queensland government, the member for Lockyer, and look at his comments. In another comment referring to members of the Katter's Australian Party he said they are not turning up to meetings and parliament half the time. Let me talk about that comment. I asked the member for Dalrymple how many speeches he had made.

Mr Cox: What's the relevance?

Mr HOPPER: It is not irrelevant, it is exactly what the member for Lockyer spoke about in this House. I am addressing what he spoke about in speaking to this bill. The member for Dalrymple made 95 speeches, the member for Mount Isa made 75 speeches and I made 50 speeches. And I have only been here half the time? I will not mention how many speeches the member for Lockyer has made in this House.

I would ask every member to look at the map that I tabled. The member for Thuringowa tried to make out that there were 300-odd wells that would be subject to compensation. There are definitely not. There would be two wells in production shown on this map. The rest are exploration bores, they are not productive wells. There is no sovereign risk to the state whatsoever.

Arrow Energy must be stopped. As the Deputy Premier knows, 75 per cent of the gas on Arrow Energy's tenure is under prime agricultural land. That was the intent behind drawing up this bill. It was to stop those companies coming in and destroying prime agricultural land. That is the whole gist of this bill. I have sat here and been compared to Idi Amin. There have been false things said about the billions of dollars that will not come to the state. It has been compared to New South Wales, which is wrong, wrong, wrong. It is a simple bill. It is small. It is very easy to understand and I commend it to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hopper, adjourned.

MOTION

Suspension of Sessional and Standing Orders

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (6.22 pm) by leave, without notice: I move—

That notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, for this day's sitting the House will not break for dinner at 6.30 pm but will continue to sit to conduct government business followed by a 30-minute adjournment debate.

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

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Regional Planning Interests Bill resumed on motion of Mr Seeney, and Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill resumed on motion of Mr Hopper—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.23 pm), in reply: I will very briefly sum up the debate here tonight. First of all I thank all members who participated in the debate. I particularly thank the opposition spokesperson for his contribution to the debate. All of the issues that are involved with this particular piece of legislation have been well canvassed through the consultation and the committee process that I spoke about in my second reading debate. That is as it should be. The committee process, as I said previously, has served this parliament well in this particular case.

I reiterate, in response to some of the comments that were made about the regulation that I tabled in the House during my contribution to the second reading, that the regulation is very much a draft regulation about which we will now consult the stakeholders and which will then be introduced into this House as significant subordinate legislation through that established process. I look forward to that consultation process over the next few weeks.

I also reiterate that I think that the debate about the framework bill has been a good one given the circumstances that we had to address. We needed to have a debate about a planning process, we needed to have a debate about how we were going to provide that control on development across areas of regional interest in Queensland without getting bogged down into the detail that was certainly

of a high level of interest to people. I think that has happened. I think we have been able to focus the debate on those high-level issues of the planning framework and the controls that are necessary, those controls that should have been in place over the last decade that would have, I believe, avoided much of the distress and disaffection we have seen develop across regional Queensland and it would have saved a lot of trauma for a lot of people. With that I thank again everybody who has participated in the debate, once again congratulate the member for Gympie and his committee and commend the bill to the House.

Question put—That the Regional Planning Interests Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Division: Question put—That the Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill be now read a second time .

AYES, 6:

KAP, 3—Hopper, Katter, Knuth.

PUP, 1—Douglas.

INDEPENDENTS, 2—Cunningham, Wellington.

NOES, 69:

LNP, 61—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Davies, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Johnson, Kaye, Kempton, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Pucci, Ruthenberg, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Walker, Watts, Woodforth.

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

Resolved in the negative.

Consideration in Detail

Regional Planning Interests Bill

Clauses 1 to 101—



Mr SEENEY (6.33 pm): I seek leave to move the amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

Mr SEENEY: I move the amendments circulated in my name and I table the explanatory notes.

1 Clause 3 (Purposes and achievement)

Page 9, line 5, after 'activities'—

insert—

and regulated activities

2 Clause 7 (Area of regional interest)

Page 10, line 10, 'a strategic cropping area'—

omit, insert—

the strategic cropping area

3 Clause 8 (Priority agricultural area)

Page 10, lines 13 to 27—

omit, insert—

(1) A **priority agricultural area** is an area that—

(a) includes 1 or more areas used for a priority agricultural land use, whether it also includes other areas or features, including, for example, a regionally significant water source; and

(b) is either—

(i) shown on a map in a regional plan as a priority agricultural area; or

(ii) prescribed under a regulation.

4 Clause 8 (Priority agricultural area)

Page 11, line 1, '(3)'—

omit, insert—

(2)

5 Clause 8 (Priority agricultural area)

Page 11, after line 6—

insert—

- (3) A **regionally significant water source** is a water source prescribed under a regulation.

6 Clause 10 (Strategic cropping area)

Page 11, lines 19 to 30, and page 12, lines 1 to 11—

omit, insert—

- (1) The **strategic cropping area** consists of the areas shown on the SCL trigger map as strategic cropping land.
- (2) In this section—
strategic cropping land means land that is, or is likely to be, highly suitable for cropping because of a combination of the land's soil, climate and landscape features.

7 Clause 11 (Strategic environmental area)

Page 12, lines 13 to 23—

omit, insert—

- (1) A **strategic environmental area** is an area that—
- (a) contains 1 or more environmental attributes for the area; and
- (b) is either—
- (i) shown on a map in a regional plan as a strategic environmental area; or
- (ii) prescribed under a regulation.

Examples of areas that may be shown or prescribed as strategic environmental areas—

- the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve on Cape York Peninsula
- the channel country of western Queensland

8 Clause 11 (Strategic environmental area)

Page 12, lines 25 and 26—

omit, insert—

environmental attribute, for an area, means an attribute of the environment identified as an environmental attribute for the area under a regional plan or regulation.

9 Clause 13 (Resource authority)

Page 13, lines 27 and 28, and page 14, lines 1 to 10—

omit, insert—

- (b) a GHG permit or GHG lease under the *Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009*;
- (c) each of the following under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*—
- (i) a mining tenement other than a prospecting permit;
- (ii) an approval that grants rights over land;
- (d) a 1923 Act petroleum tenure under the *Petroleum Act 1923*;
- (e) the following petroleum authorities under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004*—
- (i) an authority to prospect;
- (ii) a petroleum lease;
- (iii) a pipeline licence;
- (iv) a petroleum facility licence;
- (f) a licence, permit, pipeline licence, primary licence, secondary licence or special prospecting authority granted under the *Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982*;
- (g) an agreement or lease under or mentioned in any of the following Acts—
- (i) *Alcan Queensland Pty. Limited Agreement Act 1965*;
- (ii) *Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement Act 1968*;
- (iii) *Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement and Queensland Coal Trust Act 1984*;
- (iv) *Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement (Amendment) Act 1986*;
- (v) *Central Queensland Coal Associates Agreement Amendment Act 1989*;
- (vi) *Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Limited Agreement Act 1957*;
- (vii) *Mount Isa Mines Limited Agreement Act 1985*;
- (viii) *Queensland Nickel Agreement Act 1970*;
- (ix) *Queensland Nickel Agreement Act 1988*;
- (x) *Thiess Peabody Coal Pty. Ltd. Agreement Act 1962*;
- (xi) *Thiess Peabody Mitsui Coal Pty. Ltd. Agreements Act 1965*.

10 Part 1, division 3, subdivision 4, heading (Definition about other regulated activities)

Page 14, lines 18 and 19—

*omit, insert—***Subdivision 4 Other definitions****11 After part 1, division 3, subdivision 4, heading**

Page 14, after line 19—

*insert—***15A Regional interests development approval**

- (1) A **regional interests development approval** is an approval issued under section 54 that approves the carrying out of a resource activity or regulated activity in an area of regional interest following an assessment of the extent of the expected impact of the activity on the area.
- (2) A regional interests development approval includes any regional interest conditions of the approval.

12 Clause 16 (Regulated activity)

Page 14, lines 21 to 25—

omit, insert—

- (1) A **regulated activity**, for an area of regional interest, is an activity—
 - (a) likely to have a widespread and irreversible impact on the area of regional interest; and
 - (b) prescribed under a regulation for the area.
- (2) In this Act, a reference to a regulated activity includes a reference to the carrying out of the activity.

13 Clause 17 (References in provisions)

Page 15, lines 27 to 29—

omit, insert—

- (d) a reference to the regional interests development approval is a reference to the approval issued, or that may be issued, as a result of the application.

14 Clause 17 (References in provisions)

Page 16, lines 1 to 5—

omit, insert—

- (6) For a provision about a regional interests development approval, resource authority or environmental authority, a reference to the land is a reference to the land the subject of the approval or authority, or to which it attaches.
- (7) In a provision about a resource activity or a regulated activity in an area of regional interest, or having an impact on an area of regional interest, a reference to an area of regional interest is, for the strategic cropping area, a reference to an area that is in the strategic cropping area.
- (8) In this section—

15 Part 2, heading (Restrictions on resource activities in areas of regional interest)

Page 16, line 14, after 'resource'—

*insert—***and regulated****16 Clause 18 (Restrictions on carrying out resource activity or regulated activity)**

Page 16, line 23 and page 17, line 2, 'authority'—

omit, insert—

development approval

17 Clause 18 (Restrictions on carrying out resource activity or regulated activity)

Page 17, line 8, after 'exempt resource activity'—

insert—

or exempt regulated activity

18 Clause 19 (Failure to comply with conditions)

Page 17, lines 10 to 20—

omit, insert—

- (1) This section applies to a person who is the holder of, or is acting under, a regional interests development approval.
- (2) The person must not wilfully contravene a condition of the approval.
Maximum penalty—6250 penalty units or 5 years imprisonment.

- (3) The person must not contravene a condition of the approval.
Maximum penalty—4500 penalty units.
- (4) Subsection (3) is an alternative offence for subsection (2).

Note—

For the effect of subsection (4), see section 78.

19 Clause 20 (Carrying out exempt resource activity without notice)

Page 17, lines 21 to 26—

omit.

20 Clause 22 (Exemption: agreement of land owner)

Page 18, line 20 and page 19, line 6, after 'priority agricultural area'—

insert—

or area that is in the strategic cropping area

21 Clause 22 (Exemption: agreement of land owner)

Page 19, lines 10 and 11—

omit, insert—

land if the activity has an impact on—

- (a) for land in a priority agricultural area—the suitability of the land to be used for a priority agricultural land use for the area; or
- (b) for land in an area that is in the strategic cropping area—the land's soil, climate and landscape features that make that area highly suitable, or likely to be highly suitable, for cropping.

22 Clause 23 (Exemption: activity carried out for less than 1 year)

Page 19, lines 13 to 29—

omit, insert—

A resource activity is an **exempt resource activity** for a priority agricultural area or area in the strategic cropping area if the activity is being carried out—

- (a) on a property in the area; and
- (b) within the period of 1 year starting on the day the first activity under the resource authority started to be carried out on the property.

23 Clause 24 (Exemption: pre-existing resource activity)

Page 20, lines 2 to 30 and page 21, lines 1 to 15—

omit, insert—

- (1) This section applies if, immediately before land becomes land in an area of regional interest, including on commencement of this section, a resource activity may be carried out lawfully on the land.
- (2) The resource activity is an **exempt resource activity** for the area of regional interest.
- (3) For subsection (1), a resource activity may be carried out lawfully on land if—
- (a) the activity may be carried out lawfully on the land—
- (i) under a resource authority or an environmental authority; and
- (ii) without the need for any further authority or approval relating to the location, nature or extent of the expected surface impacts of the activity to be obtained under an Act or a condition of either authority; and
- (b) information provided in, with or in support of the application for the resource or environmental authority (or an amendment of the application) identified the location, nature and extent of the expected surface impacts of the activity.

24 After clause 24

Page 21, after line 15—

insert—

24A Exemption: pre-existing regulated activity

- (1) This section applies if, immediately before land becomes land in an area of regional interest, including on commencement of this section, a regulated activity may be lawfully carried out on the land under the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.
- (2) The regulated activity is an **exempt regulated activity** for the area of regional interest.

25 Clauses 25 and 26

Page 21, lines 16 to 31—

omit.

26 Part 3, heading (Regional interests authorities)

Page 22, line 1, 'authorities'—

*omit, insert—***development approvals****27 Clause 28 (When does a resource activity or regulated activity impact an area of regional interest)**

Page 22, lines 25 to 28—

omit, insert—

- (i) for a priority agricultural area—section 8(1)(a);
- (ii) for a priority living area—section 9(b);
- (iii) for the strategic cropping area—section 10(1);

28 Clause 29 (Who may apply for regional interests authority)

Page 23, lines 4, 6 and 10, 'authority'—

omit, insert—

development approval

29 Clause 31 (Owner of land given copy of assessment application)

Page 24, line 4, '5 business days after the application is made'—

omit, insert—

the prescribed time frame

30 Part 3, division 3, heading (Amending or withdrawing)

Page 24, line 5, after 'withdrawing'—

*insert—***application****31 After clause 33**

Page 24, after line 26—

*insert—***33A Owner of land given notice of amendment or withdrawal**

- (1) This section applies if—
 - (a) an assessment application is not notifiable; and
 - (b) the applicant is not the owner of the land; and
 - (c) the application is amended under section 32 or withdrawn under section 33.
- (2) The applicant must give the owner notice of the amendment or withdrawal within the prescribed time frame.

32 Clause 34 (Application of div 4)

Page 25, lines 7 and 8—

omit, insert—

- (b) an exemption is not granted under subsection (3) by the chief executive within the prescribed time frame.

33 Clause 34 (Application of div 4)

Page 25, line 12, after 'resource activity'—

insert—

or regulated activity

34 Clause 34 (Application of div 4)

Page 25, line 14, 'an assessor'—

omit, insert—

the chief executive

35 Clause 36 (Consequences of failure to notify)

Page 26, lines 27 to 32 and page 27, lines 1 to 5—

*omit.***36 Clause 38 (Submissions must be published or available for inspection)**

Page 27, lines 22 and 23, from '5 business days' to 'section 48'—

omit, insert—

the prescribed time frame

- 37 Clause 41 (Assessing agency's assessment of application)**
Page 28, line 28, after 'of the application'—
insert—
within the prescribed time frame
- 38 Clause 41 (Assessing agency's assessment of application)**
Page 29, line 6, 'decision'—
omit, insert—
assessment
- 39 Clause 42 (Assessing agency's response to application)**
Page 30, lines 1 to 5—
omit, insert—
(3) However, the response may only be given within the prescribed time frame.
- 40 Clause 42 (Assessing agency's response to application)**
Page 30, line 14, after 'response'—
insert—
within the prescribed time frame
- 41 Clause 44 (Requirement notice)**
Page 31, line 7, after 'by notice'—
insert—
given within the prescribed time frame
- 42 Clause 44 (Requirement notice)**
Page 31, line 14—
omit, insert—
(c) if the assessor is the chief executive—notify the application under division 4;
- 43 Clause 46 (Additional advice or comment about assessment application)**
Page 32, lines 24 to 26—
omit, insert—
(1) The chief executive must ask the Gasfields Commission for advice about an assessment application if—
(a) the application relates to a resource activity in a priority agricultural area, the strategic cropping area or a priority living area; and
(b) either—
(a) the application is notifiable; or
(b) in the chief executive's opinion, the expected surface impacts of the resource activity are significant.
(2) The chief executive or an assessing agency may ask any other person for advice or comment about an assessment application.
- 44 Clause 47 (Chief executive must decide application)**
Page 33, line 3, after 'chief executive must'—
insert—
, within the prescribed time frame,
- 45 Clause 48 (Decision generally)**
Page 33, lines 11 and 14, 'authority'—
omit, insert—
development approval
- 46 Clause 48 (Decision generally)**
Page 33, line 15, 'authority'—
omit, insert—
approval
- 47 Clause 49 (Criteria for decision)**
Page 34, line 3—
omit, insert—
in an assessing agency's response;
(e) any advice about the application given by the Gasfields Commission.

48 Clause 50 (Compliance with assessing agency's response)

Page 34, lines 6 to 11—

*omit.***49 Clause 51 (Conditions generally)**

Page 34, lines 14 and 15—

omit, insert—

- (a) limit or restrict the carrying out of a resource activity or regulated activity, including, for example, by—
 - (i) requiring the applicant to start or complete the carrying out of the activity by a stated date or within a stated period; or
 - (ii) requiring the applicant to ensure the impact of the activity is limited or restricted to a stated level; or

50 Clause 51 (Conditions generally)

Page 34, line 19, 'a strategic cropping area'—

omit, insert—

an area that is the strategic cropping area

51 Clause 51 (Conditions generally)

Page 34, lines 25 and 26—

omit, insert—

- (2) However, a condition must either—
 - (a) be relevant to, but not an unreasonable imposition on, the resource activity or regulated activity; or
 - (b) be reasonably required to manage the impact of the activity on an area of regional interest.
- (3) A condition under subsection (1)(c) is an **SCL mitigation condition**.

52 Clause 52 (Notice about decision)

Page 35, lines 3 and 4, from 'As soon' to 'the chief executive'—

omit, insert—

The chief executive

53 Clause 52 (Notice about decision)

Page 35, line 11—

omit, insert—

assessing agency for the application; and

- (c) if the Gasfields Commission gave the chief executive advice about the assessment application—the Gasfields Commission.

54 Clause 52 (Notice about decision)

Page 35, after line 16—

insert—

- (4) If the chief executive's decision about the assessment application is inconsistent with advice about the application given to the chief executive by either of the following, the decision notice must include reasons for the inconsistency—
 - (a) a local government that was an assessing agency for the application;
 - (b) the Gasfields Commission.
- (5) The decision notice or copy of the decision notice must be given within the prescribed time frame.

55 Clause 53 (Public notification of decision)

Page 35, lines 18 and 19, '5 business days after deciding an assessment application'—

omit, insert—

the prescribed time frame

56 Clause 54 (Issuing authority)

Page 36, line 1, 'authority'—

*omit, insert—***approval****57 Clause 54 (Issuing authority)**

Page 36, lines 2 to 4—

omit, insert—

- (1) As soon as practicable after deciding to grant a regional interests development approval, the chief executive must issue the approval.

- (2) The regional interests development approval must—
- (a) be in the approved form; and
 - (b) state the following—
 - (i) a description of the land;
 - (ii) the resource activity or regulated activity approved;
 - (iii) the area of regional interest for which the activity is approved;
 - (iv) any regional interests conditions on which the approval is granted.

58 Clause 55 (When authority takes effect)

Page 36, line 5, 'authority'—

*omit, insert—***approval****59 Clause 55 (When authority takes effect)**

Page 36, line 6, 'authority'—

omit, insert—

development approval

60 Clause 55 (When authority takes effect)

Page 36, lines 9, 10 and 11, 'authority'—

omit, insert—

approval

61 Clause 55 (When authority takes effect)

Page 36, line 16, 'authority'—

omit, insert—

development approval

62 After clause 55

Page 36, after line 18—

*insert—***Division 8A Amending approval****55A Amending approval**

- (1) The holder of a regional interests development approval may, in writing, ask the chief executive to make either of the following amendments (each a **requested amendment**) to the approval—
 - (a) a minor amendment;
 - (b) an amendment the chief executive is satisfied would not adversely change the impact of the resource activity or regulated activity on the area of regional interest.
- (2) Before deciding whether to make a requested amendment, the chief executive may give the holder of the approval a notice requiring the holder to notify the application under division 4 within a reasonable stated period.
- (3) If, in the chief executive's opinion, the holder has contravened the notice, the chief executive may refuse to decide whether to make the requested amendment until the notice has been complied with to the chief executive's satisfaction.
- (4) The holder of the approval must bear any costs incurred in complying with the notice.
- (5) In deciding whether to make a requested amendment, the chief executive must consider the matters mentioned in section 49 to the extent the chief executive considers it is appropriate to do so.

55B Notice about decision

- (1) As soon as practicable after deciding whether to make a requested amendment to a regional interests development approval, the chief executive must give the holder of the approval a decision notice about the decision.
- (2) The chief executive must give a copy of the decision notice to—
 - (a) if the holder is not the owner of the land—the owner of the land; and
 - (b) if the assessment application for the approval was referable—each assessing agency for the application; and
 - (c) if the Gasfields Commission gave the chief executive advice about the assessment application for the approval—the Gasfields Commission.

55C Giving effect to amendment

As soon as practicable after deciding to make a requested amendment to a regional interests development approval, the chief executive must—

- (a) amend the approval to give effect to the requested amendment; and
- (b) issue the amended approval to the holder.

63 After part 3, division 9, heading

Page 36, after line 19—

*insert—***55D Approval attaches to land**

While it continues in effect, a regional interests development approval attaches to the land despite any change in the land's ownership or occupation.

64 Clause 56 (Regional interests conditions paramount)

Page 36, lines 21 to 26—

omit, insert—

- (1) This section applies to a regional interests development approval for a priority agricultural area or the strategic cropping area.
- (2) If there is any inconsistency between the conditions of the approval and a condition of the relevant authority, the conditions of the approval prevail to the extent of the inconsistency.
- (3) For subsection (2), it does not matter when the approval, authority or conditions were granted or imposed in relation to each other.

65 Clause 57 (Application of pt 4)

Page 37, line 6, 'authority if the authority'—

omit, insert—

development approval if the approval

66 Clause 61 (What is a mitigation deed)

Page 38, line 3, 'authority'—

omit, insert—

development approval

67 Clause 67 (Mitigation deed binds holder's successors)

Page 40, lines 4 and 5, 'authority'—

omit, insert—

development approval

68 Part 5, heading (Appeals)

Page 40, line 8, after 'Appeals'—

insert—

and declarations

69 Clause 68 (Definitions for pt 5)

Page 40, lines 11 and 12, 'a person who owns'—

omit, insert—

an owner of

70 Clause 68 (Definitions for pt 5)

Page 40, lines 23 and 25, 'authority'—

omit, insert—

development approval

71 Clause 68 (Definitions for pt 5)

Page 40, line 27—

omit, insert—

application;

- (d) a decision to make, or refuse to make, a requested amendment to a regional interests development approval.

72 Clause 69 (Appeal to Planning and Environment Court)

Page 41, after line 7—

insert—

Note—

See the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, chapter 7, part 1 for provisions about the powers, processes and procedures of the court, including, for example—

- section 457 (Costs);
- section 495 (Appeal by way of hearing anew);
- division 12 (Alternative dispute resolution).

73 After clause 71

Page 41, after line 29—

insert—

71A Notice of appeal to other parties

- (1) An appellant must, within 10 business days after starting an appeal, give notice of the appeal to each of the following—
 - (a) a respondent or co-respondent for the appeal;
 - (b) if the appellant is not the owner of land for the regional interests decision—the owner of the land.
- (2) The notice must state—
 - (a) the grounds of the appeal; and
 - (b) if the person given the notice is the owner of the land—that the person may apply to the court to be a co-respondent for the appeal.

74 Clause 72 (Stay of operation of decision)

Page 42, lines 2 to 6—

omit, insert—

- (1) The starting of an appeal does not stay the operation of the decision appealed against.
- (2) However, the court may stay the operation of the decision to secure the effectiveness of the appeal.
- (3) A stay—
 - (a) may be given on reasonable conditions as the court considers appropriate; and
 - (b) operates until the first of the following happens—
 - (i) the period fixed by the court ends;
 - (ii) the appeal is decided, withdrawn or dismissed; and
 - (c) may be revoked or amended by the court.

75 After clause 72

Page 42, after line 6—

*insert—***72A Who must prove case for appeal**

- (1) In an appeal by the applicant for a regional interests decision, it is for the appellant to establish the appeal should be upheld.
- (2) In an appeal by either of the following, it is for the applicant for a regional interests decision to establish the appeal should be dismissed—
 - (a) if the applicant is not the owner of the land—the owner of the land;
 - (b) an affected land owner.

72B Declarations

- (1) Any person may start a proceeding in the court seeking a declaration about any of the following—
 - (a) a matter done, to be done or that should have been done under this Act;
 - (b) the construction of—
 - (i) this Act; or
 - (ii) a regional plan to the extent it relates to this Act;
 - (c) the lawfulness, under this Act, of the carrying out of a resource activity or a regulated activity.
- (2) The *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, section 456 applies to a proceeding started under this section.

76 Clause 73 (Evidentiary aids generally)

Page 42, lines 20 and 23, 'authority'—

omit, insert—

development approval

77 After clause 78

Page 46, after line 27—

*insert—***78A Court may make orders**

- (1) A court hearing a proceeding for an offence against this Act may make an order in relation to the defendant as the court considers appropriate.
- (2) The order may be in addition to, or in substitution for, any penalty the court may otherwise impose.
- (3) The order may, for example, require the defendant—
 - (a) to stop carrying out a resource activity or regulated activity; or

- (b) to demolish or remove from the land stated buildings, structures, plant or equipment related to the carrying out of a resource activity or regulated activity; or
 - (c) to restore, as far as practicable, land to the condition the land was in before the carrying out of a resource activity or regulated activity started; or
 - (d) to do, or not to do, another act to ensure a resource activity or regulated activity complies with a regional interests development approval; or
 - (e) for a resource activity or regulated activity that has started—to apply for a regional interests development approval.
- (4) The order must state the date by, or period within, which the order must be complied with.
 - (5) A person must comply with the order unless the person has a reasonable excuse.
Maximum penalty—1665 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months.

78 Clause 79 (Authorised persons under the Vegetation Management Act 1999)

Page 47, lines 4 to 11—

omit, insert—

- (1) This section applies for a priority agricultural area and the strategic cropping area.
- (2) The functions of an authorised person (natural resources) under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999* include to ensure compliance with this Act (the **further function**).
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)—
 - (a) an authorised person (natural resources) may exercise the person's powers under the *Vegetation Management Act 1999*, part 3 (other than part 3, division 1, subdivisions 7 and 8) to perform the further function; and
 - (b) an authorised person (natural resources) may enter a place under section 30 of that Act if the place is—
 - (i) the subject of a regional interests development approval; and
 - (ii) entered during daylight hours; and
 - (c) on an application by an authorised person (natural resources), a magistrate may issue a warrant for a place under section 33 of that Act only if the magistrate is satisfied there are reasonable grounds for suspecting—
 - (i) there is a particular thing or activity (the **evidence**) that may provide evidence of an offence against this Act; and
 - (ii) the evidence is at the place or, within the next 7 days, may be at the place.

79 Clause 80 (Authorised persons under a Local Government Act)

Page 47, lines 17 to 26—

omit, insert—

- (2) The functions of an authorised person (local government) under the *Local Government Act 2009* or the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* include to ensure compliance with this Act (the **further function**).
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)—
 - (a) an authorised person under the *Local Government Act 2009* may exercise the person's powers under chapter 5, part 2, division 1 of that Act to perform the further function; and
 - (b) an authorised person under the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* may exercise the person's powers under chapter 5, part 2, division 1 of that Act to perform the further function; and
 - (c) on an application by an authorised person (local government), a magistrate may issue a warrant for a place under section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2009* or section 119 of the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* only if the magistrate is satisfied there are reasonable grounds for suspecting—
 - (i) there is a particular thing or activity (the **evidence**) that may provide evidence of an offence against this Act; and
 - (ii) the evidence is at the place or, within the next 7 days, may be at the place; and
 - (d) a reference in the *Local Government Act 2009* or the *City of Brisbane Act 2010* to the Local Government Acts is taken to include a reference to this Act.

80 Clause 81 (Authorised persons under the Environmental Protection Act)

Page 48, lines 4 to 9—

omit, insert—

- (2) The functions of an authorised person (environment) under the Environmental Protection Act include to ensure compliance with this Act (the **further function**).
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)—
 - (a) an authorised person (environment) may exercise the person's powers under the Environmental Protection Act, chapter 9 to perform the further function; and

- (b) an authorised person (environment) may enter a place under section 452 of that Act if the place is—
 - (i) the subject of a regional interests development approval; and
 - (ii) entered during daylight hours; and
- (c) on an application by an authorised person (environment), a magistrate may issue a warrant for a place under section 456 of that Act only if the magistrate is satisfied there are reasonable grounds for suspecting—
 - (i) there is a particular thing or activity (the **evidence**) that may provide evidence of an offence against this Act; and
 - (ii) the evidence is at the place or, within the next 7 days, may be at the place.

81 Clause 90 (Definitions for pt 7)

Page 50, line 18, '7'—

*omit, insert—***8****82 After clause 90**

Page 51, after line 7—

*insert—***90A Validation application**

- (1) This section applies to a validation application made under the repealed Act, section 40 if, at the commencement, the application had not been decided, withdrawn or lapsed.
- (2) The chief executive (natural resources) must deal with and decide, or continue to deal with and decide, the validation application under the repealed Act as if this Act has not been enacted.
- (3) After making a decision about a validation application, the chief executive (natural resources) must ensure the SCL trigger map under this Act is consistent with the decision by, if necessary, amending the map—
 - (a) if the decision is to record any of the land the subject of the application as SCL—to include the land as an area, or part of an area, in the strategic cropping area shown on the map; and
 - (b) if the decision is to record any of the land as decided non-SCL—to remove the land from the strategic cropping area shown on the map.
- (4) In this section—
 - decided non-SCL** see the repealed Act, section 9(3).
 - SCL** see the repealed Act, section 9(2).
 - validation application** see the repealed Act, section 40(1).

90B Resource activities excluded from repealed Act are exempt resource activities

A resource activity is an **exempt resource activity** for the strategic cropping area under this Act if the environmental authority or resource authority for the activity was issued or granted—

- (a) before 30 January 2012; or
- (b) as a result of an application that was excluded under the repealed Act, chapter 9, part 3, division 2 or 3.

90C Conditions imposed for future environmental authority or mining lease relating to EPC 891

- (1) This section applies for any environmental authority or mining lease granted because of an application for an environmental authority or a mining lease relating to EPC 891.
- (2) It is a condition of the lease that no open cut mining can be carried out under the lease.
- (3) It is a condition of the environmental authority that its holder must use all reasonable endeavours to rehabilitate all impacts on the land from underground coal mining carried out under the lease.
- (4) This section does not limit or otherwise affect a power under this Act, the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* or the Environmental Protection Act to impose other conditions on the lease or authority, or a resource activity for the lease or authority, that are not inconsistent with these conditions.
- (5) In this section—
 - EPC** means an exploration permit for coal under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*.
 - mining lease** means a mining lease under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989*.

83 Clause 91 (Application for SCL protection decision)

Page 51, lines 14 to 17—

omit, insert—

- (b) the application is for a resource activity in an area that is in the strategic cropping area under this Act.
- (2) The chief executive (natural resources) must deal with and decide, or continue to deal with and decide, the application under the repealed Act as if this Act has not been enacted.

- 84 Clause 92 (SCL protection decision)**
Page 51, line 21, 'a strategic cropping area'—
omit, insert—
in the strategic cropping area
- 85 Clause 92 (SCL protection decision)**
Page 51, lines 23 and 24—
omit, insert—
(b) one made as a result of an application mentioned in section 91;
(c) one made as a result of an appeal mentioned in section 95 or 96.
- 86 Clause 92 (SCL protection decision)**
Page 51, line 26, 'authority (the transitioned authority)'—
omit, insert—
development approval (the **transitioned approval**)
- 87 Clause 92 (SCL protection decision)**
Page 52, lines 15 and 16—
omit, insert—
(6) The chief executive may issue, under section 54, a regional interests development approval to the applicant for the transitioned approval.
- 88 Clause 93 (SCL compliance certificate)**
Page 52, line 29, 'a strategic cropping area'—
omit, insert—
in the strategic cropping area
- 89 Clause 93 (SCL compliance certificate)**
Page 52, lines 31 and 32, 'authority (the transitioned authority)'—
omit, insert—
development approval (the **transitioned approval**)
- 90 Clause 93 (SCL compliance certificate)**
Page 53, lines 4 and 5—
omit, insert—
(4) The chief executive may issue, under section 54, a regional interests development approval to the applicant for the transitioned approval.
- 91 Clause 94 (Mitigation requirements)**
Page 53, line 17, 'authority'—
omit, insert—
development approval
- 92 Clause 95 (Right of appeal on commencement)**
Page 54, line 3, 'a strategic cropping area'—
omit, insert—
in the strategic cropping area
- 93 Clause 96 (Appeals started at commencement)**
Page 54, line 15, 'a strategic cropping area'—
omit, insert—
in the strategic cropping area
- 94 Clause 97 (Stop work notices and restoration notices)**
Page 54, lines 26 and 27, 'a strategic cropping area'—
omit, insert—
in the strategic cropping area
- 95 After clause 97**
Page 55, after line 3—
insert—
Part 8A Transitional regulation-making power
97A Transitional regulation-making power
(1) A regulation (a **transitional regulation**) may make provision of a savings or transitional nature to allow or facilitate—
(a) the commencement of the operation of this Act; or

- (b) the change from the operation of the repealed *Strategic Cropping Land Act 2011* to the operation of this Act.
- (2) A transitional regulation may have retrospective operation to a day not earlier than the day this section commences.
- (3) A transitional regulation must declare it is a transitional regulation.
- (4) This part and any transitional regulation expire 1 year after the commencement.

96 Clause 100 (Insertion of new s 212A)

Page 55, lines 17, 20 and 25 and page 56, line 5, 'authority'—

omit, insert—

development approval

97 Clause 100 (Insertion of new s 212A)

Page 56, line 7, after 'authority'—

insert—

or approval

98 After clause 101

Page 56, after line 15—

*insert—***Part 10 Amendment of Gasfields Commission Act 2013****102 Act amended**This part amends the *Gasfields Commission Act 2013*.**103 Amendment of s 7 (Commission's functions)**

Section 7—

insert—

- (ca) in response to requests for advice from the chief executive under the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014* about assessment applications under that Act, advising that chief executive about the ability of landholders, regional communities and the resources industry to coexist within the area the subject of the application;

104 Amendment of sch 1 (Dictionary)

Schedule 1—

*insert—****resources industry—***

- (a) means the businesses that carry out a resource activity within the meaning of the *Regional Planning Interests Act 2014*, section 12(2); and
- (b) includes the onshore gas industry.

Tabled paper: Regional Planning Interests Bill 2013, explanatory notes to Hon. Jeff Seeney's amendments [4735].

There are an extensive number of amendments to be moved to this bill. A significant proportion of them relate to one single change. During the consideration of the bill in the committee stage, we decided to change the name of the approval that would be issued under the planning process that has been discussed at length this afternoon and last night. As it was originally tabled in the House, the bill had the name of that approval as a 'regional planning impact authority'. In an attempt to fully explain this piece of legislation, it became apparent that it would be better named in line with the urban planning processes that people are more familiar with. One of the amendments in this bill changes the name of that approval to a 'regional impact development approval', an RIDA, to make the point that it is very similar to a DA. Flowing from that decision, there is a whole range of consequential amendments because everywhere that that term appeared in the bill had to be amended. A significant number of the amendments are around that particular issue.

The other issues that are worth mentioning in terms of the amendments relate to clause 24, which I spoke about in my second reading contribution. In amending clause 24 we have taken on board the committee's recommendations No. 18 and No. 19 about clarifying the pre-existing rights to operate an activity that pre-existed the passage of this bill. I will not repeat the comments I made in my second reading speech. Suffice to say, once again the intention was always that there would not be any retrospectivity. The amendments that have been made to clause 24 are about reinforcing that principle and ensuring that there could be no confusion about that.

There are also amendments to include time frames for assessment in the legislation. Once again, that was in response to issues raised by stakeholders. The amendments have been made to ensure that those time frames are referred to in the bill, but included in the regulation.

We have made some other amendments that relate to the local government's role as an assessment agency in approval applications that involve a priority living area. That was discussed at some length in the committee and we have accepted some of the points that were made there. There are amendments regarding that.

We have also made a fairly significant amendment, I suggest, in relation to the GasFields Commission. A number of submitters and stakeholders made the point that there should be an independent panel of some sort that was able to give a third party view. The comments that were made by those stakeholders were in line with the roles of the GasFields Commission when we set it up. We have made some amendments to ensure that the GasFields Commission is recognised more properly as that third party advice agency. We have made it clear that there is a statutory role for the GasFields Commission and the amendments that are included in the ones that I moved tonight will ensure that the GasFields Commission is consulted with regard to every application that is considered. It will be a mandatory requirement for every application to be referred to the GasFields Commission for advice.

If the decision does not comply with the advice of the GasFields Commission, there will need to be a formal response given to the GasFields Commission to explain why. It will be very much a statutory process that recognises the role that the GasFields Commission has for the consideration of those notifiable applications. Every one of those applications will be referred to the GasFields Commission as the independent community based group. A similar process will involve the local government in relation to the priority living areas that I spoke about before.

There are a range of other amendments, most of which address the recommendations of the committee. Earlier in the debate I tabled a response to all of those recommendations. I would refer members to them if they are to consider the amendments that are moved. It is worth making the point that the tabled response to the committee's report and the 22 recommendations also provided a response to the further information requests. I think many of them have been covered in the debate here tonight. With that, I commend the amendments to the House.

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 101, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule—

Hon. JW SEENEY (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.40 pm): I move the following amendments—

99 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)

Page 57, lines 6 and 13, '(1)'—

omit.

100 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)

Page 57, after line 23—

insert—

cropping includes the following—

- (a) the yield of any form of cultivated crop for any purpose, including, for example, for food, fibre, fodder or medicinal purposes;
- (b) the growing of trees to produce, or as a component for, food, fibre or a medicinal product;
- (c) harvesting a timber plantation.

101 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)

Page 58, lines 3 and 4—

omit.

102 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)

Page 58, after line 6—

insert—

exempt regulated activity, for an area of regional interest, see section 24A(2).

exempt resource activity, for an area of regional interest, see section 22(2), 23, 24(2) or 90B.

expected surface impacts, of a resource activity, means the expected impacts of carrying out the activity on the surface of the land where the activity is to be carried out.

Gasfields Commission means the commission under the *Gasfields Commission Act 2013*.

103 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)

Page 58, after line 9—

*insert—***lot** means—

- (a) a lot under *the Land Title Act 1994*; or
- (b) a separate, distinct parcel of land for which an interest is recorded in a register under the *Land Act 1994*.

104 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)

Page 58, after line 15—

*insert—***mitigation value**, of mitigated SCL land, see section 59(2).**105 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)**

Page 58, lines 21 to 27—

*omit, insert—***owner**, of land, means—

- (a) the person for the time being entitled to receive the rent for the land or who would be entitled to receive the rent for it if it were let to a tenant at a rent; or
- (b) the lessee of a lease issued under the *Land Act 1994* for agricultural, grazing or pastoral purposes.

party, to an appeal, means the applicant and each respondent or co-respondent for the appeal.**prescribed time frame**, for a matter, means the time frame prescribed under a regulation for the matter.**priority agricultural area** see section 8(1).**priority agricultural land use** see section 8(2).**106 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)**

Page 58, after line 30—

*insert—***property** means—

- (a) if an area managed as a single agricultural enterprise consists of 1 lot—the lot; or
- (b) otherwise—all the lots that—
 - (i) are owned by the same person or have 1 or more common owners; and
 - (ii) are managed as a single agricultural enterprise; and
 - (iii) form a single discrete area because 1 lot is adjacent, in whole or part, to another lot in that single discrete area (other than for any road or watercourse between any of the lots).

107 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)

Page 59, lines 1 to 10—

*omit, insert—***regional interests condition** see section 48(2).**regional interests decision**, for part 5, see section 68.**regional interests development approval** see section 15A.**regional plan** see the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, section 33.**regulated activity** see section 16(1).**108 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)**

Page 59, after line 17—

*insert—***requested amendment** see section 55A(1).**109 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)**

Page 59, after line 21—

*insert—***road** see the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*, schedule 3.**SCL mitigation condition** see section 51(3).**SCL trigger map** means the electronic map called 'Trigger Map for Strategic Cropping Land in Queensland' approved by the chief executive (natural resources) and published on the website of the natural resources department.

110 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)

Page 59, after line 23—

*insert—**watercourse* see the *Water Act 2000*, section 5.

Amendments agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading**Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.40 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Before you put the question, it would be remiss of me not to record my recognition of and thanks to some of my staff who have been involved in an incredibly long process to get this bill here tonight. First and foremost, can I recognise Kylie Williams. Kylie is the executive director of regional planning within my department. Kylie, together with Sue McCafferty her loyal offsider, has borne the brunt of much of that public consultation that has been such a part of this legislation. But that public consultation was conducted in an atmosphere that was combative, that was emotive and that was stressful for everybody involved. I very sincerely say to Kylie and to Sue, thank you so much for the job that you did in engaging in that consultation which was so important in bringing the various stakeholders to a point where we could have at least broad agreement on the bill before the House tonight.

The bill before the House tonight, as I said in my second reading speech, involves new concepts, new ideas and an adaption of established planning principles. For Kylie and her team to bring their planning expertise to those challenges that have faced people in regional Queensland and the way that job was carried out is certainly worth a very big job well done. Thank you to Kylie and Sue and their team.

Mr Mulherin: You normally don't give too many accolades. That was a big wrap, Deputy Premier.

Mr SEENEY: I do not often give accolades and that was a big wrap. The other person that I want to recognise is Dimity Elson from my department. Everybody who has been involved knows that Dimity has brought her quiet, considered intellect to every problem as it has arisen and has balanced my impetuosity and my desire to just darn fix it. She has played a major role. Dimity, I too thank you on behalf of all the people of regional Queensland who will benefit from this legislation and who will benefit from the efforts that you and Kylie and your respective teams have made to make this a reality.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title**Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.44 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (6.44 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on April Fools' Day, Tuesday, 1 April 2014.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (6.44 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Redcliffe Electorate, Events

 **Ms D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (6.44 pm): It has been just over two weeks since I was sworn in as the member for Redcliffe. I promised my electorate that I would get out and about in my community as their representative, and I have been eagerly doing just that. Although Monday, 10 March was the first full week in my electorate office as the new member, with the great support of my new staff, we were able to re-open the Redcliffe electorate office on that day with people lining up at the door to get assistance and advice. I am pleased to say that I was able to meet with people in my first week, who were unable to get a single meeting with their previous member during the past two years.


There is no doubt that the current health crisis is concerning many within my electorate. I had the opportunity to hear directly from one of our senior medical officers about his concerns with the Newman government and their handling of the individual contracts—describing this government as bullies. I have listened to the fear of people who are heavily reliant on the services of the Queensland public health system if this government continues to push senior medical officers out of public hospitals. I have heard from people who have been left waiting for surgery well beyond the recommended waiting period, while they have to listen to the government brag about how great the surgical waiting lists are at Redcliffe Hospital. These are just some of the issues that people in the community of Redcliffe are wanting advocacy and answers on.

On a lighter note, I am pleased to say that once again I enjoyed joining the Redcliffe Environmental Forum and Clontarf Beach State High School students for Clean Up Australia Day. We collected much rubbish, including many shopping trolleys and car tyres, within the MacDonnell Reserve at Clontarf. Last weekend was also a busy time in Redcliffe with the Rotary Club of Redcliffe Sunrise holding the inaugural 'Who's playing in the garden?', an event that brings together local, individual and group artists to entertain the young and old for a small cost. This event is held at the Redcliffe Botanical Gardens. This event was to raise funds for a new rescue boat for our hard-working Redcliffe Volunteer Coast Guard. Congratulations to Rotary Sunrise on a great event that I hope continues and expands in years to come.

In the brief time I have left, I congratulate everyone who got involved in Shave for a Cure. One extraordinary young boy Jay Barrett, a nine-year-old from Southern Cross Catholic College, shaved his head at his own great fundraising event held at the Belvedere Hotel at Woody Point. This is the fourth year that Jay has done this. Jay did this to raise funds but also to support his friend Elliot Marsh. Elliot has been diagnosed with lymphoma for a second time. I want to acknowledge Elliot and his family. Elliot is a very brave young man fighting an insidious disease. My thoughts are with Elliot while he takes on his biggest challenge, one I know he has had to fight before.

Of course, I know many others got involved in this great cause. I mention Mick George, a teacher at Scarborough State School, who also shaved for a cure. Well done to all those who got involved.

Fraser, Mr A, OAM

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (6.47 pm): I rise to pay tribute to the late Alexander Fraser OAM, known as Lex. I first met Lex in Ingham in January 2005 when I moved back to North Queensland after completing my tertiary studies. Lex was born in Ingham, to Frank and Isabella Fraser, on 9 March 1919. Lex started his education at Ingham and then attended Thornburgh College in Charters Towers, where he was school captain. While Lex was not hailed for his academic achievement, this may have been due to his preference for sport and music, in which he excelled.

Lex commenced work as a clerk with Frank Fraser Pty Ltd in 1937, a family company still operating in Ingham to this day. At the commencement of World War II, Lex joined the 1st Independent Commando Company, was promoted to captain and sent to New Guinea, landing at Kavieng, where his company was attacked and captured by the Japanese. Lex then spent five months in Rabual as a prisoner of war, followed by three years in camps in Japan, being released in 1945 at the end of the war.

On 15 December 1945, Lex married Marion Carr and they had two daughters, Roslyn and Margaret. Lex is survived by both daughters, his eight grandchildren and, at present, 15 great-grandchildren. Lex and Marion were married for 49 years, with Marion passing away in 1994.


In 1991, Lex was made a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to Rotary International. He joined the Ingham Rotary Club in 1945. He served rotary in many capacities, including as governor of district 255 in 1958-59. Lex was instrumental in the creation of 15 new clubs, seven of which were in New Guinea. He became a counsellor of Rotary International in 1959-60 and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in 1970. Lex was a charter member of the Herbert River Rotary Club in 1979. Indeed, it is through Rotary that I enjoyed my primary association with Lex. Lex nominated me for membership of the Herbert River Rotary Club in 2006. I very much value my membership of the Herbert River Rotary Club and I owe Lex Fraser a debt for inviting me to become a member of that club.

In addition to Rotary, Lex had a lengthy record of community service. He was involved with the RSL, the Red Cross and the Ingham Chamber of Commerce. He established the Hinchinbrook shire's first tourist development committee, coordinated the manufacturing and donation of toys to children in need, instigated the Frank Fraser Memorial Lecture competition for primary schoolchildren in the Herbert River district and instructed local youth in boxing.

Lex was a member and patron of the Ingham Rifle Club and was a charter member of the Forrest Beach Surf Life Saving Club. Lex was well known for his generosity to charities, community organisations and good causes in Ingham and throughout the Herbert River district. In particular, I am aware of his generosity to the Ingham Parents Support Group, a community based organisation in Ingham that supported young people with disabilities.

Lex Fraser died at the Palms nursing home in Ingham on 30 November 2013, aged 94. He was buried in Ingham on 6 December last year after a funeral at the Ingham Uniting Church. Lex Fraser will rest in peace, because he lived a long, busy and distinguished life.

Mudgeeraba Electorate, M1 Upgrade


 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (6.50 pm): I rise to update the House on the work being done to upgrade the most important piece of road infrastructure in my electorate, the M1 motorway, for the long-term benefit of local motorists. I was proud to announce on Friday, 7 March 2014 that the Pacific Motorway would be upgraded southbound from Mudgeeraba to Robina through a joint state and federal government initiative, utilising savings realised from the project to upgrade the motorway from Mudgeeraba to Worongary. This new project will result in a dramatic decrease in traffic and improved travel times for over 100,000 vehicles every day.

Works to upgrade this additional two kilometres of the motorway will see residents spending less time sitting in traffic and more time at home with their families, out and about in the local area or productively delivering for our economy at their workplaces. As the member dubbed the 'Member for the M1', I have fought long and hard for this motorway to be modernised for the benefit of our local economy and motorists. Since as early as 2005, I have been the voice of locals who have had to wait too long for the infrastructure they needed and deserved in the Mudgeeraba 'car park'. This hard work has paid off, as in the last few years alone we have seen the M1 upgraded to three lanes from exits 73 to 77, with the upgrade of exits 77 to 79 due to be completed by mid-2014.

I would like to thank my federal colleague Karen Andrews MP, federal member for McPherson, for gathering federal support for this important project and announcing this latest upgrade with me in March. I would also like to thank the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development, the Hon. Warren Truss MP, as well as the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Scott Emerson, for allocating the necessary funding for this important project. It is heartening to see that with an LNP government in Queensland and a coalition government in Canberra, the significance of the M1 to not only local residents but to the Gold Coast and the state as a whole is undoubtedly being recognised. I will continue to work with my federal and state government colleagues to realise further improvements to this vital piece of infrastructure.

As always, with these kinds of projects, motorists can expect temporary delays as works commence, and I urge them to be patient and obey the road rules so that the upgrade can progress as seamlessly as possible. There is always short-term pain for long-term gain, but I am confident that this upgrade will be welcomed by our residents.

Mackay & District Turtle Watch Association


 **Hon. TS MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.53 pm): I rise today to praise a volunteer group which has made a great impact in protecting the natural environment of the Mackay region. The Mackay & District Turtle Watch Association, simply known as Turtle Watch to residents of the Mackay region, was officially formed in 1992 from a group of 30 interested members of the community who knew that turtle nesting activity took place on various Mackay regional beaches. There was no official information available on the activity. Their major role is to gather research material about the flatback turtle, which is the most prevalent species in the Mackay area. Turtle Watch volunteer members are trained and operate under a permit issued by the Queensland Environmental Protection Agency. All data and information collected is shared with the Queensland turtle research program.

The Mackay coast is under increasing pressure from development, climate change, population growth and recreational use. All of these provide direct or indirect threats to marine turtle populations. As migratory species that spend the majority of their lives in the marine environment, Mackay Turtle Watch have actively targeted their activities towards the phase of the lifecycle that turtles spend in Mackay. Through their extensive monitoring, communication and education activities, and working with regional coastal managers, Mackay Turtle Watch target both the causes and symptoms of local coastal environment issues which threaten marine turtle populations during the terrestrial part of their lifecycle.

Undoubtedly one of the reasons that Mackay Turtle Watch have had so much success with their activities over the years has been their capacity to develop partnerships at a variety of levels. At a national level, Mackay Turtle Watch liaise with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and are represented on the Mackay Local Marine Advisory Committee, which reports to this agency. At a state level, Mackay Turtle Watch work closely with the turtle recovery program. They also work with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service to support the functioning of the marine stranding report network. At a local level, Mackay Turtle Watch work closely with the regional natural resource management group, Reef Catchments, who co-manage the coastal management program in the region. Mackay Turtle Watch supply data for inclusion in the coastal prioritisation framework, and the network of members across the beaches make direct contributions during the development and implementation of local beach management plans.

Turtle Watch volunteers visit schools across the region with their education campaign on turtle conservation and the importance of looking after the sand dunes. The association is active in lobbying local government and developers for recognition, preservation and best management practices. I particularly would like to praise the effort of Fay Griffin, who is a tireless volunteer and spokesperson for the group, and her husband, Ken. The efforts of Mackay Turtle Watch volunteers help preserve the Mackay region as viable habitat for marine turtles, making our region a richer place to live. Mackay Turtle Watch volunteers should be very proud of their efforts.

Neighbourhood Watch; Woodridge Housing Service Centre

 **Mr LATTER** (Waterford—LNP) (6.56 pm): Neighbour Day is coming up at the end of this month on 30 March. On that day—Sunday, 30 March—I will be attending Tudor Park at Loganholme to promote Neighbourhood Watch and to call the community to action in terms of getting them engaged in Neighbourhood Watch, because there is nothing more appropriate for expressing good neighbours and good community than being actively engaged in your Neighbourhood Watch. I look forward to that weekend and to being at Tudor Park on Sunday, 30 March. Indeed, as I said, I will be calling the community to action on that day. Come down and see me. I would like to encourage everyone to get involved with Neighbourhood Watch. We will have the police there and other Neighbourhood Watch providers from around the Waterford electorate. It will be a great day to come on down and be engaged in that space.


There is another matter I would like to speak about this evening. I would like to speak in defence of the Woodridge housing office, because earlier today I heard the member for Woodridge expressing some concern with regard to this office and how we as a government are dealing with social housing. Let me tell the House that the Minister for Housing is doing an outstanding job in reviewing social housing—the type of social housing that should be and will be available as a result of the work being undertaken by this government as we roll out the Logan renewal process.

As to the Woodridge housing office, Nancy Mackinlay, the housing manager, and her staff are a tremendous asset in that space. In fact, I and my office work very, very closely with Nancy and her team to address issues and concerns around housing not just of the tenants within the housing

system but also of neighbours in the community who live in and around them. We believe that good solid community relations make for a better way of life in our space. Indeed, when there have been issues in the past, I have been able to call on that office to address them and they have done so in a most collaborative way.

In listening here today about the issues being raised around that housing office, I think they are unfair and unjustified. If there are people out there who are feeling that they are in some way hard done by by that office, I put to you, Madam Speaker, that in fact neither those people nor those claiming to represent them are engaging properly with that office. If that is the case, I might invite them to come and see me, because my experience has been nothing but positive. I stand by those officers, the staff, there—our public servants—because they do a wonderful job.

Pumicestone Electorate, Directory of Services; International Women's Day


 **Mrs FRANCE** (Pumicestone—LNP) (6.59 pm): I rise tonight to talk about a fantastic initiative that has just been undertaken in the electorate of Pumicestone which was to put together a directory of services for our area. I thank Minister Tracy Davis for her work on this initiative with us, and I would like to personally thank some of the constituents who were involved in this activity in my area. The directory pulled together all opinion leaders in our community and looked at issues such as domestic violence, youth, youth justice, Indigenous services, Indigenous transport and medical services. It was a brilliant opportunity to bring together all of our opinion leaders in the community and produce a document that we can now use within our schools and community organisations. The directory of service was established mainly with our Neighbourhood Watch centres and groups such as Murri Health Group, which is an operation in Caboolture.

Mr Grimwade: Great service.

Mrs FRANCE: It is a great service; I take that interjection from the member for Morayfield. We also had a lot of providers come in from the Beachmere area, such as KYC. Other providers included: Leslie Hill from the Department of Communities; Noreen from the multicultural centre in Caboolture; Kim Reid from KYC; Leanne Peipman from Homelife Association with regard to the NDIS; Malcolm Thomson from the Caboolture NHC; Estrella with regard to domestic violence; Jennie, Anita and Chet from the Murri Health Group; Katrina Chapman from the Department of Housing; Karen Smith from the Caboolture Kilcoy Bribie Area Mental Health Support Service; Joseph from the Salvos; Melissa Hill from the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services; Cecelia Taylor from the Bribie Island Neighbourhood Centre; Lindy McAndrew from the family support service at the Bribie Island Neighbourhood Centre; and Michelle Barton from Intercept Youth and Family Service. I would also like to thank Belinda from my office who put in a lot of hard work to pull together this program. We are looking forward to undertaking the launches in the upcoming weeks in Bribie, Beachmere and Caboolture and getting this document out into the public so that people who are in need know what services are actually available to them in Pumicestone.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Madam Speaker for being the guest of honour at our International Women's Day event the other weekend. We enjoyed hearing her stories, as well as the stories of Kathy Rynders, the previous deputy commissioner for police. It was wonderful to have these two ladies come to Bribie and tell their stories of what has gone on in their careers and the experiences they have had. I thank the Bribie businesses that came along to support the event.

Childhood Abuse


 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (7.02 pm): I rise tonight to pay tribute to a courageous young man in my community. Regrettably, I know that he is not the only one who has faced the challenge of childhood abuse. Tragically, so many of our beautiful young children still have to face this scourge. Dusty Mossman and his wife and family, in company with Dusty's parents Shayne and Helen Mossman, have just finished the ordeal of going through a trial. Dusty was groomed by a very trusted person in his life and in the life of many children, his teacher. Michael Vock was sentenced this week to nine years in prison and he will be eligible for parole after three years. I do not believe it was just Dusty who was groomed; in many ways, Dusty's parents were as well. I know when I first talked with Shayne and Helen they were just devastated that they had trusted this man to the extent that they had with their children, and particularly with Dusty.

Dusty struggled with his experience right up until the time when he just recently made a disclosure as a young adult. He still has I believe that struggle with self-worth, and he still feels the embarrassment of the process and the fear of hurting his mum and dad. As I said, his mum and dad felt that they had let their son down. But, as we all know, these mongrels not only groom the children

but they persuade the parents to trust them. So I say to Dusty and his wife and family and to Shayne and Helen and to others in that small community that they are not to blame, that they were sucked in by a man whose sole purpose was to abuse and take advantage of young people.

Michael Vock was sentenced this week and he will serve a three-year non-parole period, and I will be discussing with the family whether they believe that sentence should be appealed. The community believes that Dusty was not the only victim. Another young man in the same class as Dusty committed suicide, and it is also suspected that this perpetrator had violated others. I want to thank Dusty, his family and his mum and dad for their courage in making this very public stand. I hope that they can look to the future with confidence knowing that they have everybody's respect. We wish them peace of mind and prosperity in the time ahead.

Ipswich Electorate, St Thomas's Anglican Church

 **Mr CHOAT** (Ipswich West—LNP) (7.05 pm): On Sunday, 16 March, I was delighted to attend celebrations for the 125th anniversary of St Thomas's Anglican Church at Lawrence Street, North Ipswich. St Thomas's is not only one of the oldest churches on the northern side of the Bremer in Ipswich but it is the most beautiful timber church in the district. The commemorative service was presided over by the Most Reverend Dr Phillip Aspinall, Archbishop of Brisbane and Primate of the Anglican Church of Australia. His Grace was ably assisted by St Thomas's parish priest, the Reverend Bill Redman. It was a wonderful service and worship of our Lord, where we gave thanks for the church, its architect and its builders, for those who have maintained it and of course for the fantastic community which has held St Thomas's as its centre of worship and Christian works and fellowship over the past 125 years.


Following the service, there was a wonderful informal gathering in the courtyard under the shade of the beautiful poinciana tree, which shades the congregation after mass, followed by a wonderful more formal lunch where I chatted with Reverend Bill and his lovely wife, Lyndell, as well as His Grace and his lovely wife, Christa, along with many of the wonderful members of the great St Thomas's community. I was honoured to have been asked to address the lunch and, as a Catholic, it was so nice to be made so very welcome along with Father Nev, who has been newly appointed to St Mary's Church at Ipswich.

St Thomas's was dedicated on 11 March 1889. The church was designed by architect John Hingeston Buckeridge, who was born in Oxford, England, and was the son of Charles Buckeridge, himself a great architect of the era. John Buckeridge came from England in 1886 and was appointed Diocesan Architect by the Right Reverend Dr Webber, Archbishop of Brisbane, and served from February 1887 until 1903. During this time, he was responsible for the building of 60 wooden churches, including St Agnes's Church at Esk in my neighbouring electorate of Nanango.

Archbishop Dr Webber presided over the opening of St Thomas's on 11 March 1889. Over the years, changes have been made to the church, and other structures have been added to provide for the growing church community. The church has been beautifully maintained by the St Thomas's community, who have kept its original internal grandeur. In 1969 and in 1980, works were undertaken to clad the church in the red brick it is known for today. This has served to protect and preserve the church, which will stand strong in our community for many years to come. I thank everyone involved in the celebrations for 125 years of God's work in our Ipswich North community and pray that St Thomas's will continue that important work for many years to come. I wish to thank Father Bill for his care for the St Thomas's community and I would like to acknowledge the work of his ministry team—Peter Grice, Dorothy Prasser, Nancy Norwood and of course Lesley Briggs—all of whom play such important roles in making St Thomas's a great Christian community. I look forward to a long association with them.

(Time expired)

Racing Industry; Suicide

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—PUP) (7.08 pm): Rather than 'improving eight furlongs' as the Minister for Racing has claimed about horseracing in Queensland, the truth is very far removed from his media statements. Breeders in Queensland are losing \$14,094 on every yearling bred and it is getting worse not better. This is compounding, even though the economy is said to be recovering. The minister's office does not seem to be listening and I would like to repeat the facts. We have had a fall in mares covered in Queensland of 35 per cent over the past five years, and there is no reason to believe that the decline will cease. Last year, in 2013, the decline was 24 per cent. The 2014 Magic Millions QTIS sale had a pass-in rate of 31 per cent, meaning that the demand to purchase just is not there. The

horse breeding industry is the lifeblood of the horseracing industry in Queensland. It is a massive industry in my electorate of Gaven and in the surrounding electorates. The breeders are losing even greater amounts of money now, even though they are consistently breeding fewer horses. I table the Magic Millions QTIS sale summary, showing the 2014 and 2013 results.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Magic millions QTIS sale summary—2014' [4736].

For those who do not understand, the stallion price for serving is determined by market forces. Essentially, these represent success in the previous seasons on the racetrack. Those stallions are now in demand and attract a higher price for their service. It is a significant fixed cost.


Breeders can no longer sustain these continuing losses and no amount of irrelevant and misleading statements from a minister, who clearly does not understand the complexity of the problem, will suffice. The minister is out of his depth and must be replaced as a matter of urgency. As we heard yesterday and earlier today, Minister Dickson is more interested in two platypuses, Wally and Pebbles, than in our struggling racing industry. We all know that, when swimming, platypuses do not have visible ears. Minister Dickson also appears to have no ears. He is certainly not listening to our very troubled racing industry.

The Chair of Racing Queensland, Mr Kevin Dixon, needs to make an honest, fully informed statement to the whole industry, preferably straight away. Either we all collectively decide we want this great industry with a tremendous history to survive or nothing that they do to fluff around the edges will do anything to ensure the industry's long-term survival beyond the cottage industry that I predicted here two weeks ago. The industry needs a significant increase in prize money to allow owners the opportunity to profit from racing. Then they can increase demand to purchase Queensland bred horses and the industry may be saved. It will not be saved by using New South Wales horses.

I would like to move to the very difficult issue of suicide. Recently we marked International Women's Day and this week is International Domestic Violence Week. Suicide is often something that people do not like to talk about, but it is all too common in Australia, with 6,000 deaths a year. Whilst it is thought that the incidence might be slightly declining—it is thought to be flat lining if the statistics are correct—it is increasing in the younger ages. That is why I would like to congratulate Stacy Tann of Nerang for organising a fundraiser in my electorate, which I attended, which raised \$9,317 for suicide prevention. As I told the gathering, we need to start treating these people as if they are about to have a heart attack. We need to spend the same amount of money on beating this disease.

(Time expired)

Fletcher, Mr J; National Ride to School Day; Healthy Lifestyle

 **Mr WOODFORTH** (Nudgee—LNP) (7.11 pm): I firstly would like to congratulate the latest world champion from the great seat of Nudgee, that of Jarrod Fletcher. Jarrod has recently come back from Monte Carlo where he won the WBA middleweight boxing title.

Mr Sorensen: He's a Hervey Bay boy.

Mr WOODFORTH: Jarrod is originally from Hervey Bay, but we will claim him as someone from Nudgee now. He first competed as an amateur back in the 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth Games and then at the 2008 Beijing Olympics before turning pro. Jarrod was the underdog for his world title fight and in the end won comfortably on points, beating Max Bursak from the Ukraine, who had only lost one fight in 29. I say congratulations to Jarrod, I wish him and his young family all the best as he tries to unify the belts and become one of Australia's great boxing champs.

It was also a pleasure to don the lycra and participate in this week's National Ride to School Day with the students from Virginia State School. I must commend the Virginia State School for a get moving, get active and fitness point of view. Not only do they participate in events like the ride to school day, but also the school has a very strong swimming club, an extremely popular after school running club run by parent Ben Ryan, every student participates in their annual fun run—yours truly included—and they have strong ties with Toombul cricket. So it is one very active school, which is great to see. My hat goes off to principal, Tim Farrell, for making so much happen at Virginia State School.

It was also great to tour the huge Arnott's biscuit factory in my electorate, to take a tour of their upgraded facilities. Many would wonder how I could tour such a facility—a biscuit factory of all things! My No. 1 rule is do not be perfect; if a good packet of Tim Tams is your vice, then go for it. However, I do note that they have a range of additive-free and preservative-free biscuits. As I advised in my last

adjournment speech, take nasty additives and preservatives out of a child's diet and you take out the problem; no Ritalin required. It was great to see such a huge facility employing over 750 people in the manufacturing sector.

Let me finish on the additive and preservative theme, on my health theme—why not—for something different. Last week I got to meet little two-year-old Odette, the so-called 'terrible two' about whom I spoke last sitting. Her young mum, Danielle, came to my first 'additive alert' night. When I walked into their home, little Odette just sat there, watching TV while her mum went about her business. How did this come about in just days? Simply, we educated mum; that is right, we educated. It is all about the education. Then mum took action. She took the nasties out of Odette's diet. Now that little Odette is not screaming up and down the hallways, we can educate little Odette as she sits there calmly. The simple answers are out there, but do we care? Sometimes I wonder.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 7.14 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