



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST 2017

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Peter Wellington, Nicklin) read prayers and took the chair.

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

### REPORT

#### Information Commissioner



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Information Commissioner report No. 1 of 2017-18 titled *Privacy and mobile apps*. I table the report for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Office of the Information Commissioner, Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 1 2017-18—Privacy and Mobile Apps 'How three Queensland government agencies meet their obligations under the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld) when developing and operating mobile apps' [[1327](#)].

### SPEAKER'S RULING

#### Answers to Questions on Notice



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, further to my recent rulings, I have received additional items of correspondence from the member for Mudgeeraba regarding answers to questions on notice. The member for Mudgeeraba has written to me regarding question on notice No. 858, which was submitted to the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. In summary, I find that the minister has provided a reasonable explanation as to why she has not provided the requested information. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Letters, dated 14 July 2017 from the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, and 11 July 2017 from the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Shannon Fentiman, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding the response provided to question on notice 858 of 2017 [[1328](#)].

I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

Further to my recent rulings, I have received an additional item of correspondence from the Member for Mudgeeraba regarding an answer to a question on notice.

The Member for Mudgeeraba has written to me regarding Question on Notice 858, which was submitted to the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

In Question on Notice 858, submitted on 13 June 2017, the Member for Mudgeeraba requested advice on the number of children reported missing from residential care between 1 June 2015 and 1 June 2017 by child safety region, as well as the number of those children who were missing for more than five days before they were located, and the number that were subsequently transitioned from care within six months of the incident.

The Minister responded by advising that children missing from residential care should be reported to the Queensland Police Service (QPS), therefore the QPS holds the data on historical numbers of reported missing in Queensland. The Minister also advised that the data on the number of children and young people missing from residential care and the length of time they are missing is not part of the department's regular quarterly reporting. The Minister stated 'While individual case files contain information about any missing person reports, these are not easily collated into historical, statewide or regional reports without significant manual effort that would divert staff from critical tasks'. Finally, the Minister advised that the 2016-17 data on children missing from out-of-home care will be provided in the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services' (the Department) Annual Report, which is to be published by 30 September 2017, in keeping with recommendation 19 of the Queensland Family and Child Commission's (QFCC) report 'When a child is missing: Remembering Tiahleigh' (the QFCC report).


The Member for Mudgeeraba submitted that the Minister did not address any of the specific questions in the Question on Notice and instead referred her to the department's annual report which is not due for release for several months, and argued that the response was not a reasonable alternative to providing a detailed and immediate answer to a Question on Notice.

In her response to my correspondence, the Minister advised that the QFCC report made a clear finding that 'information from the QPS and Child Safety Services indicated there is no reliable data source available to confirm the number of children reported to the QPS as missing from out-of-home care'. The Minister also referred to the efforts made by the QFCC to compare currently inconsistent data sources from the QPS, Child Safety and the Office of the Public Guardian when compiling its report, and stated that 'Significant effort was made to assist the review with a series of snap-shoots than [sic] cannot be undertaken for the member in response to a question without [sic] notice without diverting staff and reallocating resources in a similar way'. The Minister also advised that the Government is currently establishing a process for collecting data on missing children that is consistent and common across agencies that can be used, which will allow the collection of the information to be finalised in time for the department's annual report. The Minister again referred to the difficulty in collating historical, state-wide or regional reports without significant manual effort, and that this limiting factor also extends to requests that seek to sort data by other events or time period that do not form part of the Department's ordinary reporting effort, such as parts (b) and (c) of the question.


On balance, and taking the Minister's advice on face value, I find that the Minister has provided a reasonable explanation as to why she hasn't provided the requested information, that is, that the information does not form part of standard corporate data compilation or reporting and would require the diversion of significant resources to answer the question. While the Minister has referred to a report that is not yet available, I believe she has provided an adequate explanation as to why she has done so. I therefore find the question has been answered.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Hearing Awareness Week

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that National Hearing Awareness Week began on Sunday and continues until Saturday, 26 August. Hearing loss affects one in six Australians, from newborn babies to the elderly. Hearing Awareness Week is an opportunity to focus on the needs of those people who are deaf or hearing impaired or have a chronic ear disorder. It also is an opportunity to explain to all Australians the risks associated with long-term exposure to excessive noise, often in the workplace. As it is not always easy to know whether someone has hearing loss, this week reminds us that as members we need to understand what hearing impairment is and how to communicate effectively with people who are deaf or hearing impaired. I understand that there will be a number of celebrations this week including the awarding of a Cochlear Implant of the Year Award and a world record attempt for Chinese whispers.

### Road Safety Week

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that this week is also Queensland Road Safety Week. This event is a joint program of the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Queensland Police Service who are asking the community to 'Speak up for road safety'. This week our parliament will be lit up in yellow in support of road safety.

## PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petition, sponsored and lodged by the Clerk—

### 161/161A Underwood Road, Proposed Development

From 10,252 petitioners, requesting the House to work collaboratively with Brisbane City Council to ensure that the Natural Assets Local Law are enforced in respect of the proposed mosque development at 161/161A Underwood Road [[1329](#), [1330](#)].

The Clerk presented the following e-petition, sponsored by the honourable member indicated—

### Gas Fields, Personal Exposure and Biological Monitoring

**Mr Pyne**, from 216 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that all residents of the current Queensland gas fields receive personal exposure and biological monitoring that tests for flaring chemicals [[1331](#)].

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

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

12 August 2017—

[1314](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 42, 55th Parliament—Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017

[1315](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 43, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 March 2017 and 9 May 2017

- [1316](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 61, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 22 March 2017 and 9 May 2017
- [1317](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 62, 55th Parliament—Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017
- [1318](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 44, 55th Parliament—Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017
- [1319](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 45, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 March 2017 and 9 May 2017
- [1320](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 44, 55th Parliament—Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill 2017
- [1321](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 45, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 March 2017 and 9 May 2017
- [1322](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 39, 55th Parliament—Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017
- [1323](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 40, 55th Parliament—Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017
- [1324](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 41, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled 22 March 2017-9 May 2017
- [1325](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 51, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 22 March 2017 and 9 May 2017

21 August 2017—

- [1326](#) Coroners Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2015-2016

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

#### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Evidence Act 1977—

- [1332](#) Evidence Regulation 2017, No. 134
- [1333](#) Evidence Regulation 2017, No. 134, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994—

- [1334](#) Fisheries (Hammerhead Sharks) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 135
- [1335](#) Fisheries (Hammerhead Sharks) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 135, explanatory notes

Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988—

- [1336](#) Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Regulation 2017, No. 136
- [1337](#) Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Regulation 2017, No. 136, explanatory notes

National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014—

- [1338](#) National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) (Solar for Public Housing Trial) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 137
- [1339](#) National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) (Solar for Public Housing Trial) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 137, explanatory notes

Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995, Planning Act 2016—

- [1340](#) Coastal Protection and Management Regulation 2017, No. 138
- [1341](#) Coastal Protection and Management Regulation 2017, No. 138, explanatory notes

State Buildings Protective Security Act 1983—

- [1342](#) State Buildings Protective Security (State Buildings) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 139
- [1343](#) State Buildings Protective Security (State Buildings) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 139, explanatory notes

Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004—

- [1344](#) Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 140
- [1345](#) Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 140, explanatory notes

Local Government Act 2009, Planning Act 2016, Regional Planning Interests Act 2014—

- [1346](#) Planning and Other Legislation (South East Queensland Regional Plan and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 141
- [1347](#) Planning and Other Legislation (South East Queensland Regional Plan and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 141, explanatory notes

Transport and Other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reform) Amendment Act 2017—

- [1348](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 142
- [1349](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 142, explanatory notes

Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994, Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

[1350](#) Transport and Other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reform) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2017, No. 143

[1351](#) Transport and Other Legislation (Personalised Transport Reform) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2017, No. 143, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000—

[1352](#) Water Plan (Calliope River Basin—Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2017, No. 144

[1353](#) Water Plan (Calliope River Basin—Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2017, No. 144, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Infrastructure Act 1994—

[1354](#) Transport Infrastructure (Rail) Regulation 2017, No. 145

[1355](#) Transport Infrastructure (Rail) Regulation 2017, No. 145, explanatory notes

Statutory Instruments Act 1992—

[1356](#) Statutory Instruments (Exemptions from Expiry) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 146

[1357](#) Statutory Instruments (Exemptions from Expiry) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 146, explanatory notes

Economic Development Act 2012—

[1358](#) Economic Development (The Mill at Moreton Bay) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 147

[1359](#) Economic Development (The Mill at Moreton Bay) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 147, explanatory notes

[1360](#) Document titled 'The Mill at Moreton Bay—Priority Development Area, Development Scheme, August 2017'

Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979—

[1361](#) Transplantation and Anatomy Regulation 2017, No. 148

[1362](#) Transplantation and Anatomy Regulation 2017, No. 148, explanatory notes

Public Health (Infection Control) Amendment Act 2017—

[1363](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 149

[1364](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 149, explanatory notes

Explosives Act 1999—

[1365](#) Explosives Regulation 2017, No. 150

[1366](#) Explosives Regulation 2017, No. 150, explanatory notes

Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Act 1991—

[1367](#) Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Regulation 2017, No. 151

[1368](#) Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations Regulation 2017, No. 151, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[1369](#) Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2017, No. 152

[1370](#) Nature Conservation (Koala) Conservation Plan 2017, No. 152, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[1371](#) Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2017, No. 153

[1372](#) Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2017, No. 153, explanatory notes

Environmental Offsets Act 2014, Fisheries Act 1994, Marine Parks Act 2004, Nature Conservation Act 1992, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[1373](#) Marine Parks Regulation 2017, No. 154

[1374](#) Marine Parks Regulation 2017, No. 154, explanatory notes

Marine Parks Act 2004, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[1375](#) Marine Parks (Great Sandy) Zoning Plan 2017, No. 155

[1376](#) Marine Parks (Great Sandy) Zoning Plan 2017, No. 155, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[1377](#) Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2017, No. 156

[1378](#) Nature Conservation (Administration) Regulation 2017, No. 156, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[1379](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2017, No. 157

[1380](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Regulation 2017, No. 157, explanatory notes

Recreation Areas Management Act 2006, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[1381](#) Recreation Areas Management Regulation 2017, No. 158

[1382](#) Recreation Areas Management Regulation 2017, No. 158, explanatory notes

#### MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Premier and Minister for the Arts (Ms Palaszczuk)—

[1383](#) Answer to question taken on notice under Standing Order 113(3) on 10 August 2017 from Mr A Powell regarding Queensland Rail train crew taxi use

[1384](#) Answer to question taken on notice under Standing Order 113(3) on 10 August 2017 from Mr T Mander regarding the handling of evidence of unexpected deaths of patients in Queensland hospitals.

#### MEMBER'S PAPER


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

Member for Cairns (Mr Pyne)—

[1385](#) Document (with redactions), dated 21 August 2017, titled 'Declaration to the Queensland Parliament' relating to a complaint by Greg Young

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Jobs

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.34 am): Mr Speaker, before I commence, I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy 60th birthday for yesterday. I am quite sure all of the House would agree with me in wishing you a very happy birthday for yesterday.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** At the last election I promised to lead a government that would restore hope and opportunity for Queenslanders. There is no greater source of hope or opportunity than a job. Data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics last week confirmed that 94,500 net new jobs have been created in Queensland since January 2015 to the end of July. That is the equivalent of 100 new jobs every day since my government came to office.

This achievement on employment has been the result of a concerted effort by Queenslanders to work together. My government has worked with employers, their employees and their representatives to put in place incentives and protections for Queensland jobs. We have set strong foundations with record investments in quality education and world-class health services for all Queenslanders. We have re-established key programs, such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work, to ensure Queenslanders are ready, willing and able to join the workforce. We have revived investment in science and technology to advance Queensland by ensuring new and established Queensland businesses are at the forefront of the digital age, not subservient to it.

We have worked with our key economic mainstays—such as agriculture, tourism, minerals, energy and construction—by strengthening our own investments and working with them on long-term plans for our partnership. We have broken new ground for emerging industries such as large-scale renewables and bio-futures. We have worked with industries and communities to recover from prolonged drought and natural disasters, including tropical cyclones Debbie and Marcia. We have extended our reach overseas—our export earnings have increased 48 per cent to \$65.9 billion. We are attracting more tourists, more international students and more overseas investments to the benefit of Queensland businesses and jobs.

We have set the generous incentives for Queensland businesses wanting to hire new staff of between \$15,000 and \$20,000 for every new job they fill. We have maintained our low-tax status and boosted the incentives for these businesses when hiring apprentices and trainees by reducing their payroll tax liability. Most recently, we have released a policy to give Queensland businesses the opportunity to supply the goods and services their government needs to deliver for the people of this great state.

As an employer, we have strengthened front-line services in our hospitals, schools, emergency services and child safety. Queensland Treasury has reported—


After Victoria (up 94 200 persons), Queensland (up 64,000 persons) was the second largest contributor to the 259,200 persons gain in national employment over the past year.

For every four new jobs created across Australia this year, one has been created in Queensland. Brisbane based economist Gene Tunny wrote—

I have been commenting on Queensland's improving labour market for several months now, and the July labour force data released by the ABS yesterday have confirmed that trend is continuing.

As we approach 1,000 days in office, I rededicate my government to continue to repair the widespread damage done before the last election. Only by continuing to work together can we continue to build a stronger Queensland for all Queenslanders.


### Governing from the Regions

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): My government governs for all Queenslanders. We work for all Queenslanders in every street of every suburb across every region of this great state to create jobs and deliver services. We are a government that listens. Since coming to government, the cabinet and I have consistently travelled across the length and breadth of our state to directly meet with Queenslanders and their communities. My ministers are actively working with Queenslanders—businesses, community groups and councils—to create as many jobs and opportunities as possible. This year we have also taken our Governing from the Regions program to Rockhampton, Cairns and the Gold Coast. Next month we will be governing from the Wide Bay region.

From 10 September my cabinet and I will travel throughout the region and meet with residents, stakeholders and council and business leaders as well as hold a cabinet meeting and a town hall meeting. The visit will be the second time the cabinet has met in the region. Bundaberg hosted a community cabinet meeting in October 2015.

My government is also a government which delivers, and I am proud of what we have delivered and continue to deliver for the Wide Bay region. We have hardworking MPs in Bruce Saunders and Leanne Donaldson, both of whom are active in their respective communities and advocate for and deliver local projects, jobs and services.

### Waste Management

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.41 am): Since coming to office my government has taken decisive action to reduce waste. We have listened to the loud calls from the community to establish a container refund scheme and to ban single-use plastic bags. In this year's budget we have allocated a further \$3 million to practical actions over the next two years under the Advancing Queensland Waste Reform Agenda. This funding builds upon the \$1.94 million allocated in 2016-17.

Funding under this program is allocated to government oversight and reform of waste services including a range of initiatives to promote recycling. In addition, we are planning to reverse the Newman government's inexplicable decision to remove controls over tyre storage sites. Proposed regulatory arrangements for tyre storage are currently available in draft form for public consultation.


In this term we have also cracked down on illegal waste transfer and dumping in our state. In August 2015 we launched Operation Tora, a waste industry compliance task force to investigate and prosecute operators who were storing, transporting or disposing of waste illegally. Operation Tora has investigated 207 waste management operations, with 69 enforcement measures being issued to date.

Like many in the community, I was very alarmed at the reports that the New South Wales EPA was not enforcing its legislation on waste management and that this was having an impact on interstate movement of waste into Queensland. Last week I announced that my government will establish a three-month independent investigation into the transport of waste into Queensland. The investigation will look at what incentives there are for the movement of waste from other states and how we can prevent this from occurring as well as examining possible illegal practices and breaches of regulations. The investigation will advise on possible regulatory reforms, and the role of other states and the Commonwealth in addressing this chronic issue. I can announce today that former justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland Peter Lyons will lead the investigation. Former justice Lyons served on the Supreme Court from 2009 to 2016. He is a former president of the Bar Association of Queensland and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1988.

Let me be clear: my government supports the growth of an efficient and effective waste management industry in this state. Queensland's waste sector plays a significant role in supporting local economic development and employment. The industry estimates that over 15,000 Queenslanders are employed by private industry operators and local governments, and over \$2 billion of industry owned or managed investments in Queensland.

The environment minister and I met with industry leaders last week and they told us that the law-abiding majority of operators are just as keen to stamp out the rogue elements in the industry as we are. I look forward to the results of the investigation and continuing to work collaboratively with the industry.

### Emergency Services


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): The last week has seen a series of tragic and dangerous incidents across the state that have once again called on the resolve and commitment of our hardworking front-line emergency services workers. On Saturday Queensland Fire and Emergency Services attended a horrific crash where two Queensland men died when their car hit a wall at Willowbank Raceway. QFES and ambulance crews also attended a series of serious accidents involving both cars and pedestrians across the state. It is a normal part of their everyday work, but we should never underestimate the burden of their work.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services also responded to a series of major bushfire incidents on the Sunshine Coast, as well as major structural fires in Kilcoy and Noosa North Shore on the weekend. The bushfire near Caloundra had more than 170 firefighters working to bring the situation under control, with crews also responding to fires in Noosa North Shore and Kilcoy, with both fires causing significant property loss. Firefighters had worked tirelessly since Friday to bring these fires under control and reduce the threat to Queenslanders.


We have also seen the Queensland Ambulance Service respond to a record number of flu cases. This year's outbreak has contributed to a 13 per cent increase in triple 0 calls so far this financial year. The Minister for Health has said that last Monday, 14 August, was the busiest day on record for the QAS with an extra 613 triple 0 calls fielded compared to the same day in 2016. In the past fortnight the QAS has experienced eight of its 10 busiest days on record for code 1 incidents.

I offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims of the crashes that have occurred. I again thank all of our front-line emergency services workers for their courage and dedication every day to their work to keep Queenslanders safe.

### Barcelona, Incident

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.45 am): We have seen another awful loss of life following a terrorist attack on one of Europe's most famous streets. Fourteen people were killed including seven-year-old Julian Cadman from Sydney. My government is already working with local authorities across Queensland to improve security in public places, especially pedestrian malls, through better use of bollards and other measures to stop vehicles. These matters will be among those discussed when the security cabinet committee meets tomorrow to discuss the federal government's new counterterrorism strategy. Once again on behalf of the House I pass on my heartfelt condolences to the victims of this atrocious attack.

### Building Industry

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (9.45 am): For generations there has been a significant power imbalance in the construction industry, an imbalance that has seen the majority of the risk for building and construction projects on the shoulders of subcontractors. As a result of this imbalance, lives have been destroyed. Too many businesses have been ruined through non-payment, and there is a risk that confidence across small and medium businesses has been shot.

I am pleased to inform the House that today we will introduce the most significant reforms to payments in the building and construction industry in this state's history. Our new building industry fairness laws will bring balance to the system. Our comprehensive package of reforms will address the injustices of the previous LNP government's disastrous changes by reforming the adjudication system. This will include tough new penalties for people who fail to pay an adjudication decision.

The previous government negligently left the QBCC blind to the financial situation of builders. It was red-tape reduction that sent family subcontracting businesses to the wall. We will introduce new mandatory reporting requirements so that the regulator once again has line of sight to the financials of a licensee. This policy will be taken out of the hands of the regulator and put back in the realm of government and this parliament where we will be accountable to the people.

We are also expanding the financial investigation powers of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, allowing the regulator to proactively intervene to properly protect subcontractors. This reverses the disastrous financial self-reporting system introduced by the previous government that effectively tied the Building and Construction Commission's hands behind its back.

While phoenixing has traditionally been seen as an issue for corporations law and the federal regulators, our proposed laws will enable a crackdown on this abhorrent and destructive practice. Our new laws will allow a ban on anyone who has been secretly involved in running a construction company that goes bankrupt or has its building licence revoked. Anyone who receives a ban under the new laws will face major penalties if they try to run another building company, either in their own name or by once again giving secret directions from behind the scenes.

The new regime will allow someone to be declared an 'influential person' even if they have no obvious paid role in a company or even if they are given a job title which is a disguise, designed to provide false reassurance that the person is not actually in charge. People should not be running a dud business in their nanna's name or anyone else's. You should not get away with running under the radar. Lumping others with your debts, deliberately sinking your old company and secretly slinking away to a new business is disgraceful, base behaviour. It is a low act.


Supercharging these reforms will be project bank accounts on government projects from 1 January 2018 and across-the-board from 2019. Project bank accounts are not designed to stop building industry insolvencies on their own, but they will stop a dodgy builder from using funds from one project on another project, or spending those funds on a jet ski, a helicopter or a retirement unit. From 1 January 2019 project bank accounts will be expanded to all private sector construction projects over \$1 million in Queensland. We have listened to industry, and under our new laws we will also have the ability to expand project bank accounts down beyond the first tier of subcontractors to further protect subcontractors and suppliers further down the line.

The current system, made so much worse by the changes under the previous government, has let subbies and their families down badly. Many of us in this place have sat in a room or on a deck or in a park with people who have lost everything, people who have been hit with the stark realisation that a system that they have put their faith in offers them no protection.

There are economic arguments for these reforms. There are moral ones also. Underpinning all of that is a fierce argument that strikes at the heart of our democracy itself. What has happened to these families has not been by a twist of fate or happenstance. Their experience is a result of a system designed to hurt people, a system made much, much worse by the decisions of those opposite. Only this Labor Palaszczuk government has had the political will to take on this issue.

I say to the members here that if they have sat in one of those rooms with one of those subbies and they have heard their stories and they have seen their pain, they are obliged to see these reforms through.

### **Advance Queensland**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (9.50 am): I rise to update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment and focus on diversifying our economy and driving innovation-led growth through our flagship \$420 million Advance Queensland initiative. Under the former LNP government there was no future for Queensland, no new ideas and no job security. Thankfully for Queenslanders the facts tell a very different story under the Palaszczuk Labor government. ABS figures show 94,500 new jobs created under our economic plan since the January 2015 state election—the equivalent of 100 new jobs every day under this government. We are backing the bright ideas of Queenslanders and securing a bright future for Queensland as innovation drives new opportunities, new projects, new research and new jobs across the state.

I am immensely proud of the significant progress made under our innovation agenda. Advance Queensland is this government's long-term vision to help Queenslanders turn their great ideas into new products, services, exports and jobs. To the end of June we committed more than \$205 million of this investment to back 1,650 innovators across Queensland. Their projects are supporting and driving 4,821 jobs.

Advance Queensland projects are not only generating economic benefits; they are also making life better for Queenslanders. We are funding research that transforms lives like tackling cancer and heart disease. We are helping make our industries stronger such as with more efficient sugarmills and improving access to bauxite reserves. We are funding vital new research to deliver greater insight into the health of our iconic Great Barrier Reef. We are preparing our children for the future, increasing the number of students studying critical subjects in maths and science, as well as opening up the possibility of starting their own business.

Since being launched two years ago, Advance Queensland has leveraged \$132 million in co-investment from partners outside of the Queensland government. We are committed to making sure that stakeholders have skin in the game. This co-investment is a vote of confidence from business, academia and entrepreneurs in Advance Queensland and the Palaszczuk government. Many Advance Queensland programs were designed to attract investment from large institutions or big players in the market. A great example of this is the Platform Technology Program, which aims to accelerate the development and deployment of significant highly collaborative, industry based platform technology projects. Under this program Advance Queensland invested \$1 million into a \$4.3 million Boeing project that brings together several industry partners.

Other programs are directed towards small businesses and start-ups—programs such as the incredibly successful Ignite Ideas Fund, which provides a diverse range of innovative Queensland start-ups and businesses with the opportunity to break into new local, national and international markets and create new jobs. The Ignite Ideas Fund has leveraged an additional \$15 million in external funding. Businesses, researchers and entrepreneurs have been vocal in their praise of our programs and are showing that they are willing to back Advance Queensland not only in testimonials but also by investing their own resources.

By encouraging and attracting private sector investment, we are amplifying the impact of this government's investment into Advance Queensland's transformational agenda, which is generating innovation-led economic growth across Queensland.

### Cross River Rail

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.54 am): Cross River Rail is fully funded and moving full steam ahead.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I will take that interjection from those opposite—laughing—

**An opposition member:** All of us?

**Ms TRAD:** Yes, absolutely, all of you because there was not much content. I do not know if members opposite noticed that there were a lot of voices raised but not a lot of content. There was a lot of humour about delivering infrastructure in this state. We know that when they were in government they cancelled infrastructure projects. They took money out of the infrastructure projects.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I will take that interjection from the minister for child protection. Yes, the only project they advanced was No. 1 William Street, a tower to their own vanity. Unlike those opposite, we want to deliver infrastructure for the people of Queensland, not for politicians. Last week—

**Mr Bleijie:** You didn't mind moving into it, did you?

**Ms TRAD:** I will take that interjection from the member for Kawana, who was in no small part responsible for the fact that they did not move into No. 1 William Street.

My agency took the message about Cross River Rail to the Ekka last week where we hosted a stand to showcase the project's benefits to the people of South-East Queensland. More than 5,000 people—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I say to the minister that I think they have had red cordial. I think they have had a whole lot of red cordial this morning. That is why they are behaving like children.

More than 5,000 people visited the Cross River Rail stand and the message they delivered was loud and clear: get on with building it. That is exactly what we are doing. It would already be under construction if the member for Clayfield had not cancelled the agreement with the federal government to get on and construct it. Our impressive 94,500 jobs created figure would be even more impressive if those opposite had not cancelled the agreement with the then Gillard government to get this project built. Today we are getting on and doing exactly that.

I am also pleased to announce that the Queensland government has appointed the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority's new chief executive officer. Following an international open-market recruitment process, Mr Graeme Newton has been selected as the successful candidate. Mr Newton is an outstanding appointee. He has had more than 25 years experience in the infrastructure sector. He has led large-scale, high-profile and complex infrastructure projects in the private and the public sector. Under his leadership, projects worth billions of dollars have been delivered. With his appointment, we are demonstrating that we are focused on getting on with the delivery of this transformative project that the state needs. Now that we have appointed Mr Newton as CEO, we can quickly move forward with the project's delivery. Getting on with the delivery means creating thousands of jobs for Queenslanders.

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, I was about to counsel your colleague the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms TRAD:** More than 1,500 jobs will be created each year during construction and more than 3,000 jobs in the most intensive years of construction. Importantly—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** Mr Speaker, clearly their intention is to disrupt this parliament consistently.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. Member for Cleveland, all right. Member for Redlands, you are warned. I also give the member for Beaudesert and the member for Gaven notice that if you continue you will also be warned. You are warned under standing order 253A.

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order. The member for South Brisbane has used her ministerial statement opportunity to bait the opposition continuously. Opportunities are provided in this parliament, quite rightly, to ministers to make ministerial statements about government business, and when ministers stray from that and use it to bait the opposition—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Callide. Resume your seat. There is no point of order.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. The Leader of Opposition Business is failing to draw to your attention the number of interjections that came from those opposite as soon as the Deputy Premier stood to her feet. That provided the opportunity for her to respond to those interjections.

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I know. I accept the proposition the Leader of Opposition Business is making—that ministerial statements need to be about providing information—but there must be some allowance for a minister on their feet to be able to respond to interjections that come from the opposition.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I have tried to be tolerant. When I have thought the minister has made provocative comments I have allowed interjections from those who felt offended. When I have thought the minister has not made provocative comments I have tried to rule accordingly. That is the basis of my ruling.

**Ms TRAD:** Importantly, hundreds of apprentices and trainees will also be employed on this important nation-building project. In addition, thousands of new jobs will be created in and around new station precincts. Next week we will take the next steps in procuring this project. Tomorrow week an industry briefing will be held in Brisbane to provide construction and engineering companies with information about the procurement process—


**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are pushing the boundaries. If you persist you will be warned, and it may be under standing order 252. You know the rules. You are a senior member of the House.

**Ms TRAD:** As I was saying, tomorrow week an industry briefing will be held in Brisbane to provide construction and engineering companies with information about the procurement process for the project's delivery. This important step signals the start of the delivery phase of this project, and when we open formal expressions of interest in September our Buy Queensland policy will be in force. That means there will be more opportunities for Queensland businesses to be involved in winning work as part of this \$5.4 billion project.

Cross River Rail is vital for Queensland because it will unlock 40 years of ongoing economic development. Most importantly, it unlocks economic growth in the outer suburbs and regional South-East Queensland, especially the Gold Coast, Ipswich, Caboolture and the Redlands. Even more importantly, it will mean that commuters in outer suburbs and regions can live where they want and know that they have an efficient, world-class public transport system to get them to work and home to their families.

### Jobs

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.04 am): Through our economic plan and three state budgets we are continuing to deliver on our commitment to boost growth, restore confidence, encourage innovation and investment and create jobs. ABS figures show our trend unemployment rate was steady in July at 6.3 per cent, which is down from the 6.6 per cent we inherited and the 6.7 per cent peak it hit for four months in 2014 under the former LNP government. The big take-out message is that the latest figures show 94,500 net new jobs have been created since the last election. This means that the number of jobs created by the Palaszczuk Labor government is more than three times the number created under the Newman-Nicholls LNP government. I will repeat that: the number of jobs created by the Palaszczuk Labor government is more than three times the number created under the Newman-Nicholls LNP government. That means that 3,150 net new jobs have been created on average each month since January 2015, including 500 full-time jobs.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members who have props, you will be warned under standing order 253A if I see any more of those. I would ask you to keep those on your tables or put them elsewhere. It is not on. I am not going to turn this into a circus.

**Mr PITT:** The latest Queensland State Accounts show Queensland's trend GSP growth at 1.2 per cent in the March quarter, or 3.9 per cent higher over the previous 12 months. Trade figures show a record \$65.9 billion in merchandise exports over the year to June, which is well over \$1 billion a week. This is important, because one in five Queensland jobs are supported by exports. While exports contribute to our strong and growing economy, our state's domestic economy is also rebounding and a vital ingredient in growth—business confidence—has been rebuilt. The NAB Monthly Business Survey shows our state with the highest or second-highest confidence levels in the nation for 29 of the past 31 months.

We will continue to create and support jobs through initiatives such as our \$42.75 billion Capital Works Program over the next four years. Our Works for Queensland program, Building our Regions and our Jobs and Regional Growth Fund are helping to create jobs in regional communities. Programs such as our Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund, market-led proposals and the Business Development Fund are playing their part right across our state. Last week in Townsville the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland and the members for Townsville and Thuringowa joined me to welcome news that SeaLink's \$56 million market-led proposal for a new ferry terminal has been advanced to stage 2 under our assessment framework. There are now eight MLPs that have progressed to stage 2 or final approval, worth a total of more than \$1 billion and generating more than 1,800 jobs in construction.


Our Business Development Fund has so far seen the government invest \$14.9 million in 13 firms. This has been matched by private sector co-investors to help them take their bright ideas to markets in Australia and around the world. Firms like legal software developer Lawcadia, the online school literacy platform developer Intrepica Group and Tritium, the maker of electric vehicle chargers, are all creating jobs of the future.

Our Back to Work program has expanded to South-East Queensland and supports employers who hire unemployed jobseekers, including those aged 15-24. Back to Work had an original target of 8,000 jobs over two years, but it has seen more than 6,500 Queenslanders secure jobs since July 2016. Thanks to our \$20,000 Back to Work Youth Boost—which has been extended to 31 October—Gordonvale State High School graduate Shalissa Pryor is now working with IFYS Foster Care as a business administration officer after completing an Australian Training Works traineeship. When I was in Rockhampton with Minister Grace Grace we met with Matt McGuire, who has started a whole new

career with metallurgical consultants A&B Mylec. A Cairns legal firm, Law Solutions, has set up a new business called Nexus Labs and taken advantage of our Back to Work incentives to help staff it. The business creates apps, websites and other platforms to bring to life and to market innovative ideas. It was great to meet employees Jamie, Trent and Jordan, who have all finished their final year of technology studies at James Cook University's Cairns campus and immediately landed on their feet.

Our economic plan is working to lift growth, build confidence, foster innovation and investment and generate jobs—not just jobs now but also jobs for the future. We recognise there is more to do, particularly in our regional communities, to ensure that our growth is more inclusive as our state transitions to a post mining boom economy. I can give Queenslanders a commitment that the Palaszczuk government will continue its job-creating efforts each and every day.


### ID Scanners

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.08 am): It has been reported that Prince Frederik was refused entry into a licensed venue on Friday evening. If reports are correct, the facts are that the licensed venue applied the law equally to Prince Frederik as to anyone else who visits our venues. The prince obviously did not take great offence to this, as he returned a short time later and was granted entry. The government is not aware of any complaints made by the prince or his protection unit. The fact is that this has not caused a diplomatic incident, as some would have us believe. I suspect that most Queenslanders would be pleased to know the laws are applied to everyone.


In relation to the policy of ID scanners, I am pleased to report that the new networked ID scanner system has stopped offenders on banning orders accessing venues on 76 occasions. People are still going out on the town and enjoying themselves, with 1.4 million people entering licensed venues in safe night out precincts alone since the start of July. We will never truly know how many lives are saved and how many assaults we stop by having these scanners in place, but knowing that parents are more likely to have their child come home safe because they are there is worth it. Given that many venues are recognising the benefits of stopping these people from accessing venues and keeping their patrons safe, they are actually operating the scanners earlier in the evening now.

Under the Palaszczuk government's initiatives to tackle alcohol fuelled violence, we have seen an increase in the number of licensed venues in Queensland: as at 30 June 2015 there were 7,526 licences, in 2016 there were 7,865 licences and as at 30 June this year there were 8,185 licences. This is an increase of 659 new licences under the Palaszczuk government in the past two years. New licences mean new venues which mean new jobs. This is a win-win for Queensland, making our safe night out precincts safer and increasing our entertainment venues across Queensland, which leads to more jobs.

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Athletes Village

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (10.10 am): It is always concerning when a construction contractor fails, leaving subbies in the lurch. Members may be aware that one of the contractors, Ware Building, has failed while working on the townhouse development that will become the Commonwealth Games village. Most importantly, Grocon has advised that its focus is finishing this project and that the village will be delivered on time. I am advised that approximately 95 per cent of Ware's contract is completed. Remaining works include internal and external defects rectification and landscaping. Grocon is working with the subbies required to complete this project. My Department of State Development has been in daily contact with Grocon. A liquidator has been appointed and will hold a creditors' meeting in Newcastle next Wednesday. My Department of State Development has spoken to the liquidator and will attend as an observer. It will be the liquidator's job to deal with creditors of Ware, including subcontractors. We look forward to the implementation of the building industry fairness bill and we expect those opposite to support these extra protections.


### Health, Biotechnology

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.11 am): Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, Queensland is becoming an in-demand destination for health and biotechnology companies, both regionally and globally. Queensland is already reaping the rewards of Queensland Health's eHealth Investment Strategy as the digital

revolution in health care sweeps the world. The strategy identifies future information and communications technology requirements over the next 20 years to ensure our state's health system can continue to provide essential services to Queenslanders. We estimate approximately 1,000 jobs will be created with the progression and implementation of the eHealth initiatives detailed in the strategy. This strategy sits hand in hand with our government's Specialist Outpatient Strategy. Since it began, the Specialist Outpatient Strategy has funded more than 3,800 additional telehealth services across 29 facilities. From Cunnamulla to the cape, from the bush to the tropics, telehealth services enable Queenslanders to access high-quality health care wherever they live in our great state.

Investment in emerging technologies like genomics is also creating jobs in our state. I was delighted to welcome Chinese life sciences giant BGI to Queensland last year. This innovative and cutting-edge organisation has decided to set up its Asia-Pacific headquarters in Brisbane at the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, creating jobs in an area that 10 years ago was unknown to most Queenslanders. Furthermore, the Palaszczuk government through Queensland Health is investing \$25 million in the Queensland Genomics Health Alliance. This is an investment in jobs and also an investment that will potentially result in better health outcomes for Queenslanders. Last week I had the pleasure of opening a new genomics centre at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. A Queensland first and one of the largest programs of its kind in Australasia, the Australian Translational Genomics Centre will lead to better treatment outcomes with potentially fewer side effects and better survival rates for patients with cancer. Our government is ensuring we are developing solutions to improve health outcomes. Queenslanders can be confident that the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing today to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

### Merrimac State High School, World Robot Summit

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (10.13 am): Queensland has new world champions! I am pleased to announce that Merrimac State High School won the World Robot Summit in Japan this month. Like something out of the movie *Big Hero 6*, the Merrimac State High School team took out first place in the open demonstration and skills challenge and overall first place.


**Mr Stevens:** In the electorate of Mermaid Beach!

**Ms JONES:** I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. On behalf of this parliament I congratulate Melanie Hanson, Bradley Cornelius and Aaron Martin for their performance to win the junior category of the World Robot Summit, and of course credit goes to their teacher, Daniel Ricardo. The Merrimac State High School students were invited to compete along with 10 other teams from around the world including from Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, USA, Thailand and the Netherlands.

Our government's focus on coding and robotics is already paying dividends for Queensland students. By fast-tracking the digital technologies curriculum, we are giving Queensland students a competitive advantage when it comes to the jobs of the future. We know that science, technology, engineering and maths—including coding and robotics—are crucial skills for the jobs of the future. That is why in this state budget for the very first time our government has committed \$138 million towards the employment of IT specialists in state schools. In addition to this, we have also committed \$80 million for STEM experts in every state primary school. This is all part of our efforts to advance Queensland and advance Queensland's jobs.


## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before we proceed to private members' statements, I am informed that we have students from New Farm State School in the electorate of Brisbane Central observing our proceedings. Welcome.

## NOTICE OF MOTION


### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Electricity Prices

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (10.15 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for using record high electricity prices as a secret tax that is crippling Queensland businesses and costing Queenslanders jobs.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS


### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (10.16 am): For almost three years of calamity, Annastacia Palaszczuk has presided over a union controlled Labor government the likes of which Queensland has never seen—this Palaszczuk government of cons, costs and crisis. Labor is the party of cons, costs and crisis. The cons are writ large: a jobs bonanza budget that will not move the unemployment rate—a con; a power deal that will not lower power deals—another con; a debt reduction plan that sees debt soaring to \$81 billion—a con; an Adani deal that will be shelved as soon as the Deputy Premier can—a con; a Premier who promised openness and accountability but hides reports and ducks for cover at every opportunity—a con; a Premier who said that she would not sell assets but did—a con; a Premier who said that she would keep the trains running but only delivered a rail fail—a con; a Premier who goes into hiding when things get tough—a con; a Premier who promised to get things done but has ordered 213 reviews and reports—a con; and a Premier who said that she will stop playing the blame game but it is all she ever does—a con. Remember saying this, Premier—

The loudest message that is coming through to us is that Queenslanders are already sick and tired of this government playing the blame game.

They are the words of the Premier, but all Labor does is blame, smear, scare and try to con Queenslanders. Now we have its latest fiasco—Labor's signature lockout laws. First it scrapped the 1 am lockout and adopted LNP policy. Then it said, 'We can't adopt it fully because, you know, that would look too embarrassing.' It got rid of the implementation panel and now look what has happened: we have the bungle of Brisbane, the Scandinavian scandal, the Denmark debacle and the Frederik stuff-up. Labor's incompetence is now on show for the world to see. Worst of all, we have a Premier who promised integrity but has had one minister who does not pay her rates and another under an official corruption investigation—another con. We have a Premier who refused to say sorry when she used a grieving family as a political pawn—a con. This government of cons, costs and crisis is killing hope in this state. It is time to bring hope back. It is time to elect a Tim Nicholls-led LNP government. It is time for the cons, the costs and the crisis that Annastacia Palaszczuk has inflicted on Queensland to end. It is time for Labor to be gone.

### Youth Justice

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.19 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to reforming youth justice in this state. We already see a reduction in youth offending in areas such as Townsville through our initiatives to target youth crime. We have committed to transitioning 17-year-olds into the youth justice system so that we can target the cause of crime and stop young people offending in the future. We will do this in a safe and sensible way for the community, youth justice staff and young offenders. We will ensure the courts have the options to steer young people away from crime. We will tackle our remand numbers, the highest in the country. This includes looking at secure accommodation for bail so that young people have greater oversight to ensure they comply with their bail conditions, including curfews, resulting in making our community safe at the same time as reducing offending. We will look at new ways to address our youngest offenders, the 10- to 13-year-olds, to get them reconnected with family and re-engaged in education.

Reforms like this take time and we must get it right. The Palaszczuk government has done much in the last 2½ years in starting this important body of work and will continue doing so into the future as part of the transition of 17-year-olds. This is in stark contrast to the LNP. Tim Nicholls brings a whole new meaning to small-target campaigning. 'Tiny Tim' has now decided that they should have the flimsiest—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I think those comments are not appropriate, Attorney-General. Will you withdraw?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I withdraw. The LNP has decided to have the flimsiest of policies possible. The LNP's policy on youth justice is the laziest policy development I have ever seen. It would have taken more time to decide what photo of Tim and Deb to use than to write the policy itself.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No props, thank you.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I wish to table this policy.

*Tabled paper:* Liberal National Party document, undated, titled 'Getting tough on young Offenders' [[1386](#)].

This is recycled policy from the Newman government. The plan itself is called Our Real Plan— as opposed to their previous fake plans! They now have to use the heading 'Our Real Plan'. Their entire youth justice policy is 169 words. If we want to know why those policies do not work, I table the Children's Court of Queensland annual reports for 2013-14 and 2014-15.

*Tabled paper:* Report: Childrens Court of Queensland, Annual Report 2013-2014 [\[1387\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Report: Childrens Court of Queensland, Annual Report 2014-2015 [\[1388\]](#).


Justice Shanahan clearly spells out why these policies do not work. If those on the other side want to make sure that we stop offending—

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Hinchinbrook. I know that everyone is excited. I am having difficulty hearing the Attorney-General.

**Mrs D'ATH:** If those on the other side want to stop wasting taxpayers' money and clogging up the courts, maybe they can disclose their political donations.

### Electricity Prices

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.23 am): This week the pain and suffering that Annastacia Palaszczuk has inflicted on families and small businesses was laid bare. This is a government of cons, costs and crisis. This Premier has decided—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I urge all members to refer to other members of the House by their appropriate titles. I know that there have been errors from both sides. Starting now, all members will refer to other members by their proper titles.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** As I was saying, this is a government of cons, costs and crisis. This Premier has presided over—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I think Hansard is having difficulty hearing. I am. As I cannot hear, I invite the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to start again.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** As I said, this is a government of cons, costs and crisis. This Premier has presided over the highest power costs in Queensland's history. This Premier uses power as a secret tax. This Labor tax grab is abhorrent. Family power bills are up \$50 every year. Small business—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr PITT:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am not sure if I heard the member for Nanango correctly, but I understand that she is suggesting a secret tax and is talking about electricity, which I believe may be the subject of the motion we are meant to be debating this evening. I hope I heard incorrectly.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It is obvious though those opposite cannot stand the truth.

**Mr PITT:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am seeking clarification. Was there a reference to the matter currently before the House, Deputy Leader of the Opposition?


**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am happy to move on.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. I will review *Hansard*. I ask the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to move on and not refer to anything before the House at the moment.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I happy to move on. This week, according to the latest CCIQ survey, desperate Queensland small business owners are saying that they have no choice but to cut jobs and pass costs on to their customers because of this incompetent Labor government, led by the member for Inala. Cons, costs and crisis is all we have seen under this Premier and this government. This government says that it cares about jobs, but the opposite is the truth. We have seen youth unemployment in the regions sitting at 56 per cent. I am sure those youth would like to hear what the Premier said about their jobs this morning.

Let us look at costs. Car registration costs have increased 3½ per cent year on year—twice the rate of inflation. That is not to mention how registration costs went up 30 per cent when the now Premier was transport minister under Anna Bligh. Now we will see all of the costs Queenslanders will face as a result of Labor's latest bungle, the right royal ID scanner stuff-up. Forget the Battle of Brisbane: it is the bungle of Brisbane and it is costing all Queenslanders. Labor were not content with only Queenslanders knowing how bad they are; now the whole world has to see. In all seriousness, this will cost dearly not only our reputation but also the jobs of all Queenslanders.

### Liberal National Party, Political Donations

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.27 am): We know what three words represent the LNP: cuts, cuts, cuts—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** And cut, sack, sell.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We are in a jovial mood! I might give the Deputy Premier a chance to start again, just as I did the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms TRAD:** Mr Speaker, I really do counsel you to think about a 'no red cordial' rule before coming into parliament. I refer to the extraordinary revelations that have come to light today concerning the fact that the Electoral Commission of Queensland has been forced to take action to get the Liberal National Party of Queensland to abide by the laws passed by this parliament in relation—

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order. As I understand it this matter is before the courts and I would question why the Deputy Premier would want—

**Ms Trad:** It is not a civil proceeding.

**Mr SEENEY:** It is in a civil court today.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will take some counsel. My advice is that it is not a point of order.

**Ms TRAD:** As I was saying, the Electoral Commission of Queensland has been forced to take unprecedented action to force the Liberal National Party of Queensland to abide by the laws of this state and declare the donors behind the \$100,000 worth of donations that have been hidden from public scrutiny.

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order. The court will decide this issue. I question whether or not the Deputy Premier or any other member of this parliament should be publicly debating a matter that a Queensland court is in the process of deciding.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am advised our sub judice rule is limited to criminal matters only.

**Ms TRAD:** Now it is apparent they want to shut down debate on this. Now it is apparent they want to silence debate on this. Let us be clear about what is happening here: \$100,000 worth of donations secretly donated—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Hansard would not be able to hear the contribution from the Deputy Premier.

**Ms TRAD:**—secretly donated to the LNP which have not been disclosed by the Liberal National Party. Three years ago when the Premier was Leader of the Opposition she put Queenslanders on notice, including the Liberal National Party government of which the member for Clayfield was the treasurer at the time, and said, 'When Labor comes to government we will reintroduce a \$1,000 disclosure threshold and it will be retrospective.' There was three years notice! The LNP have deliberately not abided by that. What are they hiding? Is the Fadden Forum a conduit for these donations? Why are they going to such extraordinary lengths to keep these donors secret? This is a fundamental test of leadership for the member for Clayfield. Who is the leader of the LNP? Is it Gary Spence or is it the member for Clayfield? Today he must stop this wasteful use of taxpayer funds.

**Mr SEENEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I accept your ruling about sub judice, but I would suggest to you that it is quite unparliamentary for a member who took \$5,000 from Eddie Obeid—

**Ms TRAD:** I rise to a point of order—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order, member for Callide.

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** What is your point of order? Make it a relevant point of order.

**Mr SEENEY:** My point of order is: even though I accept your ruling about sub judge, I would suggest that it is unparliamentary for any member in this place to be trying to influence a matter that is being decided by the court. It should be a convention that every member of this parliament respects that the courts operate independently; otherwise, we would be here every day—each of us—trying to influence a matter before a court.

**Ms TRAD:** This is not a point of order. The Leader of Opposition Business is debating—

**Mr SPEAKER:** One moment. Have you finished your point of order, member for Callide?

**Mr SEENEY:** Yes.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you. Deputy Premier, what is your point of order?


**Ms TRAD:** The Leader of Opposition Business is not making a point of order; he is arguing the contents of my private member's statement.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order, member for Callide. I take your point of order, Deputy Premier. Before I ask you to continue, I am going to quote our sub judge rule. It states—

- (1) In general, members should exercise care to avoid saying inside the House that which would be regarded as contempt of court outside the House and could jeopardise court proceedings.
- (2) Members should not refer to in the House matters awaiting or under adjudication in all courts exercising a criminal jurisdiction (including in motions, debate or questions) from the moment the charge is made against the relevant person. The Standing Order shall cease to have effect when the verdict and sentence have been announced or judgement given, but shall again have effect should a Court of Criminal Appeal order a new trial.
- (3) Members should not refer in the House to civil cases in courts of law where a jury is to be empanelled (including in motions, debate or questions) within the period of four (4) weeks preceding the date fixed for trial. (Not from the time a writ is issued.)
- (4) The sub judge rule does not apply to civil proceedings other than those referred to in (3).

**Ms TRAD:** In 18 seconds the Leader of the Opposition has the opportunity to stand up and show some leadership on this issue, to direct the Liberal National Party to reveal the identities of these secret donors. He sits on a salary of \$300,000 a year. The LNP gets \$5 million in public funding. They have a moral obligation to disclose who these donors are.

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.35 am): To hear the Deputy Premier talking about moral obligation! This from someone who stood shoulder to shoulder with Dave Hanna and also Ravbar, the CFMEU and the AWU. Definitely this is a Labor government, if any proof was needed for the people of Queensland, of cons, costs and crisis and we just saw it today. We have a Premier who lurches from crisis to crisis. All the while, Queenslanders pay the price for her incompetency. The latest news flash from around the world: even European royalty knows how bad this Labor government is. The latest joke is, 'Have you heard the one about a Danish prince walking into a Queensland bar?' You know what? He doesn't! He can't even get in the door!

This is a government of cons, costs and crisis. Those triple Cs are pretty damaging—just like having a Labor minister facing the CCC with a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct. We have the member for Yeerongpilly, the eponymous 'mangocube6', making the Premier long for the days when her ministers committed lesser offences such as not paying your rates, behaving in a manner unbecoming of a minister or not being able to get the rail network to run on time—making sure you have enough drivers and making sure you monitor your Twitter account to know when the trains are going to be cancelled.

What have we seen in the last 2½ years of a Labor government in crisis? We have the member for Cook gone, we have the member for Cairns gone and we have the member for Pumicestone who should be gone. In fact, there is not enough time for me to detail the issues regarding the member for Pumicestone. Even the ones who have not left yet think the Palaszczuk government is in a crisis. Who can forget what the member for Maryborough said about trains and the Commonwealth Games? The member for Bundamba in particular cannot wait for them to be gone. We know that there are few friends

over there. Then we have the member for Mirani backing up. He went online to vent his spleen about this government. It is no wonder this government is in a crisis when everything boils down to factions and unions. They cannot make a decision because the union bosses will not let them do so.


**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** What more do you need? What more can I say?

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am informed that we have members from the Centenary National Seniors in the electorate of Mount Ommaney observing our proceedings. Welcome. Question time will finish at 11.39 am.

### ID Scanners

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (10.39 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to the farcical circumstances at a Brisbane nightclub last Friday night when the Crown Prince of Denmark was denied entry for not having identification to present for scanning. Has the Premier, on behalf of Queensland, called the Crown Prince of Denmark to apologise for that slap in the face?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. First of all, it is wonderful that the Crown Prince was in Queensland. I note that he also visited Hamilton Island, backing in that island following the devastation that it experienced during Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

To be clear, I will quote the attorney-general about how important it is for Queenslanders to have a safe night out and that the law applies to everyone. The attorney-general said—

... because we on this side of the House know that a great night out is a safe night out. It is a comprehensive and holistic approach aimed at delivering long-term changes to the culture that leads to antisocial and violent behaviour. It also reflects the clear community sentiment that this culture and the violence associated with it is not welcome in Queensland and must stop now.

Those are the words of the former attorney-general. However, it gets better. Let us talk about ID scanning. Who proposed ID scanning in the first place?

**A government member:** Prince Jarrod.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. The committee's third recommendation states—

The Committee recommends that the Bill or an appropriate regulation be amended to:

- (a) ensure ID scanning must commence for regulated premises no later than 10pm;
- (b) enable flexibility for individual regulated premises to commence ID scanning earlier than 10pm if they wish ...

ID-scanning laws were backed by the LNP government when they were in office with a recommendation that they commence at 10 pm. There it is, in black and white. They should not come in here and lecture me about safety, preventing antisocial behaviour and ID-scanning laws. I love quoting the words of the former attorney-general back to him. They have been caught out. Yes, there is bipartisan support for ID-scanning laws in this state.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I can hear you louder than the Premier sometimes, member for Kawana. I realise that you may have been provoked, so I will not censure you.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In fact, initially they wanted 8 pm, but they discussed it with the committee and it was set at 10 pm, because it was not the intention of the government at the time to inconvenience patrons who are generally only interested in having dinner. Bipartisan laws—

*(Time expired)*

### ID Scanners

**Mr NICHOLLS:** My second question without notice is also to the Premier. Will the Premier now admit that her government's botched implementation of ID scanners is damaging Queensland's reputation as a tourist destination? Under Labor's botched ID scanner regime, would the Crown Prince have ever met Australia's Cinderella, Princess Mary?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is very clear that the same laws would be in effect regardless of who is sitting on this side of the House. The exact same laws, including the 10 pm ID scanners—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As has been revealed today, it was their plan to have ID scanners and there is bipartisan support for ID scanners. I find it incredibly hypocritical for the Leader of the Opposition to ask that question when he voted for the ID scanners in this House.

I reiterate what the Attorney-General has said today, which is that the scanning system has stopped offenders on banning orders accessing venues on 76 occasions. I also repeat what the Attorney-General outlined to the House, which is that we have seen an increase in the number of licensed venues in Queensland. As of 30 June 2017, there are 8,185 licences, which is an increase of 659 new licences in the past two years under my government. On this side of the House, we believe that the public has the right to have a safe night out and that banning orders are stopping people who would have either been on the watch list for violent behaviour or for previous drug possession from entering venues. The laws provide a safe environment for everyone.

Once again I thank Prince Frederik for visiting Queensland and for showing his support to Hamilton Island after the devastation that that island experienced as a result of Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Whilst speaking of Tropical Cyclone Debbie, I must say that we are yet to see from that side of the House any support whatsoever for the category D funding that is needed—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The member can talk. I have not seen him do anything about it—

**Mr Costigan:** Where's your money, Premier?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—nor the member for Whitsunday. Don't they care? Our money is in the budget.

### North Queensland

**Mr STEWART:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to North Queensland and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** From the outset, I say that it was my great pleasure last Friday to be in Townsville with the member for Townsville, the member for Mundingburra, the member for Thuringowa and the Minister for State Development to turn the sod on the new Townsville stadium, which is being delivered by my government. I know that the Leader of the Opposition was critical that I have been to Townsville three times before to talk about the stadium, but I will be there a lot more. I will be there every step of the way as the Townsville stadium is built.

We need to continue to commit to jobs in North Queensland. Of course, part of that is about ensuring that the NAIF funds get out of the door. It is very concerning to me that of the three people I met with in Hobart to discuss Northern Australia, that is, Mr Barnaby Joyce, Mr Matt Canavan and Mr Malcolm Turnbull, at the moment a couple of them may be under a bit of a cloud, so to speak. When I think of Barnaby Joyce, I think of the time when we were applying to help farmers and small business owners and he was shown holding up pieces of paper, as he did not like the letters that I had. I think he said at the time that I may not have done my homework or I did not check my paperwork. Obviously, Barnaby may not have done his homework or checked his paperwork.

Who can forget the secret weapon that the LNP wants to use in the state election. The big gun is coming. Do members remember the front page of the *Courier-Mail*, an exclusive 'Nicholls calls in the big gun—and it's not Turnbull'? Then there was the LNP shock trump card 'Jump for Joyce'—he understands Queensland. The only problem is that he may not be a Queenslanders; he may be a New Zealander.

In all honesty, we will continue to fight for North Queensland. We know how important it is. We know how important it is to get the NAIF money out the door. I hope that Malcolm Turnbull will call a NAIF meeting in Northern Australia next year. I am more than happy to have the meeting in Townsville, Rockhampton or Cairns.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I am informed that we have observing our proceedings in the gallery students and teachers from St Eugene College in the electorate of Morayfield. Welcome.

### ID Scanners

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My question without notice is to the Premier. With the Crown Prince of Denmark bringing international attention to the farce of how tourists were denied entry because of Labor's botched—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I apologise for interrupting you, Deputy Leader of the Opposition. If I can identify the members who are interjecting while the questioner is asking the question they will be warned under standing order 253A. Would you start your question again, Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** With the Crown Prince of Denmark bringing international attention to the farce of how tourists were denied entry because of Labor's botched implementation of ID scanners, does the Premier agree that the Attorney-General has trashed Queensland's international reputation with the mess she has made of implementing the ID scanners?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The answer is no.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Transparency and Accountability

**Mr KING:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on steps taken by the Queensland government to improve transparency and accountability in this state and any alternatives?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Kallangur for that very important question. On this side of the House we know how important integrity and transparency is, especially when it comes to political donations. The very first piece of legislation that was introduced into this House related to reducing the threshold from over \$12,000 to \$1,000. When I was Leader of the Opposition I made it very clear that my policy, if elected, would come into force. I warned all other parties to keep records. It was there in black and white for all parties to see.

I find it absolutely incredible that the LNP is still failing to disclose the \$100,000 worth of secret political donations. It is unbelievable in this day and age. If they were to disclose the \$100,000 there would be no need for a costly court case. It will cost Queensland taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars. I will be finding out how much this court case will cost Queensland taxpayers.

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. The Premier is obviously trying to influence a case before the court. I suggest the standing order that you quoted before certainly needs to be invoked in relation to the Premier trying to influence a matter before the courts.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. You made it clear to the House in reading out the relevant standing order that the sub judice principle applies to matters in a criminal court. As a consequence, I think you will find that the Leader of Opposition Business is merely trying to be argumentative about the whole process. I ask that you rule his point of order out of order and allow the Premier to continue.

**Mr SEENEY:** Mr Speaker, I cannot let that stand. I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the House did not listen to the standing order that you quoted before. I agree with your rulings about sub judice. Paragraph (1) of the standing order that you quoted—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, resume your seat. I am not going to have you repeat your point of order. There is no point of order. Premier, do you have anything further to add?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, I do. What I am saying very clearly is that I will find out the cost to Queensland taxpayers of running this court case. My second point is that if the LNP were to disclose those secret donations there would be no need for a court case. All that needs to happen is for the Leader of the Opposition to pick up his phone and call Gary Spence and say to him, 'Disclose the secret donations.' The public have a right to know.

I know that Queenslanders value integrity and accountability. They saw the actions of the former LNP government when they sacked a committee and distorted estimates and held them over two days instead of 10 days. When it comes to the issue of political donations, my government has implemented real-time disclosure. If they are elected they will rip up the legislation that my government has brought into this House and into this state.

*(Time expired)*

## ID Scanners

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the Premier. With respect to the bungled rollout of ID scanners, it is reported that police officers told the Jade Buddha venue that they had permission from OLGR to let the prince skip the laws. The Attorney-General has today denied this. Premier, who is the telling the truth—the police or the Attorney-General?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. This was reported in the paper. I am happy to check with the police as to the factual accuracy of that. I have not had the opportunity to do that. The Attorney-General made a statement about this in the House this morning that everyone was here for.

I am glad the member for Kawana asked that question. It was the member for Kawana, when he was the attorney-general, who supported ID-scanning laws coming into this state. I find it—

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. He was happy for that legislation to come in for 10 pm. My government has introduced exactly the same scanning laws for 10 pm. There is absolutely no difference between the law that he introduced and the law that we introduced when it comes to ID scanners.

As I said very clearly, this is about people having a safe night out. It is about having a law that applies to everyone, regardless of who they are—whether they be a member of this House, whether they be a member of the community or whether they be a member of the travelling public from other parts of Australia. At the end of day, we want to see the number of violent incidents come down. What we also want to see and are seeing is people being banned from venues who should be banned. They are people who were formerly drug traffickers or people who have committed violent offences. The laws are working. That is exactly what my government is doing.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. During the answer the Premier gave, the Attorney-General interjected that she did not say that. I now table for the benefit of the House the report today from the *Brisbane Times* where it quotes the spokesperson for the Attorney-General. I assume the 'spokesperson for the Attorney-General' is for this Queensland Attorney-General and not some foreign attorney-general.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 22 August 2017, titled 'Denmark's Crown Prince Frederik turned away from Brisbane bar' [[1389](#)].

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Kawana. There is no point of order. You have tabled the document. We will move on.

## Jobs

**Ms DONALDSON:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to support jobs in regional Queensland and whether there are any risks to the delivery of the government's job-creating initiatives?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Bundaberg for her question. I know that she is a very strong advocate for job creation in the Bundaberg and Wide Bay region. I am very pleased to report on our \$200 million rollout of the first stage of Works for Queensland. In the last state budget we increased that amount to take it up to \$400 million.

As at 31 July, in the member's own region, in the Bundaberg Regional Council more than 796 jobs have been created which was more than the 759 jobs that were first identified by the Bundaberg Regional Council. Right across the region 3,900 jobs have been created to date. We know that we have until November for the entire program to be rolled out. This program works for regional Queensland. It works in delivering vital infrastructure in regional communities and it works in terms of job generation.

The only threat to this program is the LNP. The LNP made it clear at estimates through the member for Nanango that she thought this program was a farce. She said, 'It is misleading the people of Queensland because obviously the jobs are not there in those regional centres.' She disputed the figures and the facts put forward by regional councils. The only threat to this program, Works for Queensland, is those opposite winning the next election. I think it is very clear that, if regional communities want to maintain this important program, they know which side of politics will protect it and continue to roll it out.

This is not the only thing that the LNP want to undermine. We already know that they want to undermine disclosure laws in Queensland as well. They have not met a working program that they did not want to cut. The Leader of the Opposition had an opportunity to show leadership today, to direct

the Liberal National Party to stop the waste of taxpayer funds to ensure that they abide by the laws of this state. Prince Frederik was happy to abide by Queensland laws, but those opposite were not. Those opposite are making the Electoral Commission of Queensland waste money, forcing them to disclose donations, disclose who is behind the secret \$100,000 donation to the LNP. It is time for those opposite to show leadership.

*(Time expired)*

### Jobs

**Mr EMERSON:** My question is to the Premier. Given that over 8,000 young Queenslanders have lost their jobs over the last 12 months, does the Premier expect that Labor's bungled ID scanner rollout will help create jobs for young Queenslanders given another international embarrassment revealed today?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said, we have had an increase in the number of licensed venues. They are employing young people as a start, working in the hospitality industry. Secondly, with the building of Queen's Wharf we will see a lot more young people employed in the hospitality industry there as well—signed by us, delivered by us.

**Mr Dick:** Delivered by Labor.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It will be delivered by Labor. Let me make it clear—

**Mr Seeney:** The only major project you've got—and I did it!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** And where are you now? I take that interjection from the member for Callide. As we all know, it is not long to go now until we will have to bid the member for Callide the long goodbye. It could be a short goodbye. You were so nice last sitting. You were so happy last sitting, member for Callide.

Let us get to the bottom of this: 94,000 jobs created by the Labor government, under the government I lead. Contrast that with the others—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call the Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I table the graph. It is there for all to see—under Labor jobs going up; under the LNP jobs went down.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier—no props.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am more than happy to table that.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, showing graph titled 'Change in number of employed persons—LNP 2012 vs Labour 2015' [1390].

Let us not forget the 14,000 people sacked under the Leader of the Opposition. Do you really want to talk about jobs, member for Indooroopilly? Do you really want to talk about jobs?

**Mr Emerson:** There were 5,000 full-time jobs last month, Premier. What are you saying to those people?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You do not care about people. They have never cared about people. They do not care about people now.

**Mr Emerson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I would urge the Premier and the member for Indooroopilly not to debate and argue across the chamber.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are old friends, Mr Speaker. Let us talk about our Back to Work program too. The total number of young people employed under Youth Boost, under my government, has been 3,670. We brought back Skilling Queenslanders for Work—axed under them—giving young people the opportunity to get the training and skills they need to get a job.

We will back young Queenslanders, unlike those opposite. What you see on this side of the House is the growth projection for jobs increasing in this state, Mr Speaker. It is increasing across the regions. We are planning for the jobs of the future and we will continue to do that for many, many years to come.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Lytton, I am informed that we have another group of members from the Centenary National Seniors group in the electorate of Mount Ommaney observing our proceedings. Welcome.

### Jobs

**Ms PEASE:** My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer please update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to drive innovation and create new job opportunities in Queensland?

**Mr PITT:** I thank the member for Lytton for her question. It is a great question compared to some of the ones we have heard today from those opposite. This is a question about jobs. It is a question about jobs now and jobs for the future. That is what we should be talking about in this place.

We are very proud of our Business Development Fund, a fund which was announced in my first budget—a \$40 million fund which deals with trying to reinvigorate private sector venture capital finance in this state. It is investing \$125,000 up to \$2.5 million in matched funding with private sector co-investors. This is about assisting those businesses to try to turn their ideas into commercial reality.

As of this week, the fund has invested in 13 innovative businesses—valued at \$14.9 million worth of investments. The important thing here is that, following these investments, there has been a 25 per cent increase in FTEs across the innovative businesses that we have dealt with. They have all grown their businesses collectively by a quarter. That is a big deal for those businesses, and it is making a huge difference to their profitability and marketing around the globe.

Today I want to announce a further two recent investments made through the Business Development Fund. The first is in Sustainable Organic Solutions. This is a \$1.5 million investment which is about continuing to see research, development and commercialisation of a new generation, microbial based organic fertiliser. This is about conducting wideranging trials associated with sugar cane. As a member from Far North Queensland, a very proud local member for one of the state's strongest sugar-growing regions, I am very proud to see this investment has been made by the BDF. This product is designed to improve growth, yield and quality for Queensland farmers. Importantly, it is also expected to have positive environmental benefits for the Great Barrier Reef.

I can also talk about our investment of \$1 million in Find-Me Technologies. Find-Me Technologies have created the Carers Watch. This is unique technology designed in Queensland for a growing number of dementia sufferers and our ageing population. In Queensland, and more broadly Australia, we know of the high prevalence of dementia patients. In Australia there are currently estimated to be over 413,106 dementia patients. This number is expected to grow to 536,164 by 2025. Sixty per cent of dementia patients will wander, and seven per cent of those not found within 12 hours suffer serious injury or death. The technology includes GPS tracking, fall sensors, mobile voice communication and medication reminders all designed to decrease the risk to some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders. It is a great advertisement for the Business Development Fund, a \$40 million fund as part of a \$420 million suite of initiatives under Advance Queensland. We on this side of the House are about creating jobs: jobs now and jobs for the future.

### No-Body No-Parole Legislation

**Mr MANDER:** My question is to the Premier. Gary and Leanne Pullen said last week of the Minister for Corrective Services and the Attorney-General that 'they were totally deceitful' and they felt 'utterly duped' by the dishonesty. Does the Premier condone the behaviour of her two ministers or has she disciplined them about their conduct?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. In relation to that matter, I understand from what I have read that the member himself has referred the matter to the CCC so the CCC will be investigating. I want to update the House that, on advice from the minister, he has personally contacted the family in relation to this matter.

### Specialist Health Care

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting Queenslanders accessing specialist health care no matter where they live in Queensland?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Maryborough for his question and his ongoing commitment to ensuring Queenslanders get high-quality health care wherever they live in the state. Our government is committed to ensuring Queenslanders get high-quality health care wherever they live and supporting them when they need to travel to get that health care.

Over the past year I can inform the House that the Palaszczuk government has helped more than 70,000 people from rural and regional Queensland travel to and from specialist appointments by subsidising their travel and accommodation costs, making sure they have access to specialist services no matter where they live in Queensland and providing a helping hand when they are vulnerable.

I can inform the member for Maryborough that the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service provided assistance to more than 11,800 patients in that part of Queensland with travel and accommodation costs. I am also aware of claims made by members of the LNP that this government had cut the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. Typical of a very, very mediocre opposition and a very, very mediocre opposition leader, it is entirely untrue and demonstrates that they will say and do anything to get a headline.

For the benefit of those opposite, here are the facts: funding for the PTSS in 2013-14 under the Newman LNP government was \$75.4 million and the amount budgeted by the Palaszczuk Labor government this year is \$82.7 million. In anyone's language that is not a cut; that is a nine per cent increase. We know that the LNP is in a war on science, climate science in particular. They now have a war on maths. What is next? No doubt they will be uncovering the myth of gravity.

The only government in living memory that was going to cut the PTSS was the Newman LNP government. Here are some more facts. In February 2013 it was the LNP government's Commission of Audit—they like talking about reviews, but they do not like talking about that review—that suggested increasing co-payments and/or capping the amount of funding available for the PTSS. It was the Commission of Audit under Peter Costello that recommended the LNP government review eligibility for the PTSS. I table the relevant section of the Commission of Audit.

*Tabled paper:* Extract of report, dated February 2013, titled 'Queensland Commission of Audit—Final Report' [\[1391\]](#).

The only threat that has ever been in place to the PTSS was put in place by the Leader of the Opposition when he was treasurer and the LNP. It is in their DNA to cut, sack and sell. That is what they do. They are happy to take cash from donors and not disclose, but they are incapable of doing the heavy lifting to deliver policy that would change lives in Queensland. That is what we do in health care every day. It is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does every day—

*(Time expired)*

### **No-Body No-Parole Legislation**

**Mr WALKER:** My question without notice is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General confirm when she was advised that the Pullens were not to be notified that one of the men convicted of the unlawful killing of Timothy Pullen had been approved for parole?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. If I correctly understand the question, the member is asking when I was notified that they should not be notified. I was not notified of that.

### **Advancing Queensland State Schools**

**Ms FARMER:** My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's \$200 million Advancing Queensland State Schools program?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for the question and for her ongoing commitment to ensure that we are delivering the best possible infrastructure in our state schools across Queensland. I am very pleased to advise the House today that in the electorate of the honourable member for Bulimba tenders have now closed for Balmoral State High School. In fact, tenders have now closed for 17 new halls or upgraded halls across Queensland as part of our \$200 million Advancing Queensland State Schools building fund. It is very exciting that construction is underway, creating real jobs. We think that this injection into state schooling infrastructure will support more than 500 jobs across Queensland, including at the Bounty Boulevard State School in the electorate of Murrumba where construction has already started.

**Mr Whiting:** Yes, walls are going up.

**Ms JONES:** That is right; halls are going up there. Construction is also underway at Wilsonton State High School—promised by the LNP and failed to be funded by them. It is being delivered by a Labor government.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** Don't worry: we will be referring you, brother. Some of the other building contracts that are being delivered include at Cleveland District State High School in the Cleveland electorate; Gordonvale State High School in the Mulgrave electorate; Lockyer District State High School in the Lockyer electorate—I thought he would be happy with that—Mansfield State High School in the Mansfield electorate; and Wilsonton State High School, as I said, in the Toowoomba North electorate.

This is real money delivering real halls in state schools across Queensland and delivering a real difference to Queensland. It is also creating real jobs up and down Queensland's coast as we continue to build these halls in communities that need them most. I know that they will not cheer me here in the parliament, but we have all seen the media clips and the tweets in their local communities where they are not only congratulating our government for this real investment and real jobs in their local communities but also claiming credit. They know that that is the best form of flattery.

One thing we know they will not do is reveal the secret donor list. The honourable member for Clayfield says that he is a real man for the job of premier. Well, here is the test. The test for Tim today is to disclose the secret donors to the LNP. Why are they working so hard to not disclose who their secret donors are? Why? It raises more questions than it answers. What was promised to this secret list of donors?

If the member for Clayfield wants to be the Premier, it is about time that he fronts up. He should say who has donated to him, what promises were made to those donors and why it is that they are fighting so hard, even in the courts, to hide who these donors are. He has to stand up, act like a leader, show that he is a leader and disclose who the donors are.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Time has expired.

**Ms JONES:** What have you got to hide, Tim?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I would urge the Minister for Education to refer to members by their proper title.

### **Cairns Hospital, Cladding**

**Mr PYNE:** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport. Can the minister reassure Cairns residents that the cladding on the clinical services building, block D at Cairns Hospital is not hazardous or unsafe to people's health?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for the question. I understand the question relates to a health building. I would have to take advice on that. There is nothing that has come to my attention in relation to that building. I am happy to refer that matter to my department for advice and contact the member for Cairns with that detail later on today.

### **TAFE, Second Chance Training**

**Mr BROWN:** My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills. Will the minister please advise the House about the success of second chance training funding being provided through the Palaszczuk government's Rescuing TAFE package and how it assists with the cost-of-living pressures?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question and acknowledge his keen interest in ensuring there are great training opportunities for Queenslanders with quality outcomes at an affordable price. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that all Queenslanders have access to training and skills in their local area regardless of barriers that they have experienced. This includes the provision of subsidies to help cover the cost of training and relieve the pressures on Queenslanders' back pockets. That is why an important element of the Rescuing TAFE package, an overall \$34 million commitment over three years, was the provision of second chance training places right across the state. An amount of \$22.8 million has been allocated to the second chance funding element of the policy. These places were designed to allow TAFE to deliver heavily subsidised training to Queenslanders who for various reasons would have struggled to pay the full course cost and would have been precluded under the certificate III guarantee from accessing that training.

I am pleased to inform the House that over the 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial years more than 12,200 additional training places have been provided by TAFE Queensland through second chance funding. These are people who otherwise would not have gained the skills to access employment. We are talking about single-parent families, mature age workers, long-term unemployed and marginalised youth. There are many good news stories that have come as a result of this training and I am pleased to relay some to the House today. There is Debra, a 63-year-old student who commenced a certificate III in business administration through TAFE Queensland South West. Debra undertook the course due to a change in her circumstances. She had to re-enter the workforce and, being a mature age student, she was struggling with her current qualifications and skills. Another success story is the 40 students who are undertaking a dual certificate III in horticulture and conservation and land management at TAFE Queensland East Coast. I am told that due to the skills of this cohort, Brisbane City Council has expressed an interest in recruiting straight from this cohort.

Each time I visit a TAFE campus I hear about the stories of these students and how these packages assisted them to gain the skills they need. Without this second chance funding, thousands would not have been able to afford the course costs. We know the LNP were all about cut, sack and sell. We know they cut almost 2,000 jobs from TAFE Queensland. We talk about second chance funding and we talk about second chances. The Leader of the Opposition has a second chance today. He has the opportunity to save thousands of taxpayers' dollars, not waste the time of our courts and disclose the political donations that they so eagerly want to see hidden. Why are they so determined to not disclose these donations? Their own guidelines specifically state that for every donation they must record the names and addresses of their donors—every donation. They are their own guidelines and they cannot even comply with them.

*(Time expired)*

### **No-Body No-Parole Legislation**

**Ms DAVIS:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I table the front page of the *Daily Mercury* from last Thursday quoting Gary and Leanne Pullen saying that they felt 'like "political pawns" after they were paraded'—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Would you like to table it, please? It is not a prop. Can you continue with your question, please?

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Daily Mercury*, dated 17 August 2017, titled 'Parents: We were political pawns in all this mess' [\[1392\]](#).

**Ms DAVIS:** They felt 'like "political pawns" after they were paraded around by government ministers while being kept in the dark over the approved parole of one of the men involved in their son's death'. Has the Premier called and apologised to the Pullen family for their treatment by two of her senior ministers, or will she run away from this tough question as well?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I stated earlier, the Minister for Police has personally contacted them. I am deeply saddened that they feel that way, as I think every member in this House is. The Minister for Police has directly spoken to the family involved—

**Mr Bleijie:** It was your staff. Did you hear what she said? It was your staff.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist I will take the appropriate action. The Premier is answering the question. It is relevant.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I previously said, the member asked a question earlier and that member has also referred this matter to the CCC. I do not want to prejudge that. The Minister for Police also has duties and obligations of confidentiality. As I said, we all feel deeply saddened that they feel that way.

### **Communities Sector, Jobs**

**Ms BOYD:** My question is to the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister update the parliament on the number of new jobs in the communities sector dedicated to helping families in need and how the community can play its part?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Pine Rivers for the question and her ongoing advocacy for what is a growing industry, the community services industry. We know that parenting is not easy and some of our families struggle. That is why the Palaszczuk government is doing what we can to support our families. Not only are we the first government to make the world renowned PPP parenting program available for free for Queensland parents; we are also investing right across Queensland in

our Family and Child Connect services and our Intensive Family Support services. Anyone can ring 13FAMILY and be connected to these wonderful services which are supported by Community Connect workers, domestic and family violence support workers and financial counsellors. In fact, with our investment we have already seen over 400 new jobs in the community services sector all dedicated to helping vulnerable families.

I am pleased to say that we have not stopped there. Our investment in this year's budget will see a further 320 new full-time jobs all dedicated to helping Queenslanders who are finding things a little bit challenging. It is really pleasing that 30 per cent of the referrals to 13FAMILY have come from family, friends and neighbours. Of course, we need to encourage our neighbours to look out for one another. That is why I was very surprised to see today reported in the *Courier-Mail* a recent realestate.com survey that highlighted that one in three Queenslanders do not even want to know their neighbours. That is astonishing given the support networks that good neighbours can provide.

Sadly, we know that not all neighbours are known for their support. With neighbours like the member for Gaven, who could blame them? We know that the footage of the LNP member's altercation with his neighbours is still with the LNP preselection committee. I have no doubt that the member for Clayfield has seen the footage, but he will not release it. The member for Clayfield will not make a decision about the member for Gaven, he will not make a decision about Buy Queensland, he will not make a decision about Cross River Rail and he will not make a decision to disclose the donors. The Leader of the Opposition needs to step up, he needs to show leadership and he needs to start making the tough decisions. He will not make a decision about the member for Gaven because he fears he will go running to One Nation. Of course, he will not make a decision about One Nation preferences—or should I say perhaps it is an unofficial seat-by-seat policy which means that LNP members on that side of the House will stand up next to One Nation members. He needs to make the tough decisions and he needs to show leadership, disclose the donors and make a decision about the member for Gaven.

*(Time expired)*

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Athletes Village**

**Mr LANGBROEK:** My question without notice is to the Premier. As a result of the collapse of one of the contractors for the Commonwealth Games athletes village their subbies have not been paid. One company is owed \$200,000 and another, a roofing subcontractor, is now filing for bankruptcy as a result. Will the Premier guarantee that their subcontractors and workers on the Commonwealth Games athletes village are paid in full this week?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Minister for State Development made a ministerial statement about that very issue this morning. From memory, he said that the liquidators have been called in. His department is meeting with them daily.

Later today the opposition will have an opportunity to say whether or not they support our legislation with regard to subcontractors being paid in full and on time. Today the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Mick de Brenni, will introduce landmark legislation into this chamber. The member for Surfers Paradise can stand up here and say whatever he wants, but will they come out and support our legislation today or will they once again have no position?

What we have seen from the Leader of the Opposition is that those opposite have no position on so many issues. When it comes to our 'Queensland first' policy about Queensland jobs, Queensland contracts and Queensland tenders, what do we have from the Leader of the Opposition? We have no position. We still do not know what their position is when it comes to Cross River Rail, and we certainly know that they are not forthright about coming to the party with regard to declaring \$100,000 worth of secret donations. If those opposite want to talk about leadership, now is the time for leadership on that side of the House. Do those opposite support subcontractors being paid on time?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I rise to a point of order. The Premier is referring to incoming legislation. I am asking about subcontractors on the Gold Coast who are going into liquidation under current legislation.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is why we are bringing in new legislation. I am proud of the legislation that the minister will introduce today. Once again, it is time for the LNP to show whether or not they support this initiative because, frankly, what we have seen from those opposite is no position on so many things. They hide, they do not front the cameras and they do not say what their decisions are.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No. Where was the Leader of the Opposition yesterday?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Do you have anything further, Premier?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, I do. Today is the day he can come out and say whether he supports our legislation or not. Today is the day to say that the LNP will produce \$100,000 in secret donations which will save taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars. Is he going to save taxpayers' money? Are they going to go through this lengthy court battle, or are they going to do the right thing by Queenslanders? Be up-front, be transparent, be accountable and state who these secret donors are and why.

### Registration, Concessions

**Mr PEGG:** My question is to the Acting Minister for Main Roads and Road Safety. Will the minister update the House on how the government is helping with cost-of-living expenses through concessions that are available to help improve vehicle and recreational boat registration affordability in Queensland?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Stretton for his question. In the 2017-18 budget the Palaszczuk government allocated a huge \$2.6 billion to fund concessions in Queensland. For most eligible cardholders the concession for the registration of a private-use four-cylinder motor vehicle reduces the 12-month cost by half, from \$310.50 to \$155.25. For a recreational boat up to 4½ metres in length the concession reduces the registration fee again by half, from \$83.80 to \$41.90. We also offer registration concessions for eligible historic motor vehicles that are used in a limited capacity as part of motoring club events. This concession reduces the 12-month registration fee for a private-use four-cylinder vehicle to just \$87.50.

I am also pleased to confirm that, as announced by the Premier during the Cairns Governing from the Regions, the Palaszczuk government will introduce those same concessions for vintage motorbike owners—something the previous LNP government could have done but chose not to. Those opposite were no friend of Queensland motorists when in government. It was the LNP who ratted on Queensland roads, slashing roads and transport funding by \$600 million. To make matters worse, they were so—

**Mr Emerson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Indooroopilly, you have had a pretty good go. You have not stopped trying to talk over the top of the minister. You are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist I will take the appropriate action.

**Dr MILES:** It is a difficult record for the member for Indooroopilly to try to defend.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You will follow, member for Glass House.

**Dr MILES:** Those opposite, including the member for Indooroopilly, were so ideological, so obsessed with privatising state assets, that they wasted more than \$30 million of road and transport funding preparing for privatisation and outsourcing. That \$30 million was diverted from the roads and transport budget to their bid to sell Queensland's assets, which was a decision made by the member for Clayfield when he was treasurer. In contrast, the Palaszczuk government is delivering a record road and transport infrastructure spend: \$21 billion of investment over the next four years. That is a record investment for the second year in a row. In addition to this, \$2.6 billion is used to fund concessions. That amount allows us to provide concessions to a wide variety of Queenslanders who otherwise simply would not get a fair go.

### Breaches of Bail

**Mr McEACHAN:** My question without notice is to the Attorney-General. Is the Attorney-General aware of any breaches of bail by participants at the unregulated Breaking Through facility in Thornlands since 1 January 2017?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for the question. As the Attorney-General I do not receive individual reports in relation to breaches of bail, so it is not something that I would have general knowledge of. I know the member has a particular issue in his electorate and he has spoken to me previously about it. As I understand it, it is a privately run site in relation to anyone who seeks any form of rehabilitation services with regard to drug rehabilitation. I understand that the community may have strong views in relation to that site.

In relation to whether individuals receive bail and whether they commit offences whilst on bail, these matters are dealt with by the courts, police prosecutors and prosecution generally. As I understand it, the member is of the view that the courts are specifically referring to that site. That is not my understanding. The courts simply decide whether someone should be referred or given bail or not. In response to the member's question, it is not the level of detail that would normally be given to an Attorney-General so I am not able to specifically answer his question on that issue.

### Concessions and Rebates

**Mr RUSSO:** My question is to the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is making it easier for Queenslanders to apply for concession cards and annual rebates?

**Mr SPEAKER:** The time for question time has expired.

## MOTION

### Liberal National Party, Political Donations



**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (11.39 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That this House calls upon the Liberal National Party to save Queensland taxpayer funds and immediately disclose the secret list of donors behind the \$100,000 worth of secret donations.

We have seen extraordinary revelations today that the Electoral Commission of Queensland has been forced to spend Queensland taxpayer funds in going to the Supreme Court to make application to force the Liberal National Party of Queensland to abide by the electoral donation laws of this state—the same laws and the same act that enable the Liberal National Party of Queensland to get public funding for participating in elections. It is happy for those laws, but it will not abide by the laws that the Premier articulated in 2014 when she said that when the Labor Party won government we would put those opposite on notice that every single donation of \$1,000 or more must be declared and declared retrospectively. Mr Speaker, you and I both sat in the House at the time that those opposite were in government and they increased the donation threshold from \$1,000 to more than \$12,000. At the time I said in this place that these new laws would allow anyone in Queensland to walk into a state politician's office, hand over \$10,000 as a donation and not have to declare anything.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** That is exactly what happened. Donors may not have physically attended electorate offices with brown paper bags and anonymously donated, but we do know that donors transferred money—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. If members intend to speak to this motion, I would urge you to put a list together and provide me with the names. I am not going to have shouting across the chamber. It will be conducted in an orderly fashion.

**Ms TRAD:** What we do know has happened is that donors have transferred thousands of dollars—\$100,000—worth of donations to the Liberal National Party which it has refused to disclose. It has refused to abide by the laws that have been passed by this parliament. What are those opposite hiding? This is extraordinary action by the Electoral Commission of Queensland and we are entitled to know what they are hiding. Why are we being forced to take extraordinary action in the Supreme Court to make the Liberal National Party reveal who has donated these moneys?

As lawmakers it is not up to us to pick and choose the laws that we should abide by. As parliamentarians it is our moral and ethical obligation to uphold to the best of our ability the laws of this state. We are the lawmakers—we are the legislators—and it is our moral and ethical obligation to uphold the laws that we pass and that we as lawmakers progress in this House. It is not up to us to pick and choose the laws. Moreover, when avoiding complying with these laws means that we are wasting taxpayer funds we are literally consigning the government or an arm of the government—the Electoral Commission of Queensland, an independent statutory authority—to waste tens of thousands of taxpayer funds asking a political party to comply with the electoral laws of this state, and that is outrageous. What are those opposite hiding?

Let us be really clear about the implications of these laws. Firstly, it is about contravening the laws of this state—the laws that have been passed in this parliament, laws that the Premier said in 2014 were going to be passed and passed as a priority when we came back into government and those opposite were put on notice that they should be keeping records and they failed. They did not do that, or at least that is their story.

**Ms Fentiman:** They think they're above the law.


**Ms TRAD:** They think they are above the law; I take that interjection from the member for Waterford. Moreover, what the Liberal National Party of Queensland wants through this application in the Supreme Court by the Electoral Commission of Queensland is to test the proposition that federal LNP candidates who receive donations in Queensland will not have to disclose anything below the Commonwealth threshold of \$13,500—\$13,500—for Liberal National Party federal candidates in Queensland. That is the full intent of what they are wilfully objecting to by not complying with this law, and that is outrageous. They are trying to game the system. They are trying to make sure that there is a different rule for LNP federal candidates like Stuart Robert than there is for other candidates at a state level.

I come back to the point, and it is a very important point: why is the Liberal National Party wasting Queensland taxpayer funds? Why are those opposite doing that? Why do they not want to comply with the laws that we take an oath to implement to the best of our abilities? Why are they not doing that? The most important question today is: who is leading the Liberal National Party of Queensland and what is Tim Nicholls's position? What is the Leader of the Opposition's position? We know that he likes to slip and slide on issues of controversy. He likes to complain but not articulate a position. We know that, but for goodness sake I think Queenslanders really need a very clear, simple explanation from the member for Clayfield—the man who wants to be the next premier of Queensland—about, firstly, why he does not want to comply with the laws of this state and, secondly, what is he hiding, who are the donors, why are they being hid and why is the Liberal National Party going to such extraordinary lengths to avoid revealing the source of the \$100,000 worth of secret donations? I think that is a reasonable ask.

It is up to the member for Clayfield—the man who wants to be the next premier of Queensland—to show that he is the person leading the Liberal National Party of Queensland and not Gary Spence, the secretary of the Liberal National Party of Queensland. If the Premier picked up the phone to the party organisation and said, 'I want this done,' it would happen. It would happen. Either the member for Clayfield does not want to reveal who the donors are and, as the Minister for Education said, what they were promised—who the donors are, what they were promised and how much they donated to the Liberal National Party—or he does not have the authority within his own organisation to compel an outcome that is in the interests of integrity and accountability in this state. Who is in charge of the Liberal National Party of Queensland?

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Today's the day.

**Ms TRAD:** Today is the day. The member for Clayfield can stop the waste of thousands of Queensland taxpayer dollars by picking up the phone, as the Premier said, and telling Gary Spence and the LNP to reveal the list, when the donations were made and the amount, like we have to do all of the time. Just reveal the list. Let us stop this legal action. Let us stop this waste of taxpayer funds. That is all he has to do and that will be the fundamental test of his leadership today—the fundamental test of his leadership. I call on the Leader of the Opposition, who wants to be the next premier of this state, to absolutely step up to the plate, save Queensland taxpayer funds, abide by the laws of this state and make sure that Queenslanders know that the Liberal National Party will abide by the electoral laws of this state, and he must do it today!

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.50 am): What an interesting debate for the Deputy Premier to bring on at this time. The Deputy Premier asks, 'Where is the opposition leader?' Well, I am right here. My question is: where is the Premier in terms of moving this motion? If she is so outraged, why is the Premier not standing up, instead of hiding behind the Deputy Premier? Who is running the show in this government? That is what the people of Queensland want to know. Who is running the tactics, the strategy and the cabinet? The people of Queensland know that it is not the member for Inala. They know that it is not Evan Moorhead, the former member, down there at Trades Hall. We know that the person running this government is the member for South Brisbane.

If this Premier had an ounce of leadership she would have taken up the charge, she would be answering the questions and she would be delivering. We know that this Premier has no authority. If this Premier had any authority, would the member for Pumicestone still be sitting in this House? If this

Premier had any authority, would the member for Yeerongpilly have survived as long as he has and still be sitting in the back of this House? We know that the member for Yeerongpilly is polishing the shoes of the member for South Brisbane. If the Premier had any authority, she would be talking to the Minister for Police and asking, 'Why did you treat the Pullens in such a shameful way?' Instead, when approached by a journalist at the Ekka the Premier ran and hid.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I can remember an ALP candidate for the seat of Wynnum at the last election, Mr Cheverton. Where was the Premier on that one? She ran and hid.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am pretty liberal when it comes to allowing debate in this House. I have allowed a good two minutes for the Leader of the Opposition to address the motion before the House. I know that the Deputy Premier touched on a range of issues in her contribution, but they all came to the core issue of the motion before the House. Mr Speaker, I ask you to provide some guidance at least to the Leader of the Opposition to come to the matter before the House.

**Mr SEENEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The nonsense from the Leader of the House cannot go unchallenged. The Deputy Premier spent most of her contribution questioning the authority of the Leader of the Opposition. He is perfectly entitled—

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SEENEY:** Sit down my friend. You will get your chance. Sit down. You know the rules. Just because it is not going the way the government wanted—just because the debate is going somewhat pear shaped, as the Leader of the Opposition—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, there is no point of order. What was your point of order?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** My point of order was that there was no point of order from the Leader of Opposition Business.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you. Resume your seat.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I equally reiterate that the Leader of the Opposition has not used the word 'donation' indeed.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. I urge all members to ensure their submission relates to the motion before the House.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I think the Leader of Opposition Business was dead right: this has gone pear shaped. This has gone mango shaped!

What about the calls for transparency and openness that we heard from the Deputy Premier in her role as acting leader of the Labor Party in this place? What about the openness and transparency when this government changed the rules on voting with 18 minutes notice? So much for openness, transparency, accountability and listening to the concerns of Queenslanders! So much for listening to and respecting the will of the parliament! So much for listening to and respecting the will of the people of Queensland!

What else have we seen over the years in respect of the leadership of this Premier? Of course, this was the Premier who, when the member for Yeerongpilly was finally found to be under a cloud of a reasonable suspicion of corrupt conduct, despite all their protestations about 1 William Street, went and hid on the top floor of 1 William Street for something like six hours. She would not come out, would not face the media and would not answer a question. When she was finally tracked down, when the media must have used the Find My iPhone app, what was the excuse? 'I was feeling a bit sick.'

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The motion is very clearly about electoral donors and revealing who electoral donors are in relation to the law. The Leader of the Opposition has not addressed the motion—not a single word in four minutes. I ask that he address the motion and tell us what he is doing about this issue.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I urge all members to speak to the motion before the House.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** When the Deputy Premier pretends that she is concerned about openness, transparency and accountability, when she pretends to be a paragon of virtue, all Queenslanders know that it is a pretence.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. You have had a pretty good go, Deputy Premier.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** When we look at the events of today and last night and at the embarrassment this government is suffering, we wonder why this motion is being put to the House right now. The confected indignation of the member for South Brisbane, who as deputy party secretary of the ALP was very happy to take \$5,000 from Eddie Obeid—that is well known—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am going to ask members who speak to the motion to ensure their contribution relates to the motion and is not an open-ended opportunity to say whatever they want to say.


**Mr NICHOLLS:** In terms of talking about compliance with the Electoral Act, we have in front of us in the form of the Deputy Premier someone who raised the issue of donations, having taken donations from a convicted fraudster of the Labor Party in New South Wales—without question. Well may one ask: what did the Deputy Premier, in her role at that time, expect to have to deliver in response to that donation?

Today what we have seen from the Deputy Premier is a statement of self-serving claims that would do any conspiracy theorist proud. She must be taking advice from the former member for Greenslopes—the member for Woodridge now. He moved his bar practice chambers out to Woodridge eventually. These extraordinary revelations are nothing more than the Labor Party repeating its own statements. There are no facts, there is no evidence and there is no claim. There is only a tawdry attempt at yet another stunt by a dysfunctional Labor government internally riven, at war with itself, led by a Premier who does not have the authority that is needed to even get projects off the ground, who has to check every decision with the union bosses, whether it is Ravbar or whether it is someone from the Together union or someone from the AMWU or any one of the conga line of—

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise to a point of order. It is eight minutes into the debate and this motion has not been addressed by a single word from the Leader of the Opposition. I call on him to address the motion: reveal the donors.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. Leader of the Opposition, do you have anything you want to add?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Not only does he troll you online; he trolls you in this place as well—and the contribution is about as useful. How those opposite wish he was back over there! The Deputy Premier is short a number in cabinet at the time being. Let no-one be under any misapprehension as to the motives of the Deputy Premier and the Labor Party. With no policies of their own, with no plan of their own, with nothing more than smear and innuendo they seek to raise this motion. It deserves to be recognised for what it is. It deserves condemnation for what it is. It is false. It does not stand up. It has no bearing and no relevance to the lives of Queenslanders, who are paying more for their power, who are taking longer to get home, who are not getting the services they need and who realise that the only party in Queensland that can help deliver and build a better Queensland for them and their families is the LNP.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (12.03 pm): The Leader of the Opposition finished with ‘the only party ... is the LNP’. He is quite correct. There is only one political party that has been taken to the Supreme Court for a failure to comply with the laws of Queensland and that is the LNP. It is not the One Nation Party, it is not the Katter party and it is not the Labor Party. There is only one party in Queensland that thinks it is above the law and that is the LNP in Queensland.

This harks back to what I have seen my whole life, from the moment I was born. There is a tradition in the LNP that they believe when it comes to political donations that they are above the law. Today the Leader of the Opposition has failed the test of leadership. He wants to trivialise this matter, but what we have seen today, as revealed in the *Australian*, is that the Electoral Commission of Queensland has been forced to take an unprecedented step—that is, to take a registered political party of Queensland to court to comply with the laws of Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition can trivialise this all he wants, but the people of Queensland will see through it. In fact, he spoke for all of eight minutes and not once did he even talk to the fact of his support or otherwise of the laws of this state.

This is not a trivial matter. These are the laws of Queensland that were endorsed by the people of Queensland at the last state election. Not only were those opposite advised by the then leader of the opposition, Annastacia Palaszczuk, when she foreshadowed that we would bring back tough disclosure laws because Queenslanders expect that; at the estimates hearing in 2015 the Electoral Commissioner

also advised the government and the opposition that he was seeking legal advice about the failure of the LNP to comply with the laws of this state. For two years they have been on notice from the Electoral Commission of Queensland to come up with the secret list.

The member for Clayfield rolled his mate, his long-term friend, to become the leader because he wants to be the premier of Queensland. You cannot elect a premier of Queensland who does not comply with the laws of Queensland. That is the choice that the member for Clayfield has just articulated in his seven-minute diatribe. For seven minutes he spoke. He did not apologise for losing the list. The excuse the LNP have been giving for two years is that they do not know who they are. There were 28 separate donations and they claim that they do not know who they are from.

What we are concerned about, and what the Electoral Commission is clearly concerned about, is that I do not think they lost their homework; I think they know exactly who those 28 donors are. The question for the people of Queensland is: why would they go to extraordinary lengths to hide that from the people of Queensland? What is it that the LNP promised to these donors that they are willing to waste taxpayers' money in the Supreme Court to hide? The stark choice is between a Labor government that believes in electoral laws that have disclosure and that produce confidence in the people about parliamentarians and the LNP that is happy to have taxpayers' money wasted in Supreme Court action.

I call on the member for Clayfield to finally show some leadership on this issue. Why will the member for Clayfield not disclose the secret donor list to the LNP? Why is it that under the leadership of the member for Clayfield the LNP do not believe that they should comply with the laws of Queensland? This is a man who wants to crisscross the country talking about being tough on crime but he will not even comply with laws himself. It is shameful. How can people trust a man who squibs it when he is under pressure? How can they trust a man who says he will be tough on crime but will not comply with the laws of Queensland?

The fact is that today he failed the test of leadership and to finally disclose these donors. The LNP is being taken to the Supreme Court.

**Mr Seeney:** Don't overact.

**Ms JONES:** I take the interjection from those opposite—still trivialising. The member for Callide knows well the National Party's history when it comes to donations. He is a man who knows that very, very well. We introduced these laws because we wanted to set a new standard, a higher standard, when it comes to the disclosure of donations.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth, you have been on notice. You are warned under standing order 253A. That outburst is totally unparliamentary. If I can identify the other members—on both sides of the House—they will also be named.

**Ms JONES:** Today, from their leader down, we have seen an attempt to trivialise the Electoral Commission of Queensland. The electoral laws—

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** Even more so: he said there was indignation and conspiracy theories. Conspiracy theories? At the estimates hearing in 2015, the Electoral Commissioner of Queensland said that he was looking at the electoral laws and the failure of the LNP to disclose their donors. They have had two years notice to come forward to the Electoral Commission of Queensland and disclose their secret donors. The member for Clayfield is out there talking to Queenslanders, saying that he is the man to lead our state. To Queenslanders I point out the failure of the honourable member for Clayfield to disclose his donors today and save taxpayers the cost of the LNP defending their actions in the Supreme Court.

It is unprecedented for the Electoral Commission of Queensland to have to take the LNP to court because they will not comply with the laws of this state. As I said at the beginning, the Katter party had no problems doing it and the Labor Party had no problems doing it. There is only one party that will not comply with the Electoral Commission of Queensland, forcing the Electoral Commission of Queensland to go to the Supreme Court. I conclude by saying that the member for Clayfield is not fit to be premier because he will not comply with the laws of this state.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (12.10 pm): Amidst all of the shouting, screaming and hysterics from those opposite, at least the Deputy Premier, who did not have any answers, put the right question: 'Can somebody give me a simple and clear explanation of what is going on?' I will give the Deputy Premier a simple and clear explanation.

What we have heard has been exactly as the Leader of the Opposition said, that is, smear, innuendo and smokescreen about exactly what the legal issue is. What has gone to the Supreme Court for an opinion, and it is entirely appropriate that it go to that court for an opinion, is how these laws work. That is not a surprising thing, because in May 2015 when we debated these laws exactly that issue was raised in the debate, that is, the inconsistency between federal laws and state laws. The committee that investigated the legislation had tabled before it Crown Law advice that drew out specifically the inconsistency issue.

**Mr Pitt:** Argue the merits of the law elsewhere. Just table the donors.


**Mr WALKER:** I am giving the simple and clear explanation for the Deputy Premier. The inconsistency arises because of section 109 of the Constitution and because there are different rules for federal disclosure of donations and state disclosure of donations. The Electoral Commission of Queensland is of the view that donations made to federal campaigns of political parties need to be disclosed under the state regime. That is a matter of legal dispute and has been for a long time. If there is a dispute about it, the appropriate thing is for it to go to court. No-one is being prosecuted and no-one is being called for breaking the law. The purpose of the reference to the court is to find out what the law is. We will find out what the law is and this party, like all other parties, will abide by the law.

However, the total charade, confusion and carnival presented by those opposite today, as though this is something unusual, strange or out of the ordinary, is quite wrong. As I said, precisely what was flagged in the debate when the legislation was introduced is the very problem that the government foisted upon the state with the legislation. That is why it has had to go to court. There will be a determination and that is when we will find out what the law is, as we should. This is unbelievable coming from a government that has very different standards for its own supporters. Let us look at what it has done for the unions. There is no credit card reporting and no financial statement reporting. There are very different rules for their own supporters.

This has been a disgraceful charade by the government and it should be called to account. Mr Speaker, while I do not want to cavil with your ruling earlier, I do want to read from section 233(1) of our standing orders, which states—

In general, members should exercise care to avoid saying inside the House that which would be regarded as contempt of court outside the House and could jeopardise court proceedings.

The purpose of today's debate has been to do exactly that. It is a disgrace that the government has not left this out of the political arena, allowing it to be decided appropriately and independently where it should be, that is, in the courts. To use this parliament as a weapon to bludgeon the courts into what is the government's view of this world is a disgrace and should be condemned. The LNP organisation has done precisely the correct thing. It will refer this matter to the court and abide by the court's decision, as all political parties would and should.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.14 pm): There is only one group that should be held in contempt in the court of public opinion and that is the Liberal National Party in Queensland. In this place you can run as many legal arguments as you like, but when I was growing up you were told to do the right thing. Queenslanders expect political parties that take public money, as well as private money, to be up-front and disclose the source of their funding. This is what Queenslanders expect and those opposite can run as many legal arguments as they want. It is no wonder that they do not like the Constitution: the federal leader and deputy leader of the National Party are in the High Court of Australia. It is pretty hard to read a document that is 116 years old.

They can run as many legal arguments as they want, but the history of the Liberal National Party is about not only avoiding scrutiny but also trying to bring down the architecture of scrutiny in this state. We would not be talking about the CCC, a modernised Electoral Commission or any of those things if it had not been for the corruption of the National Party, aided and abetted by the Liberal Party, when there were some Liberals in this state. Every day of the past 30 years since Fitzgerald the Liberal National Party has tried to avoid scrutiny and undermine that architecture of transparency and accountability.

What did the then leader of the opposition and now Premier say in this House as she fought vigorously and long for transparency and accountability in this state? She fought vigorously and long against those members who spoke in the House this morning when they were in government. The member for Mansfield and the member for Clayfield came into this House and destroyed the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee overnight. They came in, in the depths of the night, to destroy that committee because they did not like it. They thought they had a right to do so because they had the numbers. The seven and then nine members of the Labor Party in opposition fought vigorously and long to restore accountability and transparency in this state, supported by crossbenchers, including Independent members of this House, who hold those values so dear, including you, Mr Speaker.

What did the then leader of the opposition say? On 2 June 2014 on ABC News she said—

So I am putting the LNP on notice: You can go ahead with your selection process but we will axe that process and we will start again.

...

I am putting on notice to all the parties today—make sure your records are accurate, because they will be disclosed when Labor is back in power.

The Liberal National Party wants to launder money through their federal office and not disclose it. That is exactly what they want to do. Everyone in this House is expected to comply with the law—everyone. Every political party does, but we do not have to be told to do so by the Supreme Court. We do not have to be the subject of an application by the Electoral Commission of Queensland. We do it because we know it is the right thing to do, including the Queensland Greens, Katter's Australian Party and One Nation. Although they have trouble sometimes, they are trying to comply. It would not be often that I compliment One Nation for doing the right thing, but at least they are trying. However, we have the Liberal National Party fighting tooth and nail.

**Mr Springborg** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I hear the member for Southern Downs interject. There is a very long history of avoiding scrutiny: after the 2009 election they would not disclose the \$20,000-a-plate dinner. The member for Bulimba will remember that from when we were members of that parliament and fought hard to get that disclosure, but it was never disclosed.

What happened with their self-confessed fraudster and con man Scott Driscoll—the man they defended in this House day after day and who is now serving time at Her Majesty's pleasure? What did the Liberal Party say about the \$50,000 he ripped off from small business and gave to the LNP? A report in the *Brisbane Times* on 7 March this year stated—

The Liberal National Party has "no intention" of returning more than \$50,000 it received as a result of the fraudulent activities of its former MP Scott Driscoll.

...

Driscoll admitted transferring a further \$110,000 from the QRTSA—

the Queensland Retail Traders and Shopkeepers Association—

into Norsefire—

his company—

in August 2012, \$57,000 of which was used to pay a deposit on a property. He also transferred ownership of a ... car to himself ...

He also admitted forging documents and while he was an MP, soliciting kickbacks from supermarket giants Coles and Woolworths ...

They have never given the money back. The most sickening part of it—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I know it is getting willing. The next speaker will be the member for Callide. You will have the opportunity to speak then.

**Mr DICK:** The most sickening part of it is that he stole money from what they claim and believe to be their core constituency—hardworking small business men and women across the state. He washed \$50,000 through the LNP—just as they are trying to wash this money through the federal office.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from government members. Not only is it shame; it is a complete and utter disgrace. That is their history; that is their form. Oh for the days of Gordon Chalk or Llew Edwards or Terry White, who had the guts to tear up the coalition agreement and walk away from the then coalition with the National Party. All of the Liberals on the other side supinely support hiding these things—the member for Mansfield, the member for Indooroopilly and the member for Clayfield.

Not only is this about proper disclosure; it is also about leadership. This is fundamentally a test of leadership—that is, whether the Liberal National Party is controlled and influenced by the parliamentary party, by the member for Clayfield, or whether all of that control is ceded to Bowen Street, Spring Hill, the party office. Who is running the LNP?


After the hollow and weak performance by the Leader of the Opposition, who could not even speak to the motion—he could not even speak to the idea of a donation; he could not even say the word ‘donation’ in the debate—is it any wonder that he was elected leader of the Liberal National Party with the full support of a third of his party room. That is what he got in the first round. Two out of three members of his party room wanted someone else as the leader when they were asked the first time. We wonder where they sit on that situation now.

This is about compliance and not avoidance. We know the Leader of the Opposition wants to avoid telling the people of Queensland what his position is on Buy Queensland and whether he wants to support small business men and women in regional and rural parts of our state, when the government wants to use its procurement and buying power to support jobs and businesses in constituencies that they represent.

What is his position on Cross River Rail? Nobody knows because he wants to take a small target, just as he took a small target this morning and refused to say. I would have had more respect for the member for Clayfield if he said, ‘We do not believe in the law and we do not support it.’ I would have had more respect for him in that case, but he cannot even do that. He hides behind legal arguments. He will not even engage in the debate. He somehow pretends to the people of Queensland that he should be the premier.

I will stand with this Premier every day of the week with our government’s commitment to transparency and accountability, not only lowering the threshold for donations but also bringing in real-time donations. That is what this government will do.

If you cannot run your party, you cannot run Queensland. That is the fundamental truth of this. This is out of the hands of the Leader of the Opposition. He cannot control his parliamentary party. He cannot control the Liberal National Party state office. He is happy to cede control to hide the donors and to hide the funders with whom he may have done deals for preference and support in the future. Labor will do the right thing. This motion is all about the Liberal National Party and the member for Clayfield doing the right thing for Queensland.

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (12.24 pm): Mr Speaker, you and I, both having been here a long time, recognise the signs of a Labor government in desperate trouble. They do it every time. Every time the Labor government are in desperate trouble they come into this House and move a nonsense motion that allows them to stand up and sling mud for 20 minutes. We just saw from the member for Woodridge 20 minutes of Labor bile, 20 minutes of Labor myth, 20 minutes of the sort of thing that Young Labor get off on when they meet out at the university, 20 minutes of get-up rhetoric. Colleagues, it is a clear indication that there is trouble in the Labor government, that this government is in deep trouble.

**Ms Trad:** Address the motion.

**Mr SEENEY:** I will address the motion. I say to the member for South Brisbane, in response to her interjection, that her motion was a piece of political brilliance. She stood up in here and made the whole debate about leadership and the integrity of leadership. She put the focus squarely on the person sitting beside her. She put the focus squarely on her lack of leadership. It was like a big spotlight came on all of a sudden: look at the lack of leadership!

She sits there now still not participating in the debate. The member for Woodridge had to stand up and read her words. He read the words of the Premier. The Premier sits there because it is part of a strategy of a government in crisis. They send out all the mudslingers, but they try to protect the image of a leader who is nothing but a false, hollow image—never do any harm to anybody; the Aunty Anastacia type image that cannot be involved in the mudslinging that is designed to divert attention from the fact that this is a government that is collapsing slowly from within.

It is a government that has never been able to do anything, but as it gets closer to the end of the term its inability to do anything becomes more and more transparent to the people of Queensland—so much so that I cannot resist but repeating an interjection I made this morning when the Premier was talking about all of the jobs she had created on the Queen's Wharf project. That is the best project that the Labor government can lay claim to—the Queen's Wharf project. That is a project that they did absolutely nothing for. It is a project that we delivered and they criticised, but now they take credit for the jobs that have been created.

I will go to the heart of the issue. I will go to the contribution that was made by the member for Mansfield. This is an issue that has been around for two years, I might add. It raises the question: why this morning? Why this morning did the real premier of Queensland move this motion when this issue has been around for two years? How many days have we been in this parliament in the last two years where if the concern expressed by the member for South Brisbane had any genuineness at all she could have moved it?

Why today? Did she get up this morning and read the *Australian*? Did she get up and read the paper and think, 'This will be a good diversion. We'll give Nicholls a hard time today. You watch us'—big and bold. Get the big headkickers up: 'We'll get up and punch old Tim. It will divert attention away from the fact that this government is dying from within.'

Let me get back to the contribution from the member for Mansfield, because he addressed the issue that the member for South Brisbane did not. He addressed it in a very legalistic way. He pointed out that this was a legal dispute that needed to be clarified by court action. It is right and proper that that happen. The member for South Brisbane has tried to take that perfectly legitimate legal contest, if you like, and turn it into a political mudslinging exercise in this House. Can I say to the member for South Brisbane—

**Mr Nicholls:** She is the leader.

**Mr SEENEY:** Yes, the real leader. I prefer to think of her as the member for South Brisbane, that socialist enclave across the river. That image fits for me. I say to the member for South Brisbane: if you want to start a political mudslinging exercise in this parliament then we are happy to engage in that all day long, because your government has provided so many examples of a lack of leadership and so many examples of a failure to perform that this debate can go on all day.

The member for South Brisbane made the debate about leadership. I say to every member who will speak in this debate from here on that the real question is the leadership of the government. The real question is the leadership of the state—the person who sits there mute and absurd while the real people who are running the show speak on her behalf. This is a great debate for the people of Queensland to see who the real leader of the government is. They will see who the real leader of the state is, and it is certainly not the member for Inala, as the member for Clayfield quite rightly said.

I say to every member in the House who is interested in the substantive issue that is at the core of this motion that they should refer to the contribution that was made by the member for Mansfield. It was a great contribution. It was a professional contribution from a man who has spent his life in the law. Won't it be a great day, members, when the member for Mansfield is the attorney-general—a man who is qualified to be the attorney-general?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** No.

**Mr SEENEY:** She is going to speak!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, can you wind up?

**Mr SEENEY:** Mr Speaker, I have—

**Mr SPEAKER:** No. I know you have 13 minutes left, but other speakers want to—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** All right. Member for Callide, you have the call.

**Mr SEENEY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am very relieved that the Premier has been shamed into taking part in this debate. It appears that she is going to speak. However, I do have a couple of other things that I want to talk about that go to the heart of the motion that was moved by the member for South Brisbane.

As I said, the member for South Brisbane made that motion about leadership. She based her whole argument on this concept of leadership. If you take the points that were made by the member for South Brisbane and apply them in reverse to the Labor Party, the member for South Brisbane is somehow suggesting that the member for Inala can take over the running of the Labor Party, that she can control the trade union movement, which really runs the Labor Party. If that were so then I suggest there is a range of issues that the Premier should busy herself correcting. There is a range of issues involving unions such as the CFMEU. If the Premier has that degree of control which the member for South Brisbane ascribes to the member for Clayfield as opposition leader then she has some tasks that she can complete for the people of Queensland.

She can pull the CFMEU into line. She can ensure the unions stop costing Queenslanders millions and millions of dollars in extra costs on the building sites around Queensland, if the Premier has the power and the control that the member for South Brisbane suggests that the member for Clayfield should have—but we all know that she does not. We all know that the Premier does not have that control. She does not even have control over the 42-odd members who sit in here. The members who control the agenda in here are the member for South Brisbane, the member for Greenslopes and the member for Ashgrove, who wanted to stand up here this morning and have a slanging match, who wanted to have a mud-throwing opportunity at the Leader of the Opposition.

I say from much experience that when you are opposition leader you always love the opportunity to enter into these debates. If you want to move a motion that gives the Leader of the Opposition and the members of the opposition front bench an opportunity to stand up here and debate leadership in the government then do it every day, because as opposition leader it gives you a great opportunity to shine that big spotlight on the government, on the lack of leadership that is demonstrated by the member for Inala and the complete impotence of a government that cannot do anything except claim credit for the projects that we undertook when we were in government. They claim credit for the Queen's Wharf project. The other day they claimed credit for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing.

**Mr Powell:** The Gateway upgrade.

**Mr SEENEY:** They claimed credit for the Gateway upgrade, absolutely.

**Mr Emerson:** The Bruce Highway.

**Mr SEENEY:** They claimed credit for the Bruce Highway upgrades. Who is the champion of the Bruce Highway? The bloke who was out at Mount Coot-tha suddenly became the champion of the Bruce Highway because he has discovered it. He had to move out to Murrumba and he saw this big black road through the middle of it and said, 'What's that?' He was told, 'That's the Bruce Highway. That's the thing Seeney used to talk about all the time.' 'I'll talk about that,' he said. He stood up here this morning—the champion of the Bruce Highway.

This government is a fraud. This whole government is fraudulent. This motion before the House is fraudulent. It was a hollow opportunity for members of the government to think they could stand up here and throw mud at the opposition. They forgot that when they do that the opposition gets an opportunity too. For every 20 minutes they get, the opposition gets 20 minutes as well.

The debate this morning has certainly proven who the real leader of the government is. We look forward with bated breath to the contribution from the member for Inala, to hear from her how she is going to address the crisis of leadership in her government; how she is going to address those issues that the member for Clayfield outlined; how she is going to deal with the minister who sits up the back there in disgrace, looking up his mangocube email. He sits up there very studiously looking up his mangocube email only to take points of order on the poor old leader of government business. I tell you, my friend, that if one of my members up there did that we would be having a quiet chat. I suggest that you could probably have a quiet chat to the member up there when he is finished his mangocube examination.

This is indeed a test of leadership. It is a test of leadership of the Premier. How is she going to deal with the crises that are besetting this Labor government? How is she going to deal with the member for Pumicestone? How is she going to deal with the police minister and his outrageous actions? How is she going to deal with the Attorney-General and her complete lack of competence in bringing into place a scheme or a process that has become an embarrassment to Queensland on a national scale? How is she going to deal with the poor old Minister for State Development, who trots around regional Queensland trying to make a virtue out of criticising our Royalties for the Regions program, which he then goes and contributes to? For members who missed it last week, the minister has criticised me repeatedly for spending money on three airports in the electorate of Callide and then he went and spent money on a fourth! That is now four airports in the electorate of Callide that have received funding. I

said to him then, and I will say to him again today, that there are two more as well, because the electorate of Callide is a pretty big place and airports are pretty important for the Flying Doctor Service to evacuate my constituents when they need the medical attention that he and the Labor members take for granted.

There is a whole range of issues for the Premier to address. There is a whole range of issues that go to the leadership of this government and the leadership of the Premier. The Premier cannot sit there mute in a debate like this; the Premier must contribute. If the Premier truly earned the salary she is being paid, she would have been the one who moved this motion this morning. If there was any credibility in it, if she believed the things that members of her government have been saying, she would have moved this motion two years ago or any given day since then.

To wait until today, after reading in the newspaper that the matter is before the court today, to come in here to move the motion proves the point that the member for Mansfield made. This is all about influencing the outcome in the court. It is all about diverting attention from a government that is rotten from within and that will continue to rot until election day—until the people of Queensland get an opportunity to vote for Tim Nicholls, Ian Walker and the LNP crew to form a government that can get Queensland moving again; that can deliver a whole lot more projects like Queen's Wharf and the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing; and that can continue to fix the Bruce Highway.

I say to the member for South Brisbane that we do more than talk. The evidence is there and it stands in stark contrast to the record of this government. When this government stands up here in the morning it has difficulty pointing to a single project. The Premier points to the Townsville stadium. People in Townsville tell me there are more holes on that site because the Premier has been there turning the sod every second day. All the Premier can do is turn the sod. There is no indication when the real construction is going to start. There is no Queen's Wharf equivalent. There are no guys on site in high-visibility vests and steelcapped boots. When the Premier—


**Mr Pitt** interjected.

**Mr SEENEY:** Member for Mulgrave, I beseech you to sit there and be quiet because I only have three more minutes. When the Premier can point to projects such as Queen's Wharf that were conceived and developed under her government, consulted on with the community and brought to a reality, then she can talk about the leadership that she has provided to her government to allow that to happen.

The Premier cannot point to those things. She cannot point to a moral discipline or a moral authority in this parliament because she did not have the capacity to stand up this morning and move this motion. She had to be shamed into contributing to the debate. She had to be shamed into addressing issues that any credible leader would have addressed when they happened. A credible leader would have addressed the issue with the police minister on the terrible action that he took. A credible premier would have addressed the member for Pumicestone and had somebody else sitting in here. A credible premier who had some leadership authority would have addressed the minister sitting in exile on the back bench and ensured there was somebody else filling that role and that the job was being done for the people of Queensland, but none of that has happened.

I say to members of the backbench—the mindless Labor members who get swept in here on the tide from time to time—there is one thing they can take from the motion moved by the member for South Brisbane, and that is this is about leadership. The fact that the member for South Brisbane moved the motion today says more about leadership than any of us can say. It says more about the authority of the member for Inala than any of us can say.

It also says something about political tactics which some of you should take note of, because some of you, I am sure, will make the progression from the back of this chamber to the front of this chamber. As a political tactic, this was a doozey. We will give the opposition a chance this morning to belt the government. The poor old Leader of the House jumped up and took about three points of order because it was all going pear shaped and it was not quite going the way he wanted it to. I am unsure whether the member for South Brisbane even consulted him because I think he was slightly puzzled. This is an absurd motion and it should be defeated.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (12.45 pm): I am very pleased that we have heard the member for Callide's valedictory today in this House. It was a beautiful valedictory: no achievements, just bitterness and the cold heart of anger that he sat here for only three years. That is what it is all about. This is the self-confessed tactical liar—

**Mr Pitt:** You said it.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You said it.

**Mr SEENEY:** Mr Speaker, that word is unparliamentary and she knows it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You find it offensive and you are asking for it to be withdrawn, are you? The member for Callide finds the comment offensive—

**Mr SEENEY:** No, that is not the point—

**Mr SPEAKER:** What is your point of order?

**Mr SEENEY:** It is unparliamentary; I should not have to.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I withdraw.

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have a very loud voice, member for Callide. I do not know whether Hansard can hear the Premier over your voice.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will miss the member for Southern Downs but I will not miss the member for Callide. I thought to myself, 'Why is the member for Callide so forceful in jumping to his feet and defending the nondisclosure of the LNP political donations?' Then it dawned on me that there was an article written in his term which stated: 'Jeff Seeney: Queensland deputy premier caught own officials by surprise with retrospective law change preventing possible prosecution of LNP donor'. There is a history. There is a very long history of when he sat here as deputy premier and what he did to integrity and accountability in this state.

There were seven of us who sat over there. The LNP government in this state led by Campbell Newman, Jeff Seeney and Tim Nicholls went all the way around the chamber right up to there. They squandered that majority—a massive majority; the largest majority Queensland has ever seen—because of the way they ripped up transparency and integrity laws in this state. I will always stand up for that because what we are seeing today is very clear. It is very clear that the court does not have to go through this if the LNP disclose their secret donations. There has been a history of this. Why will the LNP and Tim Nicholls not declare the \$100,000 worth of political donations that they have received?

**Mr Pitt:** What have they got to hide, Premier?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. What are they hiding? Why will they not disclose? What I am more concerned about is the waste of taxpayers' funds. This is taxpayers' money that can be put to good use. It could mean more teacher aides or more teachers in our schools. It could mean more disability support workers for people with a disability in this state. It could mean more nurses in our hospitals. It could mean more child protection officers in our state.

What we know very clearly about those opposite is their culture of hiding. What they want is for the same federal laws to apply to the state laws. We changed those laws for very good reason and I am proud that that was the first legislation that my government introduced. Those disclosure laws mean that if people donate over \$1,000 to a political party they must be disclosed. I have heard a lot of talk from those opposite. On this side of the House we actually comply with the laws of this state. Any donations, whether they are from business or unions, are disclosed on the public record for all Queenslanders to see. When we are talking about leadership and being open, transparent and accountable, my government stands head and shoulders above theirs. We brought the thresholds down, we brought the laws in and real-time disclosure is another benchmark, another hallmark, of this government. Those opposite are seeking to hide \$100,000 worth of political donations.

The Minister for Health talked about Scott Driscoll. Money was also donated to the LNP. Has that money been given back—\$50,000? Where is that money? They pocketed that money. Shame on them! We have had a very long history on this subject in this state. We have had the Fitzgerald inquiry and a range of recommendations and we now have the CCC. When those opposite were in office, they would not accept the independence of the CCC. They came into this House in the dark of the night—and members talk about urgency motions—and in one of the most shameful acts, led by the member for Callide, sacked the committee. I will tell the member for Callide that the people of Queensland did not respect his actions. In fact, they remembered those actions when they went to vote in the Redcliffe by-election and when they went to vote in the Stafford by-election.

We also know that the former member for Stafford left this House because he was not in favour of the way those opposite were treating political donations in this state.

**Mr Pitt:** He had some integrity.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** He had integrity and he left this House and in his place came the current member for Stafford, Dr Anthony Lynham, a very fine member of this House and a very, very fine minister. We do not see any articles written about him abusing the system as we did the member for Callide.

At the heart of the motion we are debating today is whether the LNP will disclose the political donations that they are hiding not from this House, not from me, not from members opposite but from the people of Queensland. The people of Queensland deserve to know. The Leader of the Opposition barely touched on the motion. He squibbed it. He showed absolutely no integrity and no accountability because he has failed on leadership to disclose the secret donations. On this side of the House the Labor Party is more than happy to comply with the disclosure laws of this state. As the Deputy Premier said, it is because these are Queensland laws.

**Mr Seeney:** All the dirty money comes through the unions.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is outrageous. That is absolutely outrageous.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Callide, you have had ample opportunity to convey your views. I would urge you to consider your interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let's be very clear: the Labor Party discloses. I understand the Katter party discloses. What we are seeing is the other major party in this state failing to disclose and wanting legal action to put to bed the question of whether or not they have to disclose this money. Are they going to save taxpayers' money? I will give them my solemn word today that I will find out every single last dollar that it will cost Queenslanders to go through with this action because of their failure to comply.

What we saw under the former LNP government was a complete breach of integrity and transparency. It was heightened by a high level of arrogance and being out of touch with Queenslanders. Members opposite should not think for one moment that the people of Queensland do not understand this issue. They understood this issue during the height of the Fitzgerald inquiry. They understood this issue when the reforms were taken to establish the anti-corruption watchdogs that have operated in this state. Every step of the way the LNP in government always seeks to curb that anti-corruption watchdog. Whether it is sacking committees or appointing their own members without bipartisan support, it is something that every single one of them on that side who were part of that government should remember. They should hang their heads in shame because Queenslanders will not forget.

**Mr Seeney:** You're struggling. Wind it up!

**Mr SPEAKER:** When I have made a similar interjection—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am glad the member for Callide made that interjection, because it is about time the people of this House knew exactly what he said to me when I sat over there. The member for Callide staggered over one night, leant over and said to me that I should get used to sitting there because I would be sitting there for the next 15 years. That was the kind of arrogance—

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order. That is not true. I find it offensive and I ask that it be withdrawn. That is not true.


**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Callide has asked for it to be withdrawn.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** He did say it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, we have an understanding that members withdraw when someone else finds those comments offensive.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I withdraw. In conclusion, today is the day that we need to know who the secret donors of the LNP are. As we saw when Jeff Seeney was the deputy premier in this House, there were clear views put by media organisations that there was a link between the political donations and what was happening in government. This was also disclosed in relation to the boot camps and the former attorney-general. The Auditor-General's report talked about a link between donors and decisions that the former LNP government was making. That is why in 2014 I put it on notice that if Labor got back into power, as we did, we would seek full disclosure. There is simply no excuse because the media reported it at the time and now there is an obligation to disclose.

This is what the motion is about today. It is purely and simply about integrity, it is about accountability and it is about transparency. It is absolutely about those three things and whether or not the LNP will disclose. We look forward to the results of this motion and the full disclosure of the \$100,000 of secret donations.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.58 pm): If anyone wants to know why they keep this Premier in the box and hidden, it is because of that. What has just been on display is exactly the reason the Labor Party go to the extremes they do to hide the Premier, because the Premier makes stuff up. When they let her off the leash to speak without notes, when they put her in here to speak without the guidance of the Deputy Premier, she makes stuff up—just like she made up stuff with respect to the member for Callide.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I find that offensive. I ask it be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Premier, you find those comments personally offensive and you ask that they be withdrawn?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Will you withdraw, member for Kawana?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

**Mr SEENEY:** Mr Speaker, the Premier has been in here long enough to know the process. She has to stand, take a point of order—

**Mr SPEAKER:** She did.

**Mr SEENEY:** She did not take a point of order. You cannot just stand up—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, resume your seat. I find the Premier did take a point of order and I have asked the member for Kawana to withdraw the comments the Premier found offensive. He has withdrawn. We will move on. We have one minute to go and then I will ask the member for Kawana to adjourn and we will return at 2.30 for the continuation of the debate.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** When the motion was quickly put together this morning with great strategy—with the Deputy Premier squiggling a note—we saw the shock on the Premier's face when the Deputy Premier stood up and moved it.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bleijie, adjourned.


Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Sessional Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.30 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That so much of sessional orders be suspended to enable debate on the motion moved by the Deputy Premier earlier today to be continued immediately, with the question to be put at 2.45 pm; to be followed by matters of public interest for one hour; to be followed by government business; and with the order of business resuming with the private member's motion at 6 pm.

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (2.31 pm): I rise to oppose the motion that has been moved by the Leader of the House. The motion that has been moved by the Leader of the House proves beyond doubt the case that I made out earlier in the day: this little strategy has gone entirely pear shaped. The parliament should have more of these debates to allow for an examination of the Premier's leadership style and authority. Today we should all be grateful to the member for South Brisbane for giving us this opportunity. As members know, when a member moves a motion in the House it has to be circulated in their name. I urge those who have not seen it to get a copy and keep it as a little memento so that they always remember that in this place a good idea can get you into trouble.

It has got the government into trouble today, which is why the Leader of the House moved the motion to curtail the debate. They do not want to have the debate which the member for South Brisbane initiated with a little thought bubble. They do not want to have the debate when the debate starts to go against them. They thought it was a good idea and they could use the opportunity to beat up the Leader of the Opposition, but when the debate started to go against them and members of the opposition took the opportunity to point out that the accusations that were being made about the Leader of the Opposition applied to the Premier in spades then the government suddenly decided, 'This is not such a good idea. We'll use our numbers in the House to close it down.'

No doubt they have the crossbenchers in their pocket, and they are confident that this motion will be passed and this debate will conclude at 2.45. What a shame that will be, because I know there are a lot of shadow ministers and members on this side of the House who wanted to comment about the leadership style of the Premier. They wanted to take advantage of the opportunity that the member for South Brisbane, in her tactical brilliance, has given all of us today.

I oppose the motion, but I want to take this opportunity primarily to thank the member for South Brisbane for giving us an opportunity to roast the Premier. As I said, it is an opportunity that should be repeated. The debate will conclude at 2.45, so I will not take up any more time so that the member for Kawana can at least continue with some of his contribution. Everyone should understand what is happening here. I bet that the member for South Brisbane was roasted over lunch. There was no-one in the members dining room; they were all at a meeting saying, 'What the heck? Whose idea was that, Jackie?' As I said, I think this has been a good exercise, and the parliament should consider making these opportunities available to the opposition more often.

 **Mrs JR MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.34 pm): I know that this is a parliamentary tactic, but can I say that the people of Queensland are very wary of political donations, no matter what. I understand that the Leader of the House has moved to shut down this debate—

**Mr SPEAKER:** One moment, member for Bundamba. You are not able to debate the substance of the motion; you are only able to speak to the motion that has been moved by the Leader of the House.

**Mrs MILLER:** Yes, I know, and I am speaking to that. I believe that we should have a fulsome debate in relation to this; however, I do understand that the Leader of the House has moved this way. The people of Queensland are very wary of political donations, no matter what, and that is no more so than in Ipswich, because it has got the city into a lot of trouble. I would like to be given the opportunity to speak to the original motion that was moved by the Deputy Premier; however, I would ask the Leader of the House to reconsider the timings in relation to this matter and allow another hour or so for the debate to be completed.

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

**AYES, 42:**

**ALP, 41**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Gordon.

**NOES, 44:**

**LNP, 40**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seene, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

**KAP, 2**—Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Dickson.


**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Pyne.

Pair: Furner, Crandon.

Resolved in the negative.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.43 pm): I thought I had seen it all in this place; I really did. I thought I had seen it all, but I have seen the once mighty Labor Party shown to be the pack of fools that we all know they were and led over the cliff. Like lemmings, all of the backbench sat there for the last two hours following the lead of the Deputy Premier, the member for South Brisbane—the tactical genius who put a lot of thought and effort into a motion like that, a motion that was so successful.

I have to feel sorry for the member for Sandgate. It is not often that I feel sorry for the member for Sandgate, but he knew when the Deputy Premier stood up and made the announcement that it was going to go off the rails. The planning and the practice that the member for Sandgate is so beloved of

went out the window. I would love to be a fly on the wall at the next caucus meeting of the ALP when the Deputy Premier and the Leader of the House have their gentle discussion. I know the high regard that they have for each other, and that regard has now spread to the entire backbench. Gee, they must be feeling cock-a-hoop with the faith in the leadership tactics of the team over there this morning! They must have got up this morning and got the tactics group together, huddled around and said, 'This is what we're going to do,' and worked it out. You have all been sold a pup, backbench of the Labor Party! The only one who could see it coming and knew what was happening—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The member for Sandgate sort of realised it, but he was late to it. Given the train situation, that is not surprising. The only one who could see it coming—and happy birthday, member for Bundamba—was the member for Bundamba, who knew exactly what was coming. Despite a sore temptation, she stuck with the party line. I am sure that if they give the member for Bundamba a speaking slot in caucus she will have something to say about that. I look forward to the next instalment coming out, because today we have seen the absolute farce that the Labor Party has turned this parliament into. Let no-one be under any misapprehension that what we have seen is the sign of a government on its own motion losing control of the parliament.

When it comes to being in government, there are a few things that are more important than being able to maintain control and discipline in the House and this government has failed the test under this failed Premier, who lacks the leadership to be able to control the Deputy Premier and the member for Yeerongpilly, the erstwhile mangocube tweeter. She lacks the ability to control her own cabinet. We know what the factional numbers are in there. We saw that with the Adani decision. Today we have seen that farce writ large and played out courtesy of the Australian Labor Party.

While Queenslanders are paying more and higher power prices, while youth unemployment in outback Queensland is above 50 per cent, while youth unemployment in Cairns and other regional centres is above 20 per cent, while roads are not being built, while bridges are not being built, while crime is running out of control in places like Townsville and when we see reports like the Coroner's report that the Attorney-General dropped at seven o'clock last night so that it avoided scrutiny, Queenslanders are entitled to hold this Palaszczuk Labor government to account and to say, 'This is not leadership. This is not about delivering for Queenslanders and Queensland families. This is not a government that is securing my job and my kids' jobs.' This is not a government that is doing something effective to deal with the hidden power tax that this Treasurer is imposing on every Queensland business. This is not a government that is looking after small business—businesses like Dobinsons Spring in Rockhampton that I visited with members. This is not a government that is dealing with the problems of the canegrowers. This is a government—

**Mr PITT:** I rise to a point of order. It appears that for the second time today those opposite are so excited about the motion that they have given notice of for this evening that the Leader of the Opposition is trying to debate the motion now. I ask that you rule on relevance in terms of his—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! There is no point of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** This is a government that would rather take points of order and play silly political games than actually use this parliament to debate the issues of most importance to Queenslanders. This is a government whose Treasurer wants to talk about standing orders and take points of order rather than talk about why he is presiding over a tax rip-off of Queenslanders while he is delivering—

**Mr PITT:** I rise to two points of order. The first is that I take personal offence at those comments and I ask that they be withdrawn. The second is that I reiterate the point of order I raised before. The member is clearly linking his statements now to a debate that we are intending to have at six o'clock this evening. I ask you to listen to the member and ask that he hold his comments for that debate.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I am sorry, Madam Deputy Speaker, but I did not hear what he found offensive.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sorry, member for Clayfield, but I did not hear it either and I did not hear the last 30 seconds of what you were saying. However, just as a matter of decorum, if the Treasurer found it offensive I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Sure. I am quite happy to withdraw, Madam Deputy Speaker. If I infringe again by not knowing what it was that I had said—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Yes. Could I also ask you please to take care that you are not straying into the area that you will be debating tonight.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I know that the member for Mulgrave is somewhat sensitive when I refer to taxes, but I can also refer to the rate at which car registration fees are increasing and I can refer to his broken promise about no taxes on Queensland property investments by foreign investors. There are numerous taxes that the member for Mulgrave has imposed on Queenslanders and Queensland businesses that do not infringe in any way, shape or form upon the subject of the motion tonight. In fact, there has been a veritable cornucopia of taxes and increases in fees and charges under this Treasurer. That is why this morning we talked about a Labor government of cons, costs and crisis. They have been the hallmarks of this government—a government that has continued to fail to deliver, with this Labor Premier showing no leadership on matters of importance.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Could we please have some decorum? We do not have conversations across the chamber and we also do not call each other names. It is unparliamentary and I ask all members to desist.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** In the short time left to me I want to make a couple of other comments on matters of importance. First I offer my condolences and those of the entire LNP team to the victims of last week's Barcelona terror attacks, especially the family of Sydney youngster Julian Cadman, who was callously killed in the attacks along Las Ramblas on the weekend. It was another tragedy caused by gutless individuals attempting to destroy our freedoms and our way of life. Once again, like in Manchester, London, Paris, Berlin and Nice, they will fail. We will not let evil prevail. We will stand united against these gutless individuals and our message to them is that you will not defeat us.

On a brighter note, I also want to acknowledge a true gentleman of Queensland politics, former premier Mike Ahern. Mr Ahern's dedication to public life in serving his community is unquestioned. Yesterday, the Former Parliamentary Members' Association of Queensland awarded Mr Ahern the inaugural lifetime achievement award, named after former member Alan Sherlock in recognition of his contributions to public life through service in his parliamentary career and following his retirement. On behalf of all LNP members I thank him for his service and recognise the importance of that award.

On a serious note—it is something that I think people do want to know about—last week we saw I think one of the most disgraceful things that I have seen a member of this House partake in; that is, the member for Morayfield's treatment of Gary and Leanne Pullen. It was nothing short of disgusting and sickening. To use a grieving family for a photo opportunity, knowing full well that you have deceived them, is a new low. What a complete and utter disgrace. As I said at the time, the member for Morayfield should hang his head in shame. Sadly, that is what Queenslanders have come to expect from this Labor government under this weak, do-nothing leader. This is the standard that she accepts from her ministers and it is, I think in the eyes of most Queenslanders, utterly and completely unacceptable.

We then have the member for Pumicestone. He is an embarrassment to this place. His bullyboy behaviour is another insight into this Premier's lack of leadership. She has constantly stood by and supported the member for Pumicestone and in doing so has condoned his behaviour.


**Mr WILLIAMS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence to the reference and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask the member to withdraw.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I withdraw. There is a litany of other events that show that this government has given up on governing and is more interested in politics. It is only the LNP that will work for Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### Gladstone, Jobs

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.56 pm): I rise to speak on a matter of importance across Queensland but particularly regional Queensland and my electorate of Gladstone. The people of Gladstone are crying out for jobs. Everywhere I go across my electorate I am asked, 'What is the government doing to bring jobs back to Gladstone?' The Palaszczuk government's record on job

creation is strong in my electorate, with almost \$4 million awarded to local organisations to assist over 700 jobseekers in the electorate through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. On top of that, 318 people in my electorate have been supported into employment through the hugely successful Back to Work program. Both of those programs were scrapped under the previous LNP government.

The Palaszczuk government is investing in industries of the future, with biofuels and renewable energy in my electorate. We are securing our biggest employers by investing in the infrastructure upgrades they need, including at the port of Gladstone and the Gladstone Area Water Board. We have delivered record investment in health, with construction soon to begin on the \$42 million accident and emergency department and another \$4 million in step-up step-down mental health facilities across Queensland.

We are delivering record investment in infrastructure upgrades across almost every school in my electorate, including \$7 million at Gladstone State High School for a new commercial kitchen and a new school building with new classrooms; \$6 million for a new building at Calliope State School; \$4 million for my favourite school, Rosella Park School, for a new admin building; and \$5.5 million to Clinton State School, just to name a few.

There is no doubt that the people of my electorate and right across regional Queensland are doing it tough and there is more that can be done. This is why it is great to see that the Palaszczuk Labor government unashamedly puts Queenslanders first. The Buy Queensland policy will mean that the mums and dads who own their own electrical business, the local painters, scaffolding companies or the carpet layers in Gladstone will have a real shot at sharing in some of the \$14 billion spent by government each and every year in Queensland on supplies and services.

With some \$4 billion being invested each year in building and maintaining the state's infrastructure—roads, schools and hospitals—there is no doubt that the small businesses in my electorate will be the winners from the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland procurement policy. It is not just about the cheapest price; this policy acknowledges the value of spending money where it is made. This is what the taxpayers of Queensland and my community rightly expect and deserve.


The choice is simple: do we want to see Queensland government contracts go to Queensland businesses, or should our taxes pay for jobs outside our state or even overseas? We are determined to do everything we possibly can to use local suppliers, to support local jobs and to grow Queensland's own economy. The policy gives businesses who employ Queenslanders an improved chance of competing for and winning contracts from the Queensland government.

From 1 September, the government's new procurement policy will define a local supplier as a business that maintains its work within a 125-kilometre radius of where the goods or work is needed. I have firsthand experience of the issues that can arise when 'local' is not appropriately defined. In my office in Gladstone I have had plasterers and painters from as far as away as Townsville, some 800 kilometres away. Given the number of significant infrastructure projects happening in my electorate, I have been working hard to ensure our local tradies are aware of things like Building and Asset Services and prequalification systems that we see in Queensland to ensure they are even in the game when it comes to government contracts. Not only will they now be in the game; they will also be in with a genuine chance of hitting a home run in scoring some of this work.

We are going to reduce the complexity in the current government tender process and provide businesses with the recourse they need. Importantly, we are going to make sure that businesses tendering for government procurement contracts have a permanent workforce that is based in Queensland. They will need to offer fair wages, conditions and superannuation and have a good workplace health and safety record.

The LNP will barrack for anybody except for those in Queensland. We saw that last week when a regional Central Queensland member who knows how tough it is, the federal member for Capricornia, spoke in support of the disgraceful anti-Queensland motion in Canberra. If the LNP wants to spend Queensland taxpayers' money buying services and goods from Georgetown, Glenbrook or Goldsbrough in New Zealand, I am going to make sure that we are buying ours from Gladstone—right here in Queensland.

### **Minister for Corrective Services**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (3.01 pm): For a government that has no qualms about shameless publicity stunts, in the last sitting of parliament we saw a new low even from this government. Today we should be celebrating in this parliament the passing of a good law, the no-body no-parole law—a policy that was first announced by the LNP 12 months ago, a policy that was recommended by Walter

Sofronoff after his review of parole late last year, a policy that the LNP tried to introduce when the first tranche of reforms about the parole system came in in May but was rejected by this government. This government was dragged kicking and screaming to this parliament to introduce a bill that all Queenslanders would agree is a good one. Finally, at the last sitting of parliament we saw that legislation passed.

The satisfaction that comes from the adoption of this policy has been overshadowed by one of the most shameful, cruel acts of deception that this parliament has seen in living memory: the action of the Minister for Corrective Services, the member for Morayfield. Gary and Leanne Pullen campaigned fearlessly for the introduction of the no-body no-parole laws after their son Tim was killed by a bunch of thugs who, despite being convicted, have not to this moment revealed the whereabouts of Tim's remains. They also campaigned for the scope of these laws to be widened so that those charged with accessory after the fact of manslaughter, one of the convictions associated with the men who are responsible for disposing of Tim's body, would be included in this legislation. Their hard work was rewarded. These laws were passed with those amendments.

That is where the deceit began. The Pullens were led to believe that the laws just passed would cover Tim's killers, those who were still incarcerated. The Minister for Corrective Services gave them no indication whatsoever that this was not the case, despite having the knowledge that one of their son's killers had had parole approved only days before. The minister and member for Morayfield should hang his head in shame for the way that he has used Gary and Leanne as political pawns—hugging and kissing them, slapping them on the back, claiming credit for the passage of the no-body no-parole laws and parading these poor people at a press conference. This behaviour was so appalling that a hardworking, long-serving public servant could not stand the charade and leaked information so that everybody knew the deceit that had taken place.

The Pullens were devastated when they were made aware of this situation when they were contacted by a newspaper journalist. 'Gutted', 'duped' and 'deceived' were the words they used when they contacted me. Despite the minister hearing of their hurt, when asked by a journalist whether he would apologise he said, 'If that's what they want.' How do members think the Pullens received the apology when he rang a couple of days later after hearing that comment made a few days before? The minister has hidden under the cloak of confidentiality to excuse himself from advising the Pullens. While the minister might be bound legally, he was not bound morally. To parade the Pullens like a trophy at this press conference is nothing short of shameful. The Premier by her silence—talk about a lack of leadership—has given her approval to the charade that took place. When there is good news to share the Premier is everywhere but when there is bad news she flees.

Because of the minister's atrocious behaviour, this House should pass a motion to censure the Minister for Corrective Services for his disgraceful treatment of the Pullen family. I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 42:**

**LNP, 40**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

**PHON, 1**—Dickson.

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Gordon.

**NOES, 42:**

**ALP, 41**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Pyne.


Pair: Furner, Crandon.

The numbers being equal, Mr Speaker cast his vote with the noes.

Resolved in the negative.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I understand that precedent has been set that when matters like this happen during the designated time for matters of public interest we do not change the time, so MPs will finish at 3.45 pm. The Leader of the House and Leader of Opposition Business will have to have a discussion about who will not have an opportunity to speak during the designated timeslot.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.13 pm): Today I rise to speak about our government's success in delivering key investment in education, training and local infrastructure that continues to drive local jobs. When I was elected I made a commitment to the people of my area that I would fight to save TAFE and be part of a government that invested in education and training. The LNP government cut funding to TAFE and, through their policy agenda, had TAFE teachers competing with private providers to use their own teaching spaces. Teaching spaces funded through public moneys were being contracted out to private providers at the expense of quality within our TAFEs.

In our area, the LNP government had threatened to close the Mount Gravatt TAFE campus. Having already stripped it of a range of successful programs, they went on to sack hundreds of teaching staff and, no doubt, their final achievement was going to be its ultimate sale. At the time of the election, on the south side of Brisbane youth unemployment had reached nearly 16 per cent. The people of my electorate stood up against the short-sighted agenda and I was proud to be elected with a commitment to save the Mount Gravatt TAFE, as well as further invest in vocational education and training. Training improves job outcomes, it contributes to increased productivity, it lowers unemployment and it makes our state an even better place to live and work.


I am proud that the rate of youth unemployment in our community has been declining since the election. Most recently it was approaching 14 per cent, which is an almost two per cent decline. The recent introduction of the Back to Work Youth Boost program in our area will no doubt continue this decline. In the recent budget, our government invested over \$800 million in vocational education and training, which is an increase of \$56 million in funding. We have fought hard to again make TAFE our premier VET provider, despite the complete mishandling of the VET sector and cuts to funding by the federal LNP. I am proud to be part of a government that is now working towards *Advancing skills for the future: a strategy for vocational education and training in Queensland*, with an aim to increase access and participation for everyone to essential education and training. I congratulate the minister for her leadership of this most important area.

I will never forget the lady who approached me during the last campaign and offered to help because she was so disgusted by what was happening to our local TAFE. That lady had been a foster mum to many young people. She found that TAFE provided her kids with flexibility and support that enabled them to continue into education after school and to do so in their local community. She said that many of those young people went on to complete university or trade qualifications and it was all because of the opportunities created by our local TAFE. Unlike the LNP government, our government has invested in TAFE education and training. Only Labor governments value education; only Labor governments value training. Investment in vocational education and training, supporting TAFE and the funding Skilling Queenslanders for Work program all ensure that our young people have access to more local jobs.

Alongside our government's investment in education and training, the Palaszczuk government continues to deliver more local jobs through local infrastructure. Our commitment to the Cross River Rail will deliver thousands of jobs into my community. On many occasions I have spoken about my support for Cross River Rail as not only will it improve our public transport but also it will see the creation of tens of thousands of direct and indirect local jobs in my area.

Similarly, I am proud of our government's investment in local schools, with several examples across my electorate of how our government is delivering much needed infrastructure. No example highlights more starkly the difference between the Palaszczuk government and the former LNP government than the investment in a new hall at Cavendish Road State High School. Cavendish Road High is one of the many great schools in my area. Currently, the school has over 1,700 students but does not have the capacity to have a whole-school assembly in one venue. The previous Labor member for Greenslopes, Mr Dick, promised to deliver a new hall for Cavendish Road State High School, but the promised funds were stolen and redirected to prop up Campbell Newman in Ashgrove. The previous LNP member promised to build a hall, but only if we voted for the Newman-Nicholls plan to sell assets. Our government will keep its commitments and we have committed to building a new hall at Cavendish Road State High School. That is what we will do. I am pleased that planning and construction is getting under way on this much needed infrastructure. Investment in infrastructure such as Cross River Rail and schools, expanding the Back to Work program, supporting innovation in local small businesses, funding Skilling Queenslanders for Work and investing in education and training: that is how the Palaszczuk Labor government is creating more local jobs.

## ID Scanners

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.18 pm): What an absolute debacle we have seen with the rollout of ID scanners in the state of Queensland. This morning the Attorney-General came into this place and said, 'It was LNP law.' Yes, it was LNP law 4½ to five years ago, but they have been in government for nearly three years and they implemented the ID-scanning system. They rolled out the ID-scanning system. They are trying to blame a former government for a policy they rolled out on 1 July 2017. We are not going to cop that, because we know that if they had consulted properly with and listened to industry stakeholders, they would not have the botched effort and bungled rollout that we have seen. Now we are an international embarrassment.

Across the world, we are a laughing-stock. It was on the international news before it was on Queensland news that the Crown Prince of Denmark was denied access to an establishment in Brisbane. Not only has Crown Prince Frederik been denied access; others have been denied access too. A few weeks ago French winemakers were denied access to the Gresham Bar. They were not allowed in. A couple of weeks prior to that Danny Green, after the big fight, tried to get into one of our establishments and was not able to.

In Cairns the same thing happened but in front of the Premier. I am told that the Premier was sitting in a restaurant on the waterfront in Cairns when a fellow who was dining in the restaurant took a phone call outside, because the restaurant was so loud. He walked outside and stood at the front door, where the Premier's table was, and took a phone call. He tried to get back into the restaurant, but it had just clicked past 10 o'clock and he was denied access to finish his meal. This happened in front of the Premier, who was dining in this restaurant. This gentleman walked out, took a phone call and was not allowed back in because his wallet was on the table inside.

What a debacle. What a mess. The Attorney-General did not consult with the industry. They could have ironed these issues out. Why not have a trial? Why not roll this out over a period of time and then they could have sorted these issues out?

As I have said, this affected Danny Green. We have had issues in Cairns. We have had problems for French winemakers in Brisbane. Now we have had the international embarrassment of Crown Prince Frederik being denied access. As the opposition leader said this morning, where would we be if the Queensland laws applied when Crown Prince Frederik met Princess Mary? He would never have met Mary and Australia would not have the connection to them that we do.

I wonder if Labor's fake Tahitian prince would have been able to gain access. Maybe fake Tahitian princes can gain access, just not real princes. The real issue here—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! I do not think Hansard would be able to hear the member for Kawana. Could all members please allow the member for Kawana to speak.

**Mr BLEIJIE**: I quoted in parliament this morning that today's paper says that police officers said that OLGR authorised Crown Prince Frederik to enter the establishment. The Attorney-General's spokeswoman said that that was not the case. I asked the Premier who was telling the truth—the Queensland police officers or the OLGR. Somewhere in the middle the truth lies. As yet, the Premier has not answered who is telling the truth.

Is it the case that OLGR can be phoned late at night by someone in the police saying, 'We need access to this establishment.'? Is it the case that that can happen in OLGR? Is there one rule for celebrities, dignitaries, politicians, crown princes and princes and another rule for every other Queenslanders? Is that where we are at with these laws now—one rule for the elite and another rule for Queenslanders? That is a sad reflection on this government if that is the case.

Who in OLGR authorised the crown prince to enter? If that was not the case, who is telling the truth? The minister yelled out this morning that she did not say that. It said in the paper that it was a spokeswoman for the Attorney-General. I do not think it was the Danish attorney-general who was speaking to the *Brisbane Times*. I suggest it was the Queensland Attorney-General. Is the spokeswoman for the Attorney-General not speaking on behalf of the government, on behalf of the Attorney-General? Who is telling the truth? There are many more questions that need to be answered, not only by the Premier but also by others.


The government has had all positions on all things. Every flip-flop one can buy in Australia has the Labor Party on it. They did not support ID scanners and then they supported ID scanners. They did not support lockouts, then they supported lockouts, then they did not support lockouts, then they did

support lockouts. Now lockouts are gone. They did not want to touch trading hours. Then they announced during the election campaign that they were going to touch trading hours. They then changed trading hours not pursuant to what their election policy actually said. Then the big thing that was going to fix everything was lockouts. They were going to fix all the issues of alcohol fuelled violence and then they got rid of their own lockout legislation.

It is a mess. Queenslanders cannot have confidence that they have a stable government and competent ministers. The LNP, on the other hand, will provide an alternative with competent ministers who will be able to show Queenslanders the stable government that they deserve.

*(Time expired)*

### North Queensland Stadium

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (3.23 pm): I rise today to inform the House that the groundwork on the Townsville stadium has officially started, with the turning of the first sod by the Premier, the mayor of Townsville, federal member Angus Taylor, the director of the North Queensland Cowboys Laurence Lancini and Australian Rugby League chairman John Grant.

By building this infrastructure in the Townsville Waterfront Priority Development Area it will generate approximately 2,000 direct and indirect jobs—local Townsville jobs. According to Townsville Enterprise, it will generate approximately \$85 million in wages for local people. It will inject \$440 million into the local Townsville economy—all this during the construction phase.

Mendi Constructions were instrumental in the building of the 1300SMILES Stadium in Townsville, the current home to the Cowboys, some 23 years ago. This local family business will again be instrumental in building the new stadium, with 30 local workers due to start work this week. Interestingly, five of the workers starting work on the new stadium this week helped build the original stadium.

I would also like to highlight the work of state development regional director Paul Holden and his team in Townsville in building the capability and capacity of the city's contractors and tradies. Mr Holden recently conducted a 'meet the principal contractor' afternoon where 115 tradies and subcontractors could meet with the principal contractor and plan how they could access projects in the north.

The phrase 'Townsville people building Townsville's stadium' means more than people just turning up and doing their jobs; it is about building the city they are proud of—the city where they raise their family, the city where they buy their groceries, the city where they send their kids to school, get their hair cut and watch their kids play sport on the weekend. It is about keeping their money local by employing local people to build their city. That is what I have worked hard to achieve with the Minister for State Development with this contract.

Brian Glancy from Watpac, the principal contractor, gave me his personal guarantee through his handshake that a minimum of 80 per cent of local workers would be used on this project. When Brian Glancy shakes your hand, he gives you his word. The federal assistant minister for cities, Angus Taylor, gets it too. He said, 'Townsville has a lot to gain from this project, not just in terms of wonderful games of Rugby League but in terms of jobs, investment and opportunity.' On 16 June last year I read on the front page of the *Townsville Bulletin* an article by Charlie Peel which read—

CASHED-UP investors buoyed by the news that construction of Townsville's inner city stadium will go ahead have flooded Townsville City Council's development department with calls expressing interest in being involved in the CBD's transformation.

Around the same time the Treasurer announced the additional \$40 million for the stadium, the paper ran a feature article by journalist Victoria Nugent which stated—


TOWNSVILLE is already fielding interest from property developers, accommodation providers and construction companies in the wake of the confirmation the city's long-awaited CBD stadium will be built.

The article went on to state—

Hotel chains setting up in Townsville's CBD, a reinvigorated night-life and more people choosing to live in the city are already being tipped as flow-on effects.

I can tell members that this is true some 12 months later. The international hotel chain Hilton have announced that they have signed an MOU with the Townsville City Council to build a Hilton hotel on the site adjacent to the stadium. When determining the site for its new hotel, the Hilton hotel chain cited that Townsville was a golden opportunity for its hotel. This is the Palaszczuk government delivering on jobs, delivering on local jobs and delivering on our election promises, all without selling our government assets.

## Domestic and Sexual Violence

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.27 pm): I rise to speak on Labor's appalling record when it comes to protecting our most vulnerable. We have a child safety system in crisis, with kids at risk—right now, today—waiting helplessly as they remain in Labor's backlogs. We have a domestic violence crisis, as women and their children are held up in unsafe motels because Labor will not invest in services at the pointy end. We have thousands of offenders breaching domestic violence orders at record levels—over and over again. We still have victims of domestic violence living in fear for their lives, where no GPS trackers were fitted to dangerous offenders and, worse still, victims being told to sleep in their cars on the Gold Coast as there is no room at the inn.

We also have a sexual violence crisis. Domestic violence does not stop outside the bedroom door. This is an issue which is going from bad to worse. It has been ignored by the Premier, the Minister for Women and the entire do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government for 2½ years. Despite being dragged kicking to the table on domestic violence, Labor has remained silent on sexual violence. For victims and their families in places like the Gold Coast, Labor's silence is deafening.

Violence against women remains one of the biggest challenges we face as a state. In 2016 we saw the highest number of sexual offences reported to police in nine years. More than 6,200 offences in total across the state makes for a crisis. On the Gold Coast, latest figures from police show sexual violence is at a 12-month high. Monthly data for May and June 2017 has shown 50 sexual violence offences each month. Too often women are experiencing frustrations and despair with the justice system which is causing many to lose hope in the system and to give up. Delays, a lack of support, expenses, legal fees, limited access to legal advice, secondary traumatisation and a range of other issues continue to plague victims long after the immediate trauma of a sexual assault.


Through my regular discussions with support services on the Gold Coast, I have heard some truly horrific stories. What we need to recognise is that sexual assault can happen to anyone. It happened to Jean, a woman in her 80s who was cornered and sexually abused by a worker in her retirement village. It happened to Ruby, a 16-year-old student who went to a house party, woke up with no clothes on and found out at school that several boys had engaged in sexual acts with her and recorded it on Snapchat.

It happened to Elaine, a 30-year-old stay-at-home mum with one child who is often 'pressured or coerced' into having sex with her husband, because if she says no he threatens to leave her and take their child. It happened to 60-year-old Jean, whose husband drugged her into unconsciousness and then engaged in sexual acts. It happened to Jill, who as a 20-year-old had moved to the Gold Coast into a share house and was raped by a cotenant on her second night. It happened to Sue, a 45-year-old woman who presented to the emergency department after her abusive partner strangled her and forced her to act out violent pornographic scenes he had viewed. These are real stories, real cases which have been shared with me by support services on the front line who deal with cases like these and many more.

More needs to be done to actively encourage anyone who has been a victim of sexual violence to report it to police. On the coast we have some fantastic services that are helping victims of sexual violence, but, shamefully, funding for services has remained stagnant as Labor does nothing. To think that domestic and family violence and sexual violence are not linked is naive. The facts speak for themselves. The latest ABS report into recorded crime shows in Queensland 337 sexual assaults occurred in an intimate partner setting. A further 1,096 were committed by a family member, of which 482 were a parent. Even more shocking is the fact that most of these sexual assaults are happening in the home. A large portion of all sex offences committed against a victim is done by a loved one.

Just like we have seen when it comes to domestic violence action the LNP took charge of in government and has continued through opposition, we need a whole-of-community approach to tackle sexual violence. Victims need to be able to report this insidious crime without fear of being judged. We need to ensure that our services are being coordinated to reduce the re-traumatisation of victims, both children and adults. One thing is clear: Labor's inaction on this issue sends a clear message that sexual violence is not a priority for them. Only the LNP can be trusted to build stronger families and take action to stamp out domestic, family and sexual violence in our communities.

## Buy Queensland

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (3.32 pm): I have been standing up and fighting for buy local policies for years because I believe that every dollar spent by government should help local businesses and, in turn, local jobs and our local economy. Every dollar spent by government should support the economic

resilience of Central Queensland, every dollar spent should support secure permanent jobs and every dollar spent should support the opportunity for our local kids to get ahead through training and apprenticeships. This is exactly what the Palaszczuk government's new Buy Queensland strategy is about.

The Buy Queensland strategy will help jobs, businesses and our economy in Central Queensland prosper. We are making it easier for small local businesses in Central Queensland to win government work and deliver for Central Queensland. The Palaszczuk government's new buy local strategy is supporting local industry and providing a foundation for secure, permanent jobs in Central Queensland—from apprenticeships through to advance tech and engineering. We are unashamedly tipping the balance back in favour of Queensland, because the welfare of people in our state must always be our No. 1 priority.

Our government will harness our investment to make a real difference to the lives of every Central Queenslander. We will back suppliers that act ethically, work to minimise carbon emissions, provide secure and permanent jobs and jobs to young people, and help address domestic violence. I am proud that, for the first time, Queensland businesses which support secure and permanent jobs will be given preference for government contracts over businesses which do not. Businesses tendering for government procurement contracts will need to have a permanent workforce in Queensland. They will need to offer fair wages, conditions and superannuation, and have a good workplace health and safety record.

As a significant investor in our state, the Queensland government has the ability to lead by example. Value for money needs to be considered as more than just price paid, but it is no surprise that the federal LNP member for Capricornia has betrayed Central Queenslanders by condemning our buy local policy, despite the fact it is wholeheartedly supported by the Central Queensland community. I have been calling on the member for Capricornia to show her support for Central Queenslanders by crossing the floor and voting against a motion in federal parliament condemning the policy or bail out of her seat, but the member for Capricornia has stabbed Central Queenslanders in the back by speaking in parliament last week against our policy to boost local jobs.


I am proud to be part of this government that backs local business and supports local jobs and the Central Queensland economy. Queensland's new buy local strategy will ensure taxpayer dollars are spent on local projects and supporting local jobs, but the member for Capricornia and the LNP are hell-bent against it, despite the huge benefits it will have for local jobs and businesses. Our new buy local policy puts local businesses and jobs first. It has even been welcomed by the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland as 'an absolute shot in the arm for small business'. This is a policy which ensures that when the Palaszczuk government invests money in our local communities money stays locally, to stimulate the economy and support local jobs.

In stark contrast, our federal member for Capricornia calls this buy local policy 'a ludicrous idea' and a 'reckless pursuit of a vote', which just goes to show how out of touch she and the LNP are with Central Queenslanders. The member for Capricornia clearly has no understanding of how this buy local policy works. In parliament last week she tried to link it to free trade agreements, but this policy has absolutely nothing to do with exports. It is all about giving local businesses and local workers the advantage when it comes to procurement for government work.

The member for Capricornia says that the Palaszczuk government has 'already antagonised New Zealand, risking \$5 billion in Queensland exports'. The question is: does the member for Capricornia support jobs in Rotorua or Rockhampton? Our buy local policy does not threaten exports whatsoever. No-one can deny the benefits of buying locally to local jobs and our economy, which is why I think it is ludicrous that the member for Capricornia has spoken in federal parliament against buying local.

In a few weeks time, it is expected that the federal parliament will vote on the motion condemning our policy. Again, I call on the member for Capricornia to support our buy local policy—a policy which will offer huge benefits to our Central Queensland businesses, Central Queensland workers and Central Queensland families.

### North-West Minerals Province

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (3.37 pm): In late July I held a forum here at Parliament House for the major rail and energy users from the north-west minerals province. The outcome was to establish the north-west minerals province infrastructure user group. The group identified a key problem that is putting current and future economic activity at risk in this state, and that problem is the pricing policies of our government owned corporations, the GOCs.

The way the GOCs charge customers for critical infrastructure services such as rail, energy and water means that there is no incentive for users to increase the use of these services. The prices keep ratcheting up, and there is no incentive to put bulk deals together to transport more goods on rail rather than on the road which would be the preference of the taxpayer. There is an estimated 500,000 tonnes or more currently transported by road that used to be on rail, but it has been squeezed off rail due primarily to GOC pricing policies. This is at least \$10 million in annual revenue that the government and taxpayers are missing out on when the goods are transported by road and not rail.

The pricing principles allow GOCs to recover the cost of their assets as if they were brand new, rather than recognising the returns that have been received on those assets in the past. This means that the prices that GOCs charge are always going up regardless of the impact those price increases have on demand. They are completely uncommercial in some cases where the market might be depressed and people are moving away from rail. The fewer people using the line, the higher the prices, yet still the prices go up. There is only one way that can end.

There is an opportunity for the government to use its GOCs to stimulate economic development. A decision has to be made: why do you want to own these assets? The government did the right thing in not selling those businesses. However, they must be used to their full potential.


The government must make it very clear to its GOCs that they have a responsibility to deliver services in a way which not only ensures their commercial viability but also incentivises private enterprise. This is particularly important in the north-west minerals province where there is an extremely high reliance on GOCs and the services are such a significant part of the mining and processing cost structure. If the government is not willing to use its GOCs in a flexible way to drive private economic activity and would prefer to ensure that the GOCs maximise their own bottom line, it would have been better off selling them. Do not bother owning them if they are not going to be used for the purpose for which they were built, which is to enable industry, stimulate growth and stimulate economic activity.

We cannot strangle the golden goose that has provided and that has been used as an enabler. It cuts right to the heart of this. We had perfect alignment with all the major users who said they were all in agreement that this is becoming prohibitive. The evidence is there. While I think this policy was implemented with the best intentions on the day, at some point we need to look at whether it has worked or failed. When you have over half a million tonnes of ore and bulk produce going on the road while there is a perfectly good rail line sitting there under capacity, that is evidence which perfectly demonstrates that these policies are not working. It is time to go back to the drawing board to see what does work and how we can make more money for the taxpayer from owning these assets.

At the moment it is causing all sorts of perverse outcomes. In Mount Isa we have a dam that was given to the state government by the mines which built it and we have a body which is saying, 'Let's recover the cost of capital on that dam that we never built, would never own and would never pay for. Let's cover the pretend cost of capital and make the Mount Isa ratepayers and Mount Isa Mines pay for that pretend cost of capital.' It is provisioning all these perverse outcomes that do not make sense and, sadly, are not commercial in anyone's terms.

It has got to the point now where it is producing safety risks on the road. It is tearing up the roads. We are now seeing slow down signs on the road where the only slow down signs were for the rail line. The way this has been managed is a total failure. It is time to listen to the north-west infrastructure group which I think can offer some constructive input. If the government does not take notice of the advice from that group and take the opportunity to do something to make these assets work for the people of Queensland, then we should not bother owning them. There is no point to it. I hope that is never the case, but something needs to be done desperately. If we are to continue to own these assets, we need to make them work for the people of Queensland.

### ***Backing Queensland Jobs***

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.42 pm): Backing Queensland jobs is just what Labor in government does. As a candidate three years ago I stood on many doorsteps and had many phone conversations with people in my community hurting from the cruel LNP cuts under the Newman-Nicholls government—conversations with bridled hurt, frustration, sadness and humiliation; conversations that are easily remembered very vividly and which drive me every day to be part of a better government.

We back people in while those opposite cut, sell and sack. Our procurement strategy, *Backing Queensland Jobs*, will see the framework for our government—a significant purchaser of goods and services—to create jobs and build local economies. This is a fundamental game changer and will reshape the way that our government does business. With the guiding principle of putting

Queenslanders first, the government will ensure that local suppliers, manufacturers and service providers are prioritised for government work. We will support local businesses and this will create local jobs.

When we say 'local' we mean local: businesses which maintain a workforce within 125 kilometres of where the work is required will be given a bonus weighting of up to 30 per cent in all tender assessments, expanding to the local region and then broader Queensland if a supplier is not available. We will ensure that at least one local or regional supplier is invited to tender or quote for every procurement opportunity. This is about levelling the playing field so local businesses, particularly our local small businesses, can get involved in government procurement. It is something my local small businesses have been calling out for, and it is something that I am very proud to be a part of.

This will build upon the 94,500 new jobs that have been created under our economic plan since elected in January 2015. The Newman-Nicholls government had no new ideas and no job security, and Queensland had no future under the LNP. It is little wonder there was an outright rejection of the LNP in my community at the last election. The Palaszczuk Labor government knows that there is no better source of hope and opportunity than a job, but we also know that there is pressure on families. Our government is committing \$100 million a week to provide rebates and concessions to help those who are doing it the toughest with their household bills including electricity and public transport.

Under those opposite we experienced the pain of a 43 per cent electricity price hike, we saw 14,000 public servants lose their jobs, we saw attacks on our public hospitals and health services, and we saw programs that support, train and educate those who need it most and TAFEs ripped apart. Under their counterparts in Canberra we have seen penalty rates callously slashed, \$100,000 university degrees and community legal centres having to fight to maintain their funding. These are not just the actions of bad Liberal-National governments. These are the actions of Liberal-National governments doing what they fundamentally believe in. This Palaszczuk Labor government will ensure that Queenslanders always come first.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): The time for matters of public interest has expired.

## BUILDING INDUSTRY FAIRNESS (SECURITY OF PAYMENT) BILL

### Message from Deputy Governor



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (3.46 pm): I present a message from the Deputy Governor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): The message from the Deputy Governor recommends the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

BUILDING INDUSTRY FAIRNESS (SECURITY OF PAYMENT) BILL 2017

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, CATHERINE ENA HOLMES, Deputy Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intitled—

A Bill for an Act to provide for the security of payment in the building and construction industry by providing for effective, efficient, and fair processes for securing payment, and to amend this Act, the Building Act 1975, the Judicial Review Act 1991, the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 and the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004 and the Subcontractors' Charges Act 1974

(sgd)

DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Date: 22 AUG 2017

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 22 August 2017, from the Deputy Governor recommending the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill 2017 [[13993](#)].

### Introduction

**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (3.46 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the security of payment in the building and construction industry by providing for effective, efficient, and fair processes for securing payment, and to amend this act, the Building Act 1975, the Judicial Review Act 1991, the Plumbing and Drainage Act

2002 and the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004 and the Subcontractors' Charges Act 1974. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Public Works and Utilities Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill 2017 [[1394](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill 2017, explanatory notes [[1395](#)].

I am proud to rise today to present this bill to the House. This is an historic bill that will usher in an era of fairness in the building and construction industry that we have never seen before in this state or in this nation.

The central tenet of this bill is one that I and my colleagues on this side of the House feel very strongly about: if you do the work you should get paid. For far too long subcontractors have suffered an unreasonably high level of risk and burden of financial loss associated with the building and construction industry. The majority of the risk in a \$44 billion industry has been placed on the shoulders of those who have the least power, and the result has been a disaster for small and medium sized subcontracting businesses. Non-payment has busted apart families. It has made people homeless. It has been a mental health disaster.

It has been put to me that this is just the way the industry is and that there is no point in trying to change it. I am not someone who is willing to accept something just because that is the way it has always been. When I consulted on this issue across the state I heard too many stories about the strain that late payment is placing on subcontractors and the devastation that financial loss associated with non-payment causes. This is a very real issue that is affecting far too many Queenslanders. In just the last week we have seen two more construction industry insolvencies on the Gold Coast that have left subcontractors out in the cold.

It is clear that what would normally be considered poor business practice has become a standard operating model for some licensees in the industry. Higher contractors often delay or do not make payments to subcontractors in order to supplement their own cash flow, offset the costs of other projects or to siphon off funds for their own personal benefit. Builders who do the right thing are forced to compete with rogue players who do not pay their subcontractors. Our subcontractors and their families deserve better than this. Queensland's builders deserve better than this.

The bill will establish a framework for project bank accounts for both government and private sector building and construction projects. Project bank accounts are trust accounts where progress payments, retention moneys and disputed funds will be safely held in trust for the subcontractor. A project bank account will consist of three trust accounts: a general trust account for the management of progress payments; a retention account for amounts held as retention; and a disputed funds account for amounts that are the subject of a payment dispute.

The bill will require a head contractor to establish a PBA for a construction contract within 10 days of entering into the first subcontract. There will also be penalties for failure to comply with the project bank account requirements. For example, it will be an offence if a head contractor fails to open a PBA when required or if a principal fails to place money into a PBA.

One of the most important things about a PBA is that, in the event of head contractor insolvency, money in the PBA will be protected from other creditors. This means that progress payments in the PBA are protected, retention moneys in the PBA are protected and payments in dispute in the PBA are protected. PBAs will initially apply to government building and construction projects between \$1 million and \$10 million, excluding engineering projects tendered, from 1 January 2018. PBAs will then be rolled out to the private sector for building and construction projects valued at \$1 million or more, again excluding engineering projects. We have listened to industry and under our new laws we will also have the ability to expand PBAs down beyond the first tier of subcontractors to protect those subcontractors and suppliers further down the contractual chain.

The PBA provisions are supported by a range of strong measures to help make a progress claim easier to make and to deter poor behaviour. We will also be making the claims process much easier. A payment schedule will be required first time every time and we are removing the second chance payment schedule. Also to simplify the claims process, the bill provides that additional reasons cannot be provided for a complex claim—claims of \$750,000 or more. The bill will also establish tough new penalties for people who fail to comply with an adjudication decision. To improve the behaviour of parties to the adjudication process, the bill also provides that the adjudicator must consider the conduct of the parties when making a decision about fees and expenses.

The bill repeals the Subcontractors' Charges Act 1974 and replaces it with a chapter that modernises the provisions that are in the current act. To provide more information to the subcontractor about the likelihood of payment, the bill also provides that the higher contractor must notify the subcontractor about whether they accept liability to pay, in whole, in part, or not at all. Failure to do so will also be an offence.

The bill will restore tougher minimum financial requirements. This provides the Queensland Building and Construction Commission with an insight into a company's financial position and allows it to act on any potential problems. The bill provides that a regulation may prescribe increased financial reporting by QBCC contractor licensees.

The bill also increases penalties for acting unlicensed under the QBCC Act. The current offence provisions attract a maximum penalty of 250 penalty units. Amendments to the QBCC Act in the bill will provide for a graduated penalty regime, which includes:

- first offence—maximum 250 penalty units
- second offence—maximum 300 penalty units
- third and subsequent offences—maximum 350 penalty units or one year imprisonment.

The bill also provides a penalty for undertaking reckless building work that results in significant financial loss because the person deliberately avoids complying with, or failing to comply with, the contract.

An important amendment in the bill is increased rigour around the 'excluded individual' provisions so that a person who was involved in a company failure in other jurisdictions, or who was the director of a company up to two years prior to a failure, will be excluded from obtaining a QBCC licence. Also the definition 'influential person' in the bill is intended to capture a person in a position to substantially influence or control the company's affairs but who is not a director or secretary of the company. In short, our new laws will allow a ban on anyone who has been secretly involved in running a construction company that goes bankrupt or has its building licence revoked.

Anyone who receives a ban under these new laws will face major penalties if they try to run another building company, either in their own name or by, once again, giving secret directions from behind the scenes. The new regime will allow someone to be declared an 'influential person' even if they have no obvious paid role in a company or even if they are given a job title which is a disguise designed to provide false reassurance that the person is not actually in charge. As I said in the House this morning, people should not be running a dud business under their nanna's name or under anyone else's name. They should not get away with running under the radar. Lumping others with their debts, deliberately sinking their old company and then slinking away to a new business is disgraceful, base behaviour and it is a low act.

Retentions have been a consistent frustration for subcontractors. Too often they are blind to the time frames for accessing retentions, especially for early stage trades. In order that subcontractors are aware of the end of the defects liability period, and the right to receive retention money, the bill provides that a head contractor must notify all subcontractors in the contractual chain about the start and the end of the defects liability period, the amount of retention money due to be paid and the proposed date of payment.

Addressing security of payment in the building and construction industry will deliver economic returns through reduced project delays, fewer disruptions and disputes, the subcontractors having more money to invest in their businesses and, importantly, jobs growth. I have no doubt that it will also see less divorce, less mental illness and less of the other devastating impacts that we are currently seeing in the industry. These are reforms whose time has come. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (3.56 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 Public Works and Utilities Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Public Works and Utilities Committee

# HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS BILL

## Introduction

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.56 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the establishment, administration and oversight of entities to hold and manage property for particular objects to benefit public health in Queensland, and to amend this act, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987 and the Fair Work (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Provisions Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disabilities Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Hospital Foundations Bill 2017 [[1396](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Hospital Foundations Bill 2017, explanatory notes [[1397](#)].

This bill will ensure the continuing success of hospital foundations in Queensland to support local health services and improve health outcomes for Queenslanders generally. The bill also amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to support Queensland's industrial cannabis industry.

Hospital foundations play a vital role in Queensland's public health system. Over the past 35 years they have supported patients and staff at public hospitals. They raise funds to improve facilities, support educational and training opportunities for staff, fund research, and support the health and wellbeing of communities. In 2015-16 alone, foundations raised over \$70 million for public hospital and health services.

Foundations also work closely with their local communities to provide outcomes at the grassroots. The Ipswich Hospital Foundation has established a wig library for patients who have lost their hair due to various health treatments. The Townsville Hospital Foundation is helping redevelop the Townsville Hospital children's ward. The Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation has contributed \$1.6 million to an innovative integrated electronic medical record and a patient television system. The Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Foundation supports and encourages staff by investing in awards such as the Sir Ian McFarlane Awards for Excellence in Nursing Clinical Practice.

Foundations are driven largely by volunteer local community members, with an estimated volunteer workforce of around 4,000 people. To ensure that foundations can continue this important work without unnecessary red tape, foundations need a legislative framework that reflects their work and current operational needs. The bill achieves this by replacing the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982 with contemporary legislation.

We have removed unnecessary prescription and streamlined the structure and operation of foundations while ensuring appropriate oversight of foundations. Foundations will continue to be established as statutory bodies, with each required to have a board as its governing body. These boards must comprise at least six members nominated by the minister and one person who is a hospital and health service board member. To ensure business continuity for foundations if a board member's successor has not been appointed by the end of the member's five-year term, the current member can continue to hold office until a successor is appointed.

The Hospitals Foundations Act has not undergone a substantial review since it was introduced in 1982. The language in the act is unclear in parts and does not reflect modern financial transactions. The bill addresses this by updating the drafting of provisions relating to financial transactions to provide foundations with the operational flexibility they need to manage their day-to-day operations and finances. The minister and Treasurer will maintain appropriate oversight of higher risk financial transactions.

The bill also gives the minister greater power where there are concerns about a foundation's governance or financial viability. Foundation boards must notify the minister of a matter that raises significant concern about a foundation's financial viability, administration or management. Regardless of whether a notice has been given, the minister may also request information or documents if the minister has a concern about the foundation's financial viability or its administration or management. In

serious cases the minister may recommend that the Governor in Council remove all members of a foundation's board and appoint an administrator to manage the foundation. This power can only be exercised where it would be in the public interest to do so.

The bill also includes amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986. The Australia and New Zealand Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation recently agreed that hemp seed may be sold as food or used as an ingredient in a food for sale in Australia; however, the Drugs Misuse Act prohibits industrial cannabis being grown as food. Without amendments, Queensland industry will not be able to grow industrial cannabis seed for use in hemp seed foods and would instead need to import seed from interstate or overseas. Queensland's industrial cannabis industry is small and has traditionally focused on research into new varieties and fibre production; however, there is a large and growing global market for hemp seed foods. In recent years hemp based foods have emerged as superfoods in the health and wellness food category in North American and European markets. They are likely to attract similar interest in Australia. Hemp seeds come from the cannabis plant and they have extremely low levels of tetrahydrocannabinol, THC, which is the drug component of cannabis that causes psychoactive effects. Food Standards Australia New Zealand has recognised that low-THC hemp seed foods contain protein, dietary fibre and polyunsaturated fatty acids, particularly omega-3 fatty acids, which are recognised as being healthy. Hemp products come primarily as seeds, oils and protein powders. The amendments will open up the food export market to industry.

An August 2016 report from international technology research and advisory company Technavio estimated that the global market for hemp based foods was in the vicinity of \$215 million. They forecast growth at 20 per cent per annum during the 2016 to 2020 period. The amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act will ensure that Queensland can be part of this growth industry. The bill will simplify the licensing criteria for growers while tightening the regulatory control of researchers who can grow high-THC varieties. The bill will create a single type of researcher licence. People applying for a researcher licence will be required to submit a plan outlining proposed risk management strategies, including the supervision of contracted growers. The bill will allow licensed seed handlers to wholesale viable seed for making hemp seed foods. The seed handler licence will also replace the existing authorisation of denaturers and recognition of planting seed suppliers.

The amendments will also provide more flexible options for responding to breaches of the Drugs Misuse Act. Specific regulatory offences are provided for a breach of record keeping or notification requirements or a licence condition. Inspectors will be able to issue a compliance notice, and the bill will make it an offence to fail to comply with a compliance notice. The bill will also ensure that breach of a licence condition is a ground for cancelling or suspending a licence.

Queensland has a world-class public health system. Hospital foundations play an important role in supporting our public hospitals and health services, raising money to fund lifesaving research, buy equipment, support staff development opportunities and improve facilities. I pay tribute to the outstanding work that they do across Queensland. This bill will give foundations a modern, streamlined legislative framework within which they can continue their important work for the benefit of patients, staff and the Queensland community. I commend the bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (4.05 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, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

## MINERAL, WATER AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (4.05 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the Water Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 [[1398](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [[1399](#)].

This bill amends a number of resources acts to implement recommendations from the independent review of the GasFields Commission Queensland and to improve the operation of the legislation. It also improves transparency and operational flexibility in the water planning framework. The independent review of the GasFields Commission Queensland made a number of recommendations to improve the statutory negotiation and dispute resolution processes for conduct and compensation agreements, CCAs, and make-good agreements, MGAs. This bill proposes to amend the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 and the Water Act 2000 to implement recommendations 4, 7, 8 and 9 of the review.

The proposed amendments will improve the statutory processes that landholders and resource authority holders may use to resolve disputes that arise in the negotiation of these agreements. At the same time, it will preserve the pathway for the parties to seek a binding independent determination where agreement cannot be reached. The amendments:

- remove department run conferences as an alternative dispute resolution option for the statutory negotiation process;
- provide that the Land Court or a prescribed alternative dispute resolution institute can determine the type of alternative dispute resolution and the alternative dispute resolution practitioner where the parties cannot agree;
- require the resource authority holder to pay the costs of the alternative dispute resolution practitioner, regardless of who issues the alternative dispute resolution election notice;
- establish arbitration as an alternative to going to the Land Court if a CCA or make-good agreement has not been agreed;
- ensure a resource authority holder remains liable to compensate a landholder for their professional fees, even in the circumstance where negotiations do not result in an agreement;
- expand reasonable and necessary professional fees to include the cost of an agronomist to assist in evaluating the impact of the proposed activities on the landholder's land; and
- expand the Land Court's jurisdiction to include the power to determine the appropriate level of professional fees.

These changes have been broadly supported by our stakeholders. A number of further amendments are proposed to enhance the operation of the resources acts, including:

- streamlining processes for matters that are referred to the Land Court and removing redundant minor penalties and associated Land Court appeals under the Mineral Resources Act 1989;
- clarifying the activities that can be undertaken on an access under the Mineral Resources Act 1989;
- providing a process to add restricted land to the area of a mining lease application or existing mining lease at any time whilst maintaining the requirement for landholder consent;
- replacing the reserve owner consent for entry under section 386V of the Mineral Resources Act 1989 with a more appropriate power to condition entry;
- removing unnecessary prescription for reporting under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and duplicative reporting requirements under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004;
- providing a head of power to apply confidentiality periods for reports submitted under the Mineral Resources Act 1989;

- providing the ability for coalmining projects to apply for an exploration permit for coal outside of the usual tendering process in limited circumstances;
- confirming that the safety provisions in the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 apply to the Petroleum Act 1923 and providing greater flexibility around when a petroleum facility licence can be made;
- expanding who a water observation bore can be transferred to prior to its decommissioning;
- ensuring that the safety provisions for the industry developed overlapping tenure framework for coal and coal seam gas operate as intended; and
- minor and consequential amendments to improve administration, modernise the drafting style and correct technical errors.

With regard to amendments to the Water Act 2000, this bill reaffirms the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy recently released by my cabinet colleague the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection. Climate change has the potential to affect water flows and levels, flood risk, water demand and usage behaviours, and water security. The bill introduces amendments to clarify and strengthen the way Queensland's water planning framework considers the effects of climate change by requiring the minister to consider the effects of climate change on water availability and water use practices. The bill will also enhance the water planning process by recognising the cultural values of water resources to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders. The explicit recognition of cultural outcomes and water plans will provide additional protection of the existing rights to take water for traditional and cultural use and existing mechanisms to reserve water for economic development opportunities that benefit Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders.

The bill provides temporary access to water that has been reserved for strategic water projects while those projects are in their approvals or planning phase or while those projects are not being progressed. The amendments support the productive use of unutilised allocations by releasing them for up to three years for other economic opportunities. The bill strengthens the water market by allowing water allocations to be traded multiple times per water year which empowers market participants wanting to make the best use of short-term flow events. The amendments also provide for collection and publication of price data for seasonal water trades which is important for meeting Queensland's national commitment to increasing the efficiency of water use, leading to greater certainty for investment and productivity. As a measure to mitigate potential risks, the bill reinstates a layer of protection provided by water plans when managing the capture and storage of contaminated agricultural water. This is now considered important as growth in the take of this type of water is a real possibility which may impact on water security for other users.

The bill also addresses the need for a rapid process to take appropriate actions to deal with certain urgent water quality incidents which currently can be hindered by lengthy processes to amend water planning instruments. New powers would allow direction to be given for actions that are not consistent with a planning instrument but are necessary to prevent or remedy a serious water quality issue. The powers would be used in exceptional circumstances only and would take into account potential impacts on critical water supplies and the water security of water entitlement holders. For example, in a situation where a cyclone or intense rainfall event has led to raised concentrations of a contaminant in a dam or weir, the power could be used to allow water to be released from storage in order to facilitate dilution. The bill also includes minor technical amendments to provide increased transparency and operational efficiencies in the Water Act. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (4.13 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### Referral to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.

## TOW TRUCK AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (4.13 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Tow Truck Act 1973, the Tow Truck Regulation 2009, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Public Works and Utilities Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 [[1400](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [[1401](#)].

It is with pleasure that I rise today to introduce the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 which will implement all of the recommendations made by former District Court judge Mr Michael Forde from the independent investigation into the towing industry. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr Forde for undertaking the review and delivering his investigation report ahead of the deadline. The report was officially presented to me on 6 August 2017, making 22 recommendations to reform the towing industry for the removal of vehicles from private property and outlining eight matters for consideration regarding broader issues in the tow truck legislation. The report sets out the framework to reform the towing industry and this bill begins the process of delivering that reform.

As recommended in the report, the bill requires the licensing of tow trucks performing private property towing in regulated areas and the accreditation of the tow truck driver and any assistant. Bringing private property towing into the tow truck licensing and accreditation scheme will introduce suitability and conduct requirements for tow truck operators, drivers and assistants. It will also require minimum standards for tow trucks to ensure they are safe and well maintained and requirements for the business premises and holding yards to ensure they are safe and secure. Anyone operating an unlicensed tow truck or operating without accreditation will face increased penalties under the changes in the bill. For example, the fine for operating an unlicensed tow truck will be six times higher than the current fine of \$252. The report also recommended that fees for private property towing be regulated by capping charges and prohibiting a range of fees. The bill introduces maximum fees of \$250 for a standard private property tow, including three-day storage, \$150 for the on-site release of a vehicle at private property and \$25 per day for storage in excess of three days. These maximum fees will put a stop to the exploitation of motorists by rogue operators. Queensland is the first state to cap the fees for private property towing. Additionally, to ensure rogue operators do not get around the fee caps to make up the difference by charging for incidental services, the bill also prohibits charging separate fees for things like fuel and administration.

The bill also implements the report's recommendations that towing operators must have an occupier consent demonstrating their arrangement with the private property occupier to remove vehicles and must notify the police as soon as practicable after removing a vehicle. Vehicles towed from private property may only be taken by the most direct route to the towing operator's nearest holding yard. These requirements will increase the accountability and transparency of private property towing. As recommended in the report, the bill introduces conduct requirements on those performing private property towing to ensure these practices are fair and reasonable. Towing operators and drivers will have to take reasonable steps to locate the driver before loading the vehicle and if the driver is found before the vehicle is fully loaded must release the vehicle at no charge. The bill will also prohibit inappropriate conduct such as intimidating, abusive or insulting behaviour. Importantly, the bill also implements the recommendations to safeguard motorists' privacy—a key issue of concern for motorists. The bill will restrict the disclosure of information about a vehicle towed from private property and protect the vehicle owner and driver's personal information.

The report also highlighted the need to minimise regulatory burden where possible and suggested issuing tow truck licences and accreditations for more than one year. The bill implements this by allowing licences and accreditations to be issued for one to five years. This will create flexibility in the scheme without compromising the suitability checks of licences and accreditation holders. A monitoring process will be implemented to ensure towing operators remain suitable to hold a licence, with actions available to cancel the authority if appropriate. The bill also includes amendments to ensure a penalty regime that deters noncompliance with the licensing scheme and the suitability of towing

operators. Technical and clarifying amendments are also included in the bill to ensure the effective implementation of the towing industry reforms. It is proposed to commence this legislation to reform the towing industry on 1 December 2017, subject to the consideration of this House. This will ensure the changes are introduced quickly while allowing government and industry sufficient time to prepare.

In addition to the towing industry reforms, the bill also proposes changes to ensure young drivers are accountable for their driving behaviour. Changes made by the Palaszczuk government to move 17-year-olds into the youth justice system would have some consequential effects for young drivers. As members of the House know, the Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2017, which will commence on 12 November 2017, will increase the upper age of a child from 16 to 17 years. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General has been working closely with stakeholders in preparation for the commencement of the act.

During the process, careful consideration has been given to the operational impacts of the act. These amendments will ensure that 17-year-olds who are eligible for a P1 provisional licence continue to be held accountable for their driving behaviour. The amendments will preserve the current rule making 17-year-olds liable for a mandatory disqualification if they commit a serious driving offence. They will also be subject to enforcement action for the recovery of unpaid fines and subject to the demerit points system for relevant offences. The need for these amendments became clear during the detailed planning for transitioning 17-year-olds to the youth justice system.

Finally, the bill introduces amendments to provide flexibility for road toll operators to issue a single demand notice for multiple unpaid tolls and reduce the fees payable by toll road users. This will provide customers with a clear record of outstanding debt and a simpler and more streamlined approach to paying outstanding tolls while lowering fees for motorists. This initiative is the result of collaboration between the state government, Transurban Queensland and the Brisbane City Council, with the shared goal of reducing the fee burden on Queensland motorists and providing a fairer tolling system.

This bill demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment to delivering a better transport system for Queenslanders and to ensuring the integrity of our regulatory frameworks. The bill begins the much needed process of overhauling the towing industry, promotes road safety by ensuring our young drivers are accountable for their actions and provides a more efficient and fairer tolling system. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (4.21 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 Public Works and Utilities Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Public Works and Utilities Committee.

## WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Message from Deputy Governor

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (4.22 pm): I present a message from the Deputy Governor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): The message from the Deputy Governor recommends the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

## MESSAGE

## WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, CATHERINE ENA HOLMES, Deputy Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act to amend the Electrical Safety Act 2002, the Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011, the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 for particular purposes

## DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Date: 22 AUG 2017

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 22 August 2017, from the Deputy Governor recommending the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 [[1402](#)].

### Introduction

**Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (4.22 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Electrical Safety Act 2002, the Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011, the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 [[1403](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [[1404](#)].

The Palaszczuk government is today introducing significant changes to improve and strengthen workplace health and safety laws in Queensland. While in recent years there has been an overall reduction in serious work related injury rates in Queensland, in 2016 we experienced two terrible workplace tragedies: at Dreamworld, where four people lost their lives on the Thunder River Rapids Ride; and at Eagle Farm, where two workers were crushed when a precast concrete slab toppled over. Those tragedies highlighted the need to ensure Queensland's work health and safety framework is robust, operates as an efficient deterrent to noncompliance, and is responsive to best practice emerging issues. To address this, the government announced a best practice review of work health and safety laws, including how the laws are administered and enforced by Workplace Health and Safety Queensland. An independent reviewer, Mr Tim Lyons, was appointed to carry out the review, and he was supported by a tripartite reference group including representatives from unions and employer associations. The review process included a discussion paper, submissions from interested parties, and extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

I am pleased to advise that the government has considered the report provided by the review, and the bill I am introducing today will give effect to substantial legislative recommendations made by the reviewer in his final report. Workplace health and safety has been front and centre throughout my entire working life. From very early on, I understood the severe impact that injuries sustained in the workplace can have on families, including my own. My father almost lost his arm in a serious workplace incident while working in a tannery. Due to the injuries he sustained, he was never able to work again. This had significant impacts on our family, but I know that we are not alone. There are many Queensland families who have been similarly impacted when a loved one has suffered injury in the workplace.

Throughout my union career, I worked hard to improve safety in Queensland workplaces. I am proud, as the state's industrial relations minister, to be acting to implement the important recommendations contained in this report. The most significant of these recommendations, I believe, is the introduction of the new offence of industrial manslaughter. This bill creates two new offences: a senior officer offence and a corporate offence, where conduct negligently causes the death of a worker. The existing standard for criminal negligence is proposed to be applied, with a maximum penalty for an individual of 20 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of 100,000 penalty units or \$10 million for a body corporate. For consistency, it is also proposed that mirror offences be included in the Electrical Safety Act 2002 and the Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011.

Introducing these new offences for industrial manslaughter will send a clear message about societal expectations around safety in the workplace. It is appropriate to include these new offences in the act as it provides a framework for imputing a person's conduct to a corporate entity. In the past, there has been no capacity to ensure that those at the top are responsible for keeping their workplaces safe. However, with these amendments the message is clear: workplace health and safety standards should be a No. 1 priority for senior officers whose decisions can have catastrophic impacts on the safety of workers.

The bill also proposes to transfer jurisdiction for the review of certain decisions from the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. These proposals expand the jurisdiction of the commission to hear and determine certain categories of disputes, such as disputes regarding a work health and safety issue resolution process or cease-work matters. To encourage disputes to be resolved between the parties at the workplace, the bill prescribes that disputes cannot be lodged with the commission until 24 hours after an inspector has been requested to assist with a dispute. The commission will be able to exercise all its powers in settling referred disputes and will have the power to dismiss a matter without conducting a hearing or conference where it believes the matter is frivolous, vexatious or lacks substance.

The bill also proposes to allow work health and safety inspectors to make a determination on matters where workplace health and safety right-of-entry issues cannot be resolved. This would occur after reasonable efforts have been made by the relevant parties to resolve the dispute. Allowing inspectors to make a determination on these matters supports resolution of right of entry for work health and safety matters as quickly as possible at the workplace and possibly without the need to escalate matters to the commission.

The prosecution function for work health and safety laws is an essential part of the enforcement framework. While education and awareness about work health and safety are extremely important and there are several enforcement tools open to inspectors to tackle noncompliance, ultimately there are times when prosecution is warranted. The bill proposes to establish an independent statutory office for work health and safety prosecutions. This would be achieved by transferring the current functions of the regulator to conduct and defend proceedings under the act to the new workplace health and safety prosecutor. Prosecution decision for category 1 offences and industrial manslaughter by the workplace health and safety prosecutor will still be subject to review by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

I would like briefly to touch on other aspects of the bill. These include: restoring the status of codes of practice as they existed under the former Workplace Health and Safety Act; prohibiting enforceable undertakings being accepted for contraventions, or alleged contraventions, of the act that involve a fatality; enhancing the role of health and safety representatives in the workplace, including mandatory training for new representatives within six months of being elected to the role, with refresher training to be undertaken at three-yearly intervals; and, finally, encouraging a person conducting a business or undertaking to appoint a workplace health and safety officer to provide advice on managing hazards and risks in the workplace.

Appointment of a workplace health and safety officer will be optional so employers can assess the appropriateness of having a person in this role at their workplace. Although a workplace health and safety officer or health and safety representative on a worksite does not exclude the employer's liability to provide a safe workplace, it can be used by an employer as 'admissible' but not 'conclusive' evidence in a proceeding against a PCBU under the Workplace Health and Safety Act.

Preventing work related fatalities and injuries is something that is universally supported. We all believe in being able to go to work and returning home safely. Similarly, members of the public should not be exposed to risks to their health and safety as a result of the way a person conducts their business or undertaking. When a work related fatality occurs, there are immediate ramifications for families, friends, co-workers and witnesses to the incident. I met with some of the families of the victims of the Eagle Farm tragedy. I spent time listening to their stories. I cannot imagine the grief they experienced. This has only strengthened my and this government's resolve to introduce reforms aimed at creating safe workplaces. I would again like to convey my deepest sympathies to the families and other people who were affected by the tragedies at Dreamworld and Eagle Farm last year and any other recent tragedies in the workplace. Sadly, there have been other work related fatalities in Queensland. In introducing this bill the government is saying that one work related death is too many. We must always aim high and work together to prevent loss of life in our workplaces. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (4.31 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 Finance and Administration Committee


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.

## TRADING (ALLOWABLE HOURS) AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 25 May (see p. 1455), on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.32 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. I note that the committee could not agree to pass this bill. The government members of the Finance and Administration Committee recommended changes to the bill. As soon as this bill was brought before the House I received correspondence from two of the major motor dealers in my electorate: Bill Hull Car Centre and Ken Mills Toyota. Jacqui Trace of Bill Hull Car Centre wrote to me and said—

Deb, we are concerned about the recommendations from the trading hours review that will directly impact our business.

It goes on—

The change to trading hours will not increase business. The same number of vehicles will be spread over a 7-day period, having a direct impact on our operating costs, which will ultimately impact the consumer.

Ken Mills of Ken Mills Toyota wrote to me and said—

Most rural retailers would oppose the proposed Sunday trading. While it may work for tourism type business, it is our feeling that it would be detrimental to most business types.

The Labor government has no idea in this space. It brought flawed legislation before this House that would have significantly impacted the retailers in the motor vehicle, caravan, motorcycle and farm machinery sector. It took the LNP opposition to voice serious concerns about the potential negative outcomes for this industry to ensure the exclusion of motor and caravan dealers from the legislation. It took months of active campaigning by the Motor Trades Association and a large volume of submissions from business owners just like Jacqui Trace and Ken Mills to try to have their voices heard by this Labor government. I congratulate all these groups and small business owners on their work, but it should never have been necessary in the first place. Why waste everyone's time? Why would the Labor government put these businesses through the stress and worry? It simply does not make sense.


The legislation that sits before the House that the committee had an opportunity to look at will still negatively impact many other small businesses and independent retailers across rural and regional Queensland in particular. Let me talk about IGA Kingaroy and Yarraman owner John Hyslop and Kilcoy IGA owner Grant Prince, who explained to me that this bill will reduce employment in regional Queensland. This is a fact that they, the business owners themselves, have observed from the viewpoint of independent retailers following deregulation of trading hours in South-East Queensland. I have received correspondence and met with Roz White from White's IGA Maroochydore. She wrote to me expressing opposition to the bill. She explained that small independent retailers generate hundreds of millions of dollars into the Queensland economy, but the government has ignored evidence that deregulation leads to less employment.

Let us not forget the negative impact this bill will have on small hardware stores—stores like the great Aird's Hardware in the main street in Nanango owned by dedicated, passionate locals Steve and Robert Aird. Previously large hardware businesses have been restricted to operating from 9 am on a Sunday, while smaller independent operators could open earlier if desired. Hardware Australia has pointed out that this legislation presumes that allowing small hardware businesses to open from 6 am will generate more sales. This is unproven and generally unfair. The cost to these small businesses would be additional wages and staff required to work the longer hours which ultimately could force small hardware stores to close on Sundays due to it simply being unviable. I also quote from a statement from the MGA Independent Retailers group that states—

Regional Queensland does not want a Brisbane-based solution forced upon them. They are much more concerned about maintaining real competition, real choice and keeping local jobs.

I understand that the minister has now circulated some 32 amendments to try to fix and tidy up her mess. She should have done that the first time and saved everyone a whole lot of time, money and heartache. It is another embarrassment from another failed minister of this Palaszczuk government who espoused the virtues of these reforms but could not get the committee's support for the bill. The minister claims that the amendments implement important reform measures to support up to an additional 1,000 full-time-equivalent jobs. One would have to ask if those amendments moved today by the minister were so great why are they only being rushed in as part of a last-minute attempt by the minister to save face?

I again note that the committee could not agree to pass this bill as it sat before them. Even government members could not agree to the changes to their own bill. I support the local motor dealers that I have spoken about—Jacqui Trace, a hardworking local businesswoman in the town of Kingaroy, and Ken Mills, a hardworking local businessman and employer of so many people in the townships of Mundubbera, Kingaroy and also the Sunny Coast. These are people who are voicing their concerns on behalf of rural and regional Queensland. It is embarrassing that this Labor government needs to be forced into the changes because of the hard work of the LNP opposition. I congratulate and thank all of my colleagues on this side of the House for fighting so hard for these small businesses who represent the backbone of rural and regional Queensland.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.38 pm): I rise to speak on the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. I was looking back to when members last spoke on this bill, which was in May. Now we are in August, about three months down the track. I note that 32 amendments have been tabled to the legislation. It is disappointing that those amendments were not included in the original bill.

The primary aim of the bill is to extend the non-exempt shop trading hours and to standardise the trading hours for Sundays and public holidays across Queensland. I look forward to hearing the minister outline how the 32 latest amendments will alleviate the many concerns raised by small businesses in regional areas. I am disappointed at the manner in which the government has made an eleventh hour presentation of the amendments. Small business owners are busy running their businesses on a day-to-day basis. They do not have time to keep track of the toing and froing of government and the implications that these changes may have for their businesses. Nor do they have time to seek out the secret deals that the government has made with the crossbenchers, which were reported today in the *Courier-Mail*.

In regional Queensland communities, there are many independent retail businesses that many members in this parliament may never have the opportunity to visit to meet the staff or to step inside and make a purchase. I will be interested to hear the government's response to Jos de Bruin, the CEO of MGA Independent Retailers who said about the legislation—

But the Palaszczuk Government has once again ignored the needs of small businesses. This is just another step in the radical trading hours' changes promised by a Government determined to promote the interests of big businesses in Queensland, over the desperate needs of smaller businesses who are struggling to survive in the retail industry. The Government has ... ignore the cries of small businesses who serve the community, provide jobs and who have for years contributed to the economic well-being of Queensland.


There are many small businesses in my electorate, such as the IGAs in Miles, Roma, Charleville, St George and Chinchilla, the SPAR supermarket in Injune and the FoodWorks stores at Mitchell, Dirranbandi, Roma, Miles, Tara, Thargomindah, Quilpie, Dalby or St George, just to mention a few family run small businesses that my constituents access on a daily basis. Those are the businesses that provide a lot of jobs in the communities. It is interesting to note that the FoodWorks in St George has been owned by the Webster family for more than 50 years. It is a very hardworking family run small business.

Recently I had the pleasure of dropping into the Handistore at St George. It was a very big weekend in St George for locals and visitors with the St George races. I was disappointed that the minister was not seen at that great country race meeting. There was also the Intrust Super Cup Rugby League game between the Burleigh Bears and the Sunshine Coast Falcons. You can imagine how busy the Handistore staff were with the influx of visitors. I hope the visitors to St George provided a welcome boost to small businesses over the weekend.

Warrego is also home to many IGA stores, such as the Mills' IGA store in Cunnamulla. The member for Burleigh and I met with Eddie Mills in Cunnamulla. That IGA is a great shop. The staff and owners make everyone feel welcome from their first step inside the store. They have been operating in Cunnamulla for more than 65 years. That is a great effort from a family run small business that has survived droughts, floods and population changes.

The IGA State Board noted that, following the deregulation of trading hours in December 2016, IGA supermarkets lost \$1 million per week in turnover. That loss in turnover meant reduced wages, which ultimately led to a reduction in employment across the network of nearly 130 jobs. Some of those jobs would have been in my electorate. Communities with IGA stores such as those in Miles, Roma, Charleville, St George, Chinchilla and others need every job, especially retail grocery jobs that many women undertake in my electorate. Often women are the backbone of small family operated supermarkets. Take a look at who is stacking the shelves and who is working on the check-out on the weekends and during the week. Nearly always, there is a large number of women doing those jobs. There are men there as well and often I find many young people, some of whom are still at school, working in those jobs so that they can get ahead.

Spar operates 72 stores in Queensland. It reported that, at the same time, they had a 25 per cent decrease in non-tobacco sales on Saturdays alone. The MGA Independent Retailers put the case on behalf of 760 Queensland independent supermarket owners and operators, which employ more than 21,000 staff. Research undertaken by Factuality research at the end of last year showed that 85 per cent of those polled were satisfied with the opening hours as they are. I ask the state government: why the changes? It does not seem to be driven by consumer sentiment. Instead of leading the way with job creation and job security for the state and regional communities, we have a state Labor government that is creating uncertainty for small businesses, particularly family owned small businesses. In Outback Queensland, the youth unemployment rate is over 50 per cent. Those young people do not need more uncertainty. They need a plan for the creation of jobs and for the support of small family run businesses that delivers. They need a better Queensland; not this type of legislation.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.44 pm): I rise to make a short contribution on the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill. In doing so, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the committee and the minister in bringing the bill to this point. It is a testament to the minister and her ability to work flexibly and negotiate with all stakeholders to get legislation through this House. It is really interesting, because this is the third time that this bill has come before the House. To my mind, the LNP seems to have three main arguments against the bill. Their first concern is one that I think is a little amusing, in that it is the cutting of red tape. Those opposite have always held themselves up to be the bastions of small business and the bastions of cutting red tape. Even now, we have seen policies released by the LNP that promise red-tape reduction, yet when we are here—

**Mr Pegg** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** Absolutely. I take the interjection from the member for Stretton. They do not deliver; that is correct. We could see significant changes to modernise and simplify trading hours right across the state. We could also ensure a sensible, balanced and modest extension to trading hours. However, those opposite are saying to us, 'No, we do not want that red tape cut. We want that red tape to stay there.' While they argue to have all of the red tape remain in place, they do not provide any evidence to support their arguments. Certainly in the statements of reservation that were made to the bill, no evidence at all was provided. John Mickel's review considered the impact on small business and employment and found that there was little evidence that the restriction of trading hours would have a material impact on the overall viability of small retail businesses, yet we are still hearing them argue that a reduction in red tape through simplification and modification is a bad thing.

I, for one, think it is quite a good thing. I think we should have systems that are less confusing. I think we should have consistency of hours across different jurisdictions. I would like to be able to visit my in-laws in Bundaberg without having to figure out the trading hours, which are entirely different to what I am used to. In Australia, other states have quite long trading hours compared to what we have in Queensland. In Victoria, you can find yourself shopping quite late into the evening, which is not something that we have here. These proposed changes do not go as far we see in a lot of other jurisdictions across Australia.

It is also amusing that this is yet another vehicle for the LNP to come into this place and have a good old union bash. They see it as an opportunity to come in here and talk down the good work that organised labour has achieved in this country, which they say is somehow a bad thing. I like the concept that business will be operating for longer and that that will provide secure employment for which I believe people should be paid penalty rates. I think that is a good thing. I do not think that is negative at all.

The final argument of the trifecta, which I think is the most amusing, is their issue with us not having done enough consultation. Time and time again in this place we are told that we are 'reviewing, not doing', yet with this bill apparently there is not enough consultation. There has been a review;

shouldn't we just do? They say, 'No, there's not been enough consultation, so we have to go back.' The LNP is not happy with what we are doing here, so we cannot move and we cannot act. We have to go back again. They have issues with there not being enough consultation.

To my mind, they seem to be the three main points that are being made by the LNP around this legislation. I am the kind of local member who likes to consult with my community. I was very excited to see an email come through to my electorate office in May that came about as a result of an IGA meeting. It was a bit of a rushed email that asked me to meet with some local IGA owners to discuss their concerns around this bill. I set down a meeting time and put it in my diary. I was ready to meet with these local business owners, but they did not show up on the day.

**Mr Williams:** We all had that.

**Ms BOYD:** I take the interjection from the member for Pumicestone. 'We all had that,' he said. I took the opportunity whilst this bill was before the House to consult with a few of my colleagues. I asked around and found a handful of MPs on this side of the House who had meetings booked and that people did not show up to or meetings that were cancelled. If there is a big drive for consultation and a large amount of concern in the community that they want heard, then it is quite disappointing to find that that opportunity was not taken up whilst being entered into with a huge amount of goodwill by those on this side of the House.


I want to give a shout-out to the Norris Motor Group in my electorate and general manager Patrick Casey. Patrick was a small business owner whom I met with while this bill was going through the committee process. The Norris Motor Group have been undertaking a huge renovation at their Brendale facility.

I met with Patrick Casey, the general manager. In March operations were underway to have a permanent building constructed to house approximately 50 staff. The showrooms have now been constructed. This is very exciting for my local community. What is more exciting is that they are looking to take on school based apprentices and more tradies on that site. That construction has been completed and the next stage of construction has commenced. That is extraordinarily exciting for our community. I thank the Motor Trades Association for their consultation with local MPs. It has been great to hear from them. It has been great to have that level of consultation with them.

I have a large number of independent retailers in my community. We do not just have Coles, Woolworths and Aldi. We have Costco up the road. I have to say that I have not ventured in and bought a membership. I think that is a little dangerous for somebody who likes to shop to the extent that I do. We have a lot of small independent retailers in my community. I thank them for the contribution they make within my community.

I assure these independent retailers that the evidence from other jurisdictions is that small businesses continue to thrive when trading hours are relaxed or totally deregulated. There are consistently high small business participation rates of 90 per cent in both regulated and deregulated states. I assure them that this has been done before and the sky is not going to fall down around them.

The LNP has serious concerns around the cutting of red tape and there not being enough consultation. They have used this as an avenue to continue to union bash. I commend the minister for the work that she has done. I wholeheartedly support the passage of her amendments through the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (4.53 pm): I rise to speak on the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill. The current situation with trading hours is flawed. It is counterproductive to make changes which have not been properly thought through. It is counterproductive when those changes are detrimental to the entire Queensland economy. By this I mean not just metropolitan Queensland but also regional Queensland. It is detrimental when it negatively impacts living standards and employment opportunities.

The very fact that even government members of the committee have recommended changes to their own bill means that it is flawed and should go back to the drawing board. I encourage government members to reconsider their position and conduct further consultation with the industries which are concerned about being negatively impacted by the bill.

The work undertaken by the task force headed by former Speaker of this House Mr John Mickel is very much appreciated. The fact that there were only two days between the release of the Mickel review report and the government's response is a fair indicator that this bill was always going to be flawed. It is a fair indicator that this bill has its genesis in something other than a genuine desire to take into account the needs of both workers and retailers.

Judging the government by what it does and not by what it says, the last 2½ years have proven that a quick response by the government is only at the direction of its puppetmasters who are either wealthy, unproductive, inner-city greenies or its union masters. The government's track record has shown that it is reluctant and indecisive when it comes to giving any sort of substantive response to any fundamental issue. In my own electorate, the contempt shown by ministers for local workers, students, families and businesses by their indecision on a number of issues is frustrating and destructive.

The government is incapable of making decisions without direction from unelected and unrepresentative unionists and activists. The only time this government is quick to introduce legislation or make a response is when it has been predetermined by the government's masters—the union movement. That is, it is when the union movement has dictated the response. It is undeniable that this bill is the result of the minister complying with the dictates of the shoppies union.

This bill aims to replace 99 specific trading hour provisions with six provisions covering all large stores in Queensland. The list of changes it seeks to introduce is extensive. For non-exempt shops it seeks to extend trading hours in South-East Queensland and regional Queensland, standardise hours for Sundays and public holidays and extend trading hours in the lead-up to Christmas. Other objectives include: removing restrictions on butchers; allowing hardware stores to open from 6 am on Sundays; allowing tourist areas access to extended trading hours; and allowing applications for special trading hours for international events, such as next year's Commonwealth Games.

It seeks to lift employment thresholds for independent retail shops from 20 to 30 employees on the floor in one shop and from 60 to 100 employees where a number of related shops operate. It seeks to create an offence for employers to require an employee to work extended trading hours unless the employee freely agrees in writing. It requires the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission to consider the impact on employees as a new criterion when deciding trading hour applications. It seeks to introduce a five-year moratorium on further trading hours applications to extend trading hours for non-exempt shops.

This bill needs to go back to the drawing board. The Mickel reference group released its report with 133 recommendations on Sunday, 12 February this year. The report stated—

The reference group considered the submissions and the outcomes of consultations at its second meeting on 25 November 2016; and considered draft recommendations on 9 December 2016.

What is more significant is that the report and recommendations were never ticked off by the reference group. More concerning is that only two days after the release of the report on 14 February, the government announced its response.

When it comes to this government it is a big ask to give it the benefit of the doubt. Judging by its actions if it looks suspicious we can be pretty certain it is suspicious. Coming up with a response to 133 recommendations only two days later is pretty suspicious. There was no proper consultation with small business. The overwhelming advice from existing business, such as independent grocers, is that the changes will actually lead to job losses and hand over more market share to big businesses.

Queensland does not have the luxury to create an environment which could lead to any more job losses. On top of this is the potential for the changes to distort market share which leads to reduced competition and higher prices for consumers. Those small businesses compete against large shopping entities such as Woolworths and Coles who have more than 200,000 union affiliated employees on their payrolls. That is what is at stake here.

It has been widely demonstrated that smaller traders cannot compete with the lower wages paid by these bigger companies under their union negotiated agreements. Long-term evidence has demonstrated that any further changes to regulated hours results in job losses and ultimately threaten the viability of many small businesses. The key finding in a report by the Griffith Business School advised that 'deregulation of trading hours shifts market share of IGA supermarkets to the major chains' and that 'this reduction in market share of independent supermarkets has a quantifiable negative impact on employment and aggregate economic activity in Queensland'. It is being played out as we speak.


In December last year the major chains were allowed an extra hour between 7 am and 8 am six days a week and an extra 3½ hours after 5.30 on Saturday evenings. Immediately following the deregulation of those hours, IGA has advised the committee—

... IGA supermarkets lost \$1 million per week in turnover. Annually this loss will amount to more than \$50m. A \$50m loss in turnover will reduce wages across the IGA Network by approximately \$5.5m (wages being paid at the rate of 11% of turnover), which will lead to a reduction in employment across the network of approximately 128 fulltime jobs (being jobs @ the rate of \$22 per hour for a 37 hour week).

The experience in Western Australia reconfirms this advice. The IGA told the committee that the union for employees of the major chains in Western Australia, the SDA, has advised that 'the major chains have not increased their level of employment in each store for at least a decade'. The IGA said—

During this time significant deregulation of trading hours took place. Notably the major chains were allowed to trade for the first time on Sundays in WA in 2012. The total number of employees in major chain stores has decreased over this period. This is the natural result that flows from automated check outs and running stores with less service ...

With three categories of retail shops, exempt shops which have unrestricted hours, non-exempt shops and independent retail shops, it is no wonder that the non-government members of the committee found difficulty with the overall expected outcomes of changes to the operating hours for the differing types of retail outlets. However, the several significant changes to current trading hours, the devastating effect on smaller retail traders, the proposed infliction of Sunday trading for car and caravan retailers and the loss of employees outside of the non-exempt retailing duopoly further impacting small business owners, leave no other option than to reject the proposed wholesale changes to the retailing sector. There is no question that the current system is too unwieldy and complicated, but the best outcome for all Queenslanders is that the minister goes back to the drawing board.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.02 pm): I rise to contribute to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017 because it is a common-sense bill that will assist many retail businesses in my region.

**Mr Costigan** interjected.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Millar): Order! First of all, the member for Mackay is not taking interjections. If the minister and the member for Whitsunday would like to have a conversation, could you please take it outside.

**Mrs GILBERT:** The retail industry across Queensland employs over 255,000 local Queenslanders, equating to 11 per cent of employment in Queensland. Queenslanders clock up \$76 billion in sales annually, generating \$9.9 billion in wages. I would like to see our retail industry be able to expand by reducing red tape and confusion that exists in the current legislation. Independent studies have projected that relaxation of trading hours could have an economic benefit of between \$200 million and \$253 million.

Businesses are always calling for a reduction in red tape to save on outlays and to simplify their ability to trade. This amendment bill will see a massive 90 specific trading hours provisions contained in over 40 pages of orders from the QIRC be replaced by just seven specific trading hours provisions. This bill simplifies and sets out clearly trading hours for public holidays and has provisions for special events. There are provisions for special trading hours applications to be made for extended trading around international events such as the Commonwealth Games to be held next year on the Gold Coast.

In my electorate there are many workers on seven-on, seven-off and 12-hour rosters. The changes to opening hours on Sundays and most public holidays allowing them to trade from 6 am Monday to Sunday will be welcomed. These changes will allow tradespeople to get their supplies to get jobs completed when they need to and to give the home handymen on shiftwork a chance to stock up. Restrictions for butcher shops, special exhibitions and trade shows have also been removed.


My electorate of Mackay is building up its tourism industry. We are on the doorstep of the Whitsundays. This bill, with the support of the National Retail Association and the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, will help to support local jobs emerging in this industry.

It is interesting to note, coming from a regional centre, that an independent survey showed that over 50 per cent of respondents coming from outside of the south-east corner agree or strongly agree that large retail shops should be the same for both Saturdays and Sundays. Where there are concerns from some regional centres, it has been decided that extended hours will not be extended to those centres that do not currently have Sunday and public holiday trading. Instead, those towns will be able to opt in to Sunday and public holiday trading with an application to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. Applications to opt in to Sunday and public holiday trading can be made by local councils and also organisations like the National Retail Association and the Queensland Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The ability for small centres to opt in and out will allow them to consider the social implications that extended trading hours would have on their community. Longer hours may impact on local sport and cultural events.

The committee reported on the opposition of the car and caravan industry to extended Sunday trading. I had contact with Scott Gralow from Mackay Motorcycles, Marianne Camilleri from Jayco Mackay and also Georgia Thomson of Autocorner, a large car dealership. They informed me that there was no evidence of customer demand for extended trading hours. They believed that they would not sell any additional vehicles with longer trading hours, resulting in higher costs for businesses by working longer hours for the same monetary reward with their current hours. The minister has listened to their concerns. The trading hours for car and caravan operators will remain unchanged. There will be no Sunday trading. I would like to thank my constituents for their representation of their industry.

Other businesses that will not see any change are the exempt stores that currently do not have trading hour restrictions. These retailers include chemists, takeaway food shops, service stations, marine shops, sporting goods and pet stores.

Independent retailers will be able to employ more staff—with an increase from 20 to 30 in any one store or, if they have more than one store, from 60 to 100—without losing their right to the fewer restrictions they have over the larger chains. They will have the opportunity to expand their operations and better serve their customers' needs. They will have a greater ability to compete with large business on the non-exempt list that have more restrictions. Stores on this list include Woolworths, Coles, Aldi, Myer, David Jones, Kmart and Target—all with trading restrictions. This bill makes sensible changes to trading hours, cuts red tape and allows businesses flexibility. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (5.08 pm): I rise to speak to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill. I note that, as the member for Pine Rivers said, this is the third time this bill has come before the House. I want to thank the committee for their work in assessing this bill. I note that they were unable to come to a conclusion as to whether the bill should be passed and had significant disagreement there. I will come to their recommendations in a moment.

The aims of the bill are to simplify and standardise trading hours across Queensland. Whilst we in the LNP recognise the need for reform, this bill is an attempt by Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor to prescribe a one-size-fits-all approach to our diverse state and businesses, which has been structured to favour big businesses and the unions that bankroll Labor. As I mentioned, it is a bill that the committee could not even agree on. I note their three recommendations. The first recommendation states—

That the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017 be amended to include the Cairns CBD in the defined tourist area.

The second recommendation states—

The committee recommends that the Bill be amended, as per the Queensland Treasury's advice, to refer to an appropriate address for the Westfield Chermiside and Westfield Garden City shopping centres.

The third recommendation states—

The committee recommends that the Bill be amended to exclude the application of the changes to motor vehicle or caravan retailers.

This is an amendment that the government's own committee members recommended. As I understand it, that is one of the suite of 32 amendments that the minister has brought in. I would like to point out that the amendments circulated would not have happened without LNP intervention.

**Mr Costigan:** That's exactly right.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday. He has shown me some rather large hardware stores in the Mackay area that are now derelict and empty as a result of the significant downturn they have had in that area. These are shops like Mitre 10 that are often operated by mum-and-dad traders which are going to suffer from the extension of these trading hours to all of these areas that are very, very different.

**Mr Costigan:** One hundred and thirty-four years.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Again, I take that interjection. One of these companies had been trading for 134 years in the Mackay area. The competition they have had to face—due to the different enterprise bargain arrangements for their employees compared to some of the other companies—has meant there has been an unfair competition path for these shops and they have been unable to keep going.

**Ms Grace:** That is ridiculous.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** They are the things that we know have happened. It is fairly obvious that Labor do not know whether they are Arthur or Martha when it comes to trading hours, and the greatest example is the Commonwealth Games. We have two Labor ministers who are at odds with each other about trading hours during the Commonwealth Games. On the one hand we have the Attorney-General,

the member for Redcliffe, saying there is no way that pubs and clubs will be given special extended trading hours during the Commonwealth Games. She has even refused to offer special licences to Gold Coast clubs and pubs during 2018 for the games. After the debacle that we saw in here this morning, who knows what is going to happen with trading hours on the Gold Coast? Following the issues with scanners, we have heard that that is going to be reviewed in consultation with industry, but the Attorney-General has refused to issue any extended trading hours during the Commonwealth Games.

We then have the current minister here, the member for Brisbane Central, saying that she does want extended trading hours for restaurants and cafes during the games. That means it is okay to have meals during the Commonwealth Games with extended trading hours, but it is not okay to have a drink. That is one of the things that will potentially make us a laughing stock to the other 70 countries in the Commonwealth which are going to be there. It will be interesting to hear how many special extra dignitary protection officers we are going to have for all of the dignitaries who are going to be here next year, because that is apparently the only way that Prince Frederik got into Jade Buddha over the weekend—that is, by seeking some sort of special exemption to the laws that the Attorney-General and the Premier both said this morning in question time apply to everyone. Which is it? Do the laws apply to everyone, or do they not apply to particular dignitaries who are afforded the assistance of dignitary protection units? That is where this government cannot get it right when it comes to trading hours—a difference between pubs and clubs and a difference between restaurants and cafes.

The LNP is not standing in the way of a streamlined approach for trading hours extensions during the Commonwealth Games. This can happen through the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. As the shadow minister for the Commonwealth Games and a proud Gold Coast local, I have always said that I will provide bipartisan support for good legislation for the games and my stance has not changed. On 25 May 2017 in the *Courier-Mail*, Minister Grace had the audacity to tell small business owners that this bill would help small businesses. The minister said—

We want to slash the number of trading hours provisions in Queensland from 99 to just seven—a red tape reduction of 93 per cent ... It's high time the LNP supported reform, instead of ignoring what retailers and consumers actually want.

I can assure the House that this is not what small businesses want, with the CCIQ labelling the 'big guys' the winners and small and independent stores the losers in this bill. In a media release, CCIQ senior policy adviser Catherine Pham said—

The State Government has been pushing for this Bill from a red tape reduction perspective, but reducing red tape is about removing excessive regulation that is considered redundant or bureaucratic ... Small businesses who have a competitive edge in an uneven playing field, by way of the current shop trading hour arrangements, certainly did not view shop trading hours as being redundant—it was their lifeline. We don't agree with Minister Grace's comments, which implied that changes to the state's trading hours' arrangement 'is a 93 (sic) per cent reduction in red tape'.

MGA Independent Retailers had this to say about the bill—


... the Palaszczuk Government has once again ignored the needs of small businesses. This is just another step in the radical trading hours' changes promised by a Government determined to promote the interests of big businesses in Queensland, over the desperate needs of smaller businesses who are struggling to survive in the retail industry. The Government has already chosen, by promising to overhaul trading hours, to ignore the cries of small businesses who serve the community, provide jobs and who have for years contributed to the economic well-being of Queensland.

Labor has failed to explain the benefit of these changes in trying to hoodwink Queenslanders with another botched review. Some ask: why would Labor want to prop up large businesses and the supermarket duopoly as opposed to businesses run by mum-and-dad business owners in our state? As rightly pointed out by my colleagues, the non-government members of the committee, Coles and Woolworths have over 200,000 union affiliated employees on their payroll. Naturally, smaller independent traders cannot compete with the lower wages paid by the big, non-exempt operators under their union negotiated EBA. This may result in net job losses to the retail sector, as opposed to the unsubstantiated 945 job increases mentioned in the report.

It is worth noting that, of the nine members of the reference group, which includes the chair, four were unions—the shoppies union, the AWU, United Voice and the Queensland Council of Unions. It is obvious the government had made up their mind, and that was to take their marching orders from the shoppies and disregard the impact of their changes on industry and consumers. Minister Grace Grace needs to do her job properly. Bringing in 32 amendments and bringing this to the House for the third time is not doing the job properly.

The LNP recognises that reforms are needed. However, this flawed bill will not work in our diverse state or our mum-and-dad run businesses. We have the example that hardware businesses are still in the dark, and I have mentioned them already in Central Queensland where there are significant

challenges for many of those businesses where they have had significant downturns. Their concerns are unaddressed by the current amendments. In fact, the only thing this bill shows is that Labor care more about the unions that bankroll them than the people of Queensland.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (5.18 pm): I rise to speak on the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. I would like to acknowledge the committee and the minister for all of the hard work that has been done to consult, listen to and act on the views of a variety of stakeholders, including consumers and small businesses. In Queensland, there are 99 different trading hours provisions collated in more than 40 pages of orders. This is hindering the ability of retailers to grow and meet changing consumer preferences. The changes proposed in this bill would have replaced these excessive stipulations with seven clear and consistent trading hours conditions. We are doing this because we want to empower and enable our state's businesses to best service the needs of modern Queensland. By updating this legislation, the Palaszczuk government is delivering on its commitment to create an environment in which Queensland is the best place for businesses to start, grow and employ.

We know it is important for regulation to be balanced and fair. This bill helps to deliver better working conditions to Queenslanders and creates greater flexibility for retailers. Better regulation for small business is crucial to the sector, and that is why the Palaszczuk government has been working hard to improve regulatory processes. We have been doing much of this work through our Better Regulation Taskforce. The Better Regulation Taskforce is providing expert advice to government on regulatory issues of most concern to small businesses and recommending actions and activities to streamline regulation.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering tangible outcomes for small businesses in Queensland unlike the pie-in-the-sky promises put forward by what has become a lazy LNP that have no basis in reality. Those opposite continue to make the claim that they support small business, but let's have a look at the facts. During their short time in office the LNP ripped the heart out of government support for Queensland's small business sector. They abolished the small business commissioner, depriving the Queensland small business sector of a voice at the national policy table. They cut funding to the hugely successful Mentoring for Growth program. They made significant cuts to online business services and slashed 19 per cent of the staff from the department responsible for supporting small business. That is before we even start talking about red-tape reduction.

Referring to the LNP's time in office, the Queensland Chamber of Commerce & Industry Red Tape Survey report from April 2015 stated—

The burden of red tape has intensified over the past two years—


obviously referring to the then LNP government—

and continues to adversely impact the performance of Queensland businesses.

That same survey found one in four businesses felt growth was hindered by red tape and were disappointed the LNP government had let them down. In contrast, the Palaszczuk government will continue strengthening the small business sector with policy that makes sense for working families, business owners and consumers. For example, under new reforms, independent retailers who operate one shop can increase their allowable staff numbers from 20 to 30 without being subject to the additional restrictions of larger chains. If a business operates a number of shops, they can increase their allowable staff numbers from 60 to 100. This supports businesses to grow and increase employment. Other proposed reforms will allow us to better cater for visitors to tourist hubs such as Port Douglas and during major events like the Commonwealth Games.

We understand that constant change hinders small business more than it helps. That is why a five-year freeze on further trading hours extension applications for non-exempt shops will be made to deliver a period of permanency so that businesses can focus on growing and employing. We have heard the concerns of small businesses with respect to how these revised trading hours will impact their operations. I do note the review reference group cited the Australian Productivity Commission, which found consistently high small business participation rates of around 90 per cent in both regulated and deregulated states and territories. We appreciate that a number of Australian states have had deregulated retail trading hours since 1996. However, unlike Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania, our government acknowledges that a regulated environment is the most appropriate approach to balance wider economic benefits with the need to support retailers in what is the most decentralised state in Australia. The Queensland Small Business Advisory Council, which I chair, was briefed on the review reference group's report. We will monitor the impact of reforms as they are implemented.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that the estimated value of these proposed changes in this bill cannot be ignored: a \$200 million boost to the Queensland economy per year and the ability for the industry to support almost 1,000 additional jobs on an ongoing basis. We think Queensland retailers deserve to be able to evolve and operate in line with today's consumer expectations. The reforms outlined in this bill will stimulate growth in the economy and put more Queenslanders into jobs right across our state. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (5.23 pm): I rise to speak on the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. This bill was fundamentally flawed in its drafting and that is why we opposed it from the beginning. When we look at how the review time line worked out and in relation to consultation, again there were fundamental flaws in the way the government approached this. No-one is denying that changes to the trading hours are required—and, to be quite frank, it was a dog's breakfast—but the way this Labor government went about it was fundamentally flawed.

If we look at the time line we see that on 31 August 2016 the government announced a review of trading hours. That was nearly one year ago. On 1 September the review was welcomed by industry groups. We found that former Speaker John Mickel was chair of that group. On 19 October an issues paper was released. On 12 February the Mickel reference group released the report—on a Sunday no doubt—and surprise, surprise on 14 February, just two days later, the Palaszczuk government announced their response, allowing for no public consultation and not giving industry groups the opportunity to make comment on the report. I do not consider that to be true and fair dinkum consultation.

The one thing I do find interesting is that a government that has undertaken 213 reviews in two years can find a response on this particular issue in two days. We have to ask the question. As the member for Gympie rightly pointed out, that is incredibly suspicious and with only a push we come to that conclusion that we smell a rat and the unions are definitely involved. We on this side know one thing: the biggest blow that could be delivered to businesses is uncertainty, and hasn't Labor got form—especially this Labor Palaszczuk government—with uncertainty? Let us have a look at some of the uncertainty during their 2½ years in government.

There was Cedar Woods, the calling in of the West End Village, Adani—we saw that for 10 days they could not get a decision on a very important project—and only a month or so ago we saw that ASF had the rug pulled out from under them in relation to their project. We have seen the way that this government has treated business in regard to the debacle of the lockout laws. The lockout laws were absolutely ready to go and from start to finish it has been a mess. There is a theme in this. We could also look at the taxidivers. They were left in uncertainty for over a year. There were two big industries that comprise a great number of small business employers and they were left in such uncertainty. I will tell honourable members why they can come to a particular conclusion on this. When we looked at the lockout laws that they were discussing, they wanted to ensure that it was all about protecting people when they were out, having a safe night out, reducing alcohol fuelled violence, yet they were allowing casinos to remain open for 24 hours to sell alcohol. Honourable members can see there is some inconsistency in that. We do know that casinos are a large union employer, whereas the smaller nightclub industry is not. We saw the same thing with the taxi industry. They do not have a big union membership, and we have seen how that has turned out. Now we see an attack on the independent grocers because, again, a lot of their employees are not union members.

I want to turn to my local area and the IGAs, the FoodWorks and the Spars. I want to really provide the government with a true understanding of what these laws mean. I have to say that the chairman, John Mickel, made a claim, which is unsubstantiated, that 945 jobs would be created. At Easter time when our Woolworths was allowed to open for the first time I inquired whether extra staff were being put on for that particular day. The Woolworths staffer actually said to me, 'No. Self-service registers are open. We have put on extra self-service registers.' It did not create one job.

On 1 January the IGA at Westlake opened. That was just after the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission decision was handed down. It was too late to pull out of the lease. They were keen to employ young people. They have now been operating for eight months. It is incredibly quiet. They have reduced their rostered staff by half and they have had to let young people go. I also know that on the weekend they are paying the total penalty rates compared to Coles and Woolworths who are under EBAs. How can they compete with that when their wages are so much higher, yet their customer visits—from another IGA store—on a year-to-year basis are down by 31 per cent?

The fact that there are 31 per cent fewer customers going through the till definitely has an impact on earnings, and the result is that rostered hours are lost. I want to quickly turn to the remarks of one of the submitters who happens to be from my local FoodWorks at Oxley. This is what he said when he attended the committee's public hearing, and it is gut-wrenching. This is a mum-and-dad small business that opened a store in 2004. I want everyone to hear this. He said—

My following statement is based on the real-life operational history of what happens when government policy fails and the government do not listen, but more importantly the understanding of the concerns of the independent supermarket small business industry. This affects the livelihoods of small business operators in this great state of Queensland.


He goes on to highlight the fact that he had already planned his staff and stock requirements eight months in advance of the Easter period, and then with little notice the minister said that supermarkets could trade on Easter Sunday. He went on to say—

This loss of turnover has a flow-on effect to other small businesses: lower turnover equals fewer supplier purchases; lower turnover equals lower business investment; lower turnover equals higher losses; lower turnover equals fewer staff hours; and lower turnover equals less competition.

We need to ensure that people understand IGA is quite competitive in the products they stock compared to Coles and Woolies, and if they close down it does leave a monopoly for the larger players. As Chris, the small business owner, said—and I think this sums it up pretty well—

In conclusion, as a small business owner in Queensland I do not have any faith in this government to make any rational decisions to protect small businesses in this state, especially when it comes to the deregulation of trading hours within this bill. Government's role is to ensure that all businesses thrive, including small business. This government is backing small business into a corner. They are not thriving; they are barely surviving. There is a difference.

That is what small business owners have to say, and I think it is heartbreaking for them all.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.32 pm): I rise to address the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. I personally and the LNP as a party is unashamedly pro small business. It was in many ways rather ironic that the original debate on this bill commenced only one week after we celebrated Small Business Week here in Queensland. Boy, did we celebrate it in the electorate of Glass House! As I mentioned previously, we held our second annual 'Glassies'—the Glass House Small Business Awards—in partnership with Commerce Caboolture, the Glasshouse Country Chamber of Commerce, Maleny Commerce, the Montville Chamber of Commerce and the Palmwoods Community and Business Association. Nearly 100 small businesses were nominated, and more than 50 employees across the electorate received over 1,300 votes combined from people in and around the electorate of Glass House.

When we originally debated this bill I had an opportunity to read into *Hansard* and reflect on all of the winners of those Glassie awards. I particularly want to acknowledge our gold winner employee of the year, Rhylie Coutts, who works at the IGA in Wamuran, and Ben and Renae, the business of the year gold winners. They own Renae's Pantry, which is a small slow-food concept grocer that takes food produced in the backyards of mums and dads around the Palmwoods district and sells it to others from their small store in the Palmwoods CBD. I want to reflect on Ben's acceptance speech, because if I had my phone handy I would have taped it. It summed up why he does what he does as a small business owner and why I am unashamedly pro small business. He talked about the support they provide to the community and the support they in turn receive back from the community and why, despite not having the big turnovers that some of the bigger corporations do, they know that they are giving back to our community in a way that the big corporates simply cannot.

If I can put it another way, I will read into *Hansard* some comments I received from an owner of a small to medium sized business in the electorate of Glass House. They said—

The wealth (profit and jobs) sucked out of communities which these days finds its way to Sydney and Melbourne Head Offices is helping to kill small communities. I firmly believe that for every dollar spent at our [store] we get a beneficial multiplier worth between \$4 and \$6 to the community. This benefit comes from the extra locals we employ, the local tradies we contract to do our work, the money we donate to local community groups, the massive support for local suppliers, many of whom get their start at [our store]. The big [companies] just do not provide this level of local benefit.

I concur wholeheartedly. We are unashamedly pro small business, but we in the LNP are also pro competition, pro consumer choice and pro free market. How do you correlate the two principles, and why would we therefore have opposed the legislation? I think we need to start at the macro level. As a mate said to me, 'This is a competition question and should be handled by the feds. The state is being forced to legislate to save small business and that is simply not fair.' I would have to agree with that mate.

I do believe that this is largely a federal issue, and therefore I would like to refer to a speech by one of the local federal MPs on the Sunshine Coast, Mr Ted O'Brien, which he gave in March this year when speaking to the Competition and Consumer Amendment (Misuse of Market Power) Bill 2016, because I think it explains how the conflict between supporting small business and competition has arisen. The member for Fairfax said—

The bill seeks to deal with one of the fundamental challenges in free market economies everywhere, which is to ensure that competition flourishes. Competition inherently creates winners and losers, and, at a Darwinian level, that is what the free market is all about.

...

Herein lies the challenge that this bill seeks to address. The competitiveness of the marketplace—the opportunity to fight, to win, to lose—must be protected. This requires acknowledgment of the fact that, if one misuses the power they accrue as a result of winning in the marketplace, then in doing so they compromise the process of competition itself, thus weakening the competitiveness of the very market in which they operate. This concept of balancing the right of companies to compete with them having a commensurate responsibility not to misuse the power they accrue in the process, to my mind, is an attempt to address what Lord Acton pointed out nearly 130 years ago—that power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Monopolistic power is the antithesis of competition, for it tempts the misuse of power—and that, I hope all members would agree, is something our laws must militate against.

He went on to say—

What flowed from that commitment of the Menzies government was a historic piece of legislation, the Trade Practices Act 1965, which sought to establish principles of fairness in business across a very broad canvas, but especially in relation to this issue of appropriate use of market power and constraints on the misuse of market power by the then emerging big operators.

Since 1974 until here and now, section 46 of the act, which has now become the Competition and Consumer Act, has sought to define 'misconduct' in relation to the use of market power through two legal tests. The first involves the question of whether the entity was taking advantage of its market power, and the second involves an entity's intent. That is the question of purpose—whether the purpose of an activity seeks the elimination or the cause of substantial damage to a competitor, or the prevention of another entity entering the market, or the deterrence of a person from engaging in anticompetitive conduct.

He continued—

It is the purpose test that has really been assessed as the key failure of the current regime, due to it being too difficult to prove and too specific in its application. How do you prove one's purpose in doing something? How do you prove what one's intent is?

...

Essentially, this bill seeks to address these flaws in the existing act by swapping the test of 'intent' or 'purpose' with a test of 'effect'. What is more, it is to relate not so much to an activity by one powerful firm towards another single entity, but rather to the question of whether such activity adversely impacts the competitive process. In other words, what counts is whether the little guy actually gets done over by the big guy, regardless of whether the big guy says he meant it or not. If, when this happens, competition is lessened, or is likely to be lessened, then that is enough for it to be against the law.

Mr O'Brien concluded with this, and I echo his words—

I say this as an unashamed, unabashed disciple of the free market and of free trade. Trade that is not fair is trade that is not free.

I will repeat that for the benefit of the minister—

Trade that is not fair is trade that is not free.


That sums it up perfectly. We have a competitive situation that the federal government has sought to address through changes to the Competition and Consumer Act, and I echo those words.

Let me move to a micro level. If time had permitted I would have read into *Hansard* the contribution of one of my local IGA owners, Ms Roz White. Her initial assessment of the bill as it stands before us now—and I acknowledge that the minister is moving some amendments—was absolutely scathing, and on that basis no-one in their right mind could accept the bill before the House. Similarly John Brown, the owner of the Mitre 10 in Maleny, contacted me the minute this came out and said, 'Please, please, please oppose it.'

I am distraught—absolutely distraught—that despite taking on board some of the concerns of Roz White and other owners of IGAs the minister and the government have again neglected those small independent hardware operators like John Brown in Maleny. They have been hung out to dry. There are no benefits in the amendments that are being proposed tonight, so they will continue to be done over by large competitors. I only hope that the changes made by our federal colleagues in Canberra will allow those operators to challenge market share where market share is being misused and used by the large competitors to distort the market to a point where we get no competition at all.

Today I am standing up for those small business owners like Roz White, like Ben and Renae at Renae's Pantry, like John Brown at Maleny's Mitre 10 because they are what make our communities tick and they are the ones who employ amazing locals like Rhylie Coutts at the IGA in Wamuran.

Therefore, in its current form, I have considerable opposition to the bill. I will watch very carefully as we discuss and move amendments later on and will be guided by how successfully they address those primary concerns raised by locals in the electorate of Glass House.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (5.41 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. The Palaszczuk Labor government is a government for the people. We were elected in a crushing swing and have worked hard to maintain the support and the best interests of all Queenslanders. We have accomplished this through numerous social and humanitarian reforms but have equally accomplished this through economic reforms. We are a government with a primary goal to encourage jobs growth, the development of skills and ensuring Queensland offers a healthy, sustainable environment where skills and abilities can evolve into thriving and successful businesses. We are a government that gets the job done and gets results for Queensland.

Today we are debating an important bill—one which contains the most significant changes to Queensland's retail trading hours in more than two decades. In my electorate of Ipswich I talk to many small business owners and understand many of the struggles they go through in trying to establish and maintain successful and thriving businesses. Many of the issues small business owners face are due to red tape. Presently, there are 99 specific trading hours provisions that place a significant regulatory burden on not just businesses but workers and consumers. I am all for fairness and accountability for businesses, but 99 provisions are excessive, costly and create far more problems for businesses than they prevent. I thank the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, the Hon. Grace Grace, for taking the necessary steps to replace the 99 specific trading hours provisions for non-exempt shops with six legislated allowable trading hours provisions. This will mean that our constituents will not have to read and comprehend all 99 provisions contained in a staggering 40-plus pages of trading hours orders should they decide to open a business.

Reducing the number to six will mean a more accessible and fair business environment which will boost the creation of new businesses and encourage business development. I commend the Premier and the minister for giving important consideration to the inclusion of three important additions made by the committee which were tabled in its report: to include the Cairns CBD in the defined tourist area permitting trade to 10 pm Monday to Saturday and to 9 pm Sundays and most public holidays; to refer to the appropriate street addresses for Westfield Chermiside and Westfield Garden City shopping centres to remove any doubt that the whole of the shopping complex is covered in the event of any expansion; and to exclude the application of new extended hours to motor vehicle or caravan retailers to maintain the existing trading hours. I know that local car dealerships in my electorate are very happy about that particular part of this amendment bill.


**Ms Grace:** Thank you for your lobbying.

**Ms HOWARD:** It was a pleasure. These three recommendations have all been accepted by the government which emphasises that we are a government that listens to the people. I take this opportunity to highlight an important feature of this bill regarding Sunday trading hours. This bill standardises Sunday trading hours for those communities that already have it. Any areas that do not already have Sunday trading are still able to apply to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission to opt in to Sunday trading. No applications to further extend trading hours can be made to the QIRC for a five-year period. This five-year moratorium will remove uncertainty, allowing business retailers to plan ahead with confidence.

Non-government members have raised claims that these changes to trading hours would have a strong negative impact on smaller retail traders. While we are a government that sympathises with the concerns of Queenslanders and will never turn a deaf ear in their direction, there is no evidence to support these concerns. In fact, the John Mickel review found little evidence that trading hours restrictions have a negative impact on the viability of small retail traders and actually found evidence showing extended trading hours for large retailers have positive flow-on impacts for small retailers. The initial John Mickel review also found a positive increase in jobs and employment in areas where restrictions on trading hours have been loosened.

I commend the Premier and the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations for listening to the concerns of workers that they would be required to work longer hours due to changes in trading hours. This bill will ensure that all non-exempt shops must close at 6 pm on Christmas Eve. This government is serious about making sure workers get the time they need after the busy Christmas trading period to rest and to enjoy Christmas with their family and friends. The Palaszczuk government is a government that stands up for business and workers. It is a government that will always ensure

their interests are factored into our plans for Queensland. In debating this bill, I hope everyone will see that it is necessary for encouraging a competitive and thriving retail sector in Queensland—one that stands on equal footing with other states. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. The Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017 was introduced as a way of amending the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 to seek to reduce restrictions on trading hours in Queensland. The Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017 is trying to achieve the policy objectives of the government by amending the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 to give effect to a range of reform measures to broaden and simplify Queensland's allowable trading hours whilst at the same time also ensuring important protections for retail workers.

The task force headed by the former Labor member for Logan, Mr John Mickel, produced a report for the government that recommended several important changes to the current trading hours operating framework. Unfortunately, the adverse effects of this legislation on small retail traders and the adverse consequences of Sunday trading for car and caravan retailers and the impact on associated small business owners was overlooked, particularly with respect to the initial proposal tabled by the Labor government. I oppose this bill because of my previous comments and the overall expected outcomes of the changes to operating hours for a number of different types of retail outlets. Also today we are seeing a number of amendments that are being rushed into the parliament as a part of the minister's desperate last-ditch plan to resuscitate her flawed bill, which has been on life support over the last few months.

It is very important to note that during the whole of the Labor government's inquiry the committee heard absolutely no support from the motor vehicle dealer and caravan retail industries. I do acknowledge that the minister's proposed amendments for motor vehicle dealers and caravan retailers, but this shambolic set of circumstances could have been avoided with a simple phone call prior to the design of the legislation and prior to its original introduction into the Queensland parliament. The Motor Trades Association of Queensland, the MTAQ, stated that there is no empirical evidence of consumers seeking Sunday trading with respect to motor vehicle dealers. The consensus view of its members was that the current QIRC trading hours non-exempt shops selling motor vehicles state order be retained with no changes and that the legislation be amended to reflect this view. LNP members on this side of the House would still encourage the government to further consider other industries and sectors that still remain concerned about being impacted negatively by this legislation, particularly given the public views being aired today by the National Retail Association and others.

As previously mentioned, in August 2016 the Palaszczuk Labor government announced a review of trading hours to be headed by former Speaker and former Labor transport and industrial relations minister Mr John Mickel. The Mickel report made some 13 recommendations. However, the reference group never emphatically endorsed the report and its contained recommendations. This is an important point that this House should take note of.

It should come as no surprise that the Labor government has agreed to scrap planned changes for motor vehicle and caravan dealers due to the negative and detrimental impacts to their industry and consumers from the proposed changes contained within the bill. We on this side of the House agree that the current system has become far too convoluted and cumbersome; however, the proposed changes in the legislation are not the answer, and the government has failed to make the case for their changes. The only solution at this point in time is to take the whole process back to the start with proper consultation, which has been sadly lacking by this government with respect to its overall legislative agenda. Certainly this is the feedback I have received from small business owners and industry group representatives with whom I have met over the last few months.

As usual, and sadly, Labor government members are taking flawed orders from their union masters and are paying absolutely no attention to the serious impact of their proposed changes on both industry and consumers and to what their changes will mean for jobs right across Queensland. The Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland, CCIQ, which represents the interests of over 414,000 small businesses right across Queensland, has indicated that it is deeply concerned in relation to the market dominance of major corporate organisations and how the proposed trading hours changes will not benefit their members.

The current trading hours framework in Queensland unquestionably offers businesses in regional areas their last competitive edge by allowing them to trade when non-exempt stores are required to remain closed. The CCIQ has stated that if this legislation passes the sustainability of small business communities will be placed at significant risk and that a negative impact would be the net job losses

that would occur. It does not support the view expressed in the Mickel report that there would be an increase of more than 900 jobs. The CCIQ does, however, support a simplification of the previous system of complex boundaries. However, what is needed is a raft of other measures implemented as a part of this bill to afford small businesses every opportunity to remain competitive.

The Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland acknowledges the important need to cut red tape, as do we on this side of the House, and to alleviate the confusion that currently exists. However, wisely in my view, it also opposes the full deregulation of trading hours. With the current format of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017, LNP members jointly oppose the bill due to the large monopoly and duopoly entities that will benefit from the bill as, in essence, the resultant impact will be a reduction in the competitiveness of independent stores.

As stakeholders have indicated, the last thing that is needed is an extension of trading hours that risks the livelihood of thousands of independent Queensland retail businesses. The LNP will always stand up for small business. We know that the Palaszczuk Labor cabinet is in crisis, that it is anti jobs and that it is captive to unions. We know that the Palaszczuk Labor government always fails to consult and consequently introduces flawed legislation into this parliament.


The LNP has heard the views of the Motor Trades Association of Queensland, the Master Growers, Hardware Australia and the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland. The chief executive of the National Retail Association, Dominique Lamb, said—

Queensland retailers have been fighting with one arm tied behind their backs as they are forced to close their doors and hand the market over to Internet stores and overseas competition from the likes of Amazon.

Dominique Lamb went on to say—

Now this state government has tied the other arm behind their backs as well.

Despite the rhetoric of Labor, the Palaszczuk Labor government has failed to deliver a fair outcome with respect to this legislation. The LNP will always stand up for small business and will always support fair competition and the jobs of Queenslanders.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (5.54 pm): Many constituents have grave concerns with the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017 currently proposed by the state government that will make it easier for major retailers, particularly Coles and Woolworths, to dominate local community run and owned supermarkets and convenience stores in regional communities like Bundaberg and its surrounds. Problems were identified early with smaller hardware stores and motor and caravan traders in my region. I note that many submissions to the committee review were opposed, with many claiming that the government plans were anti community, anti consumer and anti competitive and worked solely in the interests of the major national supermarket chains. There were concerns that the only sectors driving this policy agenda were some union stakeholder groups and large multinationals.

Locally in the Bundaberg region, many concerns were raised. The region is on its knees under this government. The policy agenda that will affect jobs in my community in rural Queensland should not be taken lightly. I thank Dale from Takalvans Caravan, Brad Solomon from Bundaberg Motor Group, Ross Gray from Ross Gray Holden and Ben Searle from Searles RVs for standing up to this regressive legislation as they know that seven-day trading will kill their family run car and caravan businesses. These small businesses know that they will be taken for a ride.

Back in May we called on members around Bundaberg, particularly the member for Bundaberg, to stand up for our small business operators over the big end of town like Coles, Woolworths and the unions. Predictably, nothing happened—not a murmur—providing more evidence that once you are funded and supported by unions you can never really stand up for your region and against bad policy. I always had concerns about this legislation as it dictates which retailers can open their doors and who would be disadvantaged; namely, those local family run small businesses. Labor's policy is all about backing big business over small business and, in the end, it means that consumers lose out and jobs will be lost, despite the claims of those opposite. Bundaberg family owned small businesses tell me that the changes would lead to a loss of quality licensed staff who do not want to work all weekend. It would also force an increase in overheads in businesses already facing increased finance regulation and running on tight margins.

When all of this started, the legislation was based on recommendations made last year that were not totally independent. Regardless of what Labor claims, the fact is that former union official the Hon. Grace Grace has botched this review of trading hours. The process of appointing a former Labor MP to run the review should always sound alarm bells and raise concerns, like those raised during the committee process; namely, giving the green light to major retailers, particularly Coles and Woolworths, to open longer hours makes it even harder for independent community based businesses to compete.

Community driven, family owned businesses provide vital support and are the heart of our communities. If they are forced to downsize or close their doors, a direct adverse impact right across our communities will be felt. As local businesses close, consumers have less shopping choice. Especially in regional Queensland, this is a reality. As local businesses close, there are few options for consumers in our regions. More market dominance means that it is easier for major operators to increase prices. History has shown that it especially occurs with fresh produce, something on which my region depends. Queenslanders lose jobs because jobs lost in the independent stores are replaced in the major chains, sometimes paid at half the penalty rates. One would think those opposite would be concerned with that.

When we shop in our local community supermarkets our money stays in our communities' economy rather than goes off to head office in a multinational office. Keeping money local supports our local businesses and community ventures. As we know, there are nearly 800 independent supermarket operators employing near 21,000 staff. Nearly \$3 billion is spent in Queensland alone. This is seriously under threat and should not be ignored.

We hear that regional Queensland and the people of the Bundaberg region do not want another Brisbane based solution forced upon them as it happens too often. Regional voters are wise enough to see the negative impacts of the removal of longstanding regulations. They are much more concerned about maintaining real competition, about real choice and about keeping jobs local. In their submission the motor traders raised trading hours considered as a single industry policy and made good submissions. Of course, we welcome the foreshadowed amendments and look forward to them being debated at the consideration in detail stage.


Failures across-the-board really concern those motor traders and the caravan staff. Particularly in the motor industry, this affects retailers and staff. Many opposed Sunday trading, raising issues such as impact on family life, driving up costs and reduced staff satisfaction. The public has more than enough time to buy cars now with internet sales and the available trading hours. There will be an impact on the wages bill. Dealers cannot afford overtime rates for Sundays. The new vehicle market is limited and extending trading hours will not increase their sales. In Queensland approximately 1,000 motor dealers would be affected by this.

Competition in the motor vehicle sector is now regional, national and in some cases international, due to online trading and internet trades. The original proposal to deregulate trading hours has the potential to risk the viability of these dealers, threaten livelihoods and destabilise employee arrangements. The single largest group of employees in the motor vehicle sector that would have been affected by the proposed changes to trading hours were motor vehicle sales persons. Business managers, finance and insurance salesmen, after-market salespersons and administrative staff would all be impacted. Thankfully, the LNP stance has facilitated amendments that exclude the application of the new extended hours to motor vehicle and caravan retailers. We look forward to further amendments from the minister during the consideration in detail.


Debate, on motion of Mr Bennett, adjourned.

## MOTION

### Liberal National Party, Political Donations

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.59 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That debate of the motion moved by the Deputy Premier resume after the dinner break for a period of one hour, after which time the question shall be put.

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (5.59 pm): I will make a few very short comments on the motion that has been moved by the Leader of the House. It is worth noting that this is a bit of a clean-up job following the political strategic brilliance of the member for South Brisbane this morning.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Millar): Order! I would like to hear the member for Callide and Leader of Opposition Business, please.

**Mr SEENEY:** We saw the spectacle in this House this morning of a government that moved a censure motion on its own debate, a government that instigated a debate as a political strategy and then tried to gag their own debate. The Leader of the House now has to tidy up that mess. He has to

come in here and work out how he can bring this debate to an end. The debate that the member for South Brisbane instigated now has to be brought to an end somehow because the motion moved earlier by the Leader of the House to shut the debate down, because it was an embarrassment to the government, failed in the House.

In the opposition we acknowledge that there is business for the House to deal with that has been on the *Notice Paper* for some time and that is important to our small business community, and we are more than keen to work cooperatively to get that business done. However, there are a number of members in the House who have indicated that they want to be part of the debate instigated by the member for South Brisbane earlier today, including the member for Bundamba on the government's side, who expressed a view that she wants to participate in the debate. The motion that the Leader of the House has moved seeks to curtail the time available to the House to one hour. I will move an amendment to the motion moved by the Leader of the House to ensure that two hours is available for debate of the motion tonight so that a greater number of members who want to take part in that debate have the opportunity. We will guarantee that the member for Bundamba is one of those.

We will not oppose the motion because we understand that the House needs to work and the business before the House needs to be conducted in an orderly way. We will not oppose the motion and force this debate to go all night which, given the vote in the House earlier today, we probably could. We will attempt to ensure that an appropriate number of people are able to take advantage of the opportunity that the member for South Brisbane has given members of the House to debate the leadership, or lack thereof, of the Premier and to make some comments about the leadership issue that the member for South Brisbane raised. Therefore, I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'for a period of' be deleted and the following words inserted: 'two hours, after which time the question shall be put.'

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

**AYES, 40:**

**LNP, 40**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

**NOES, 46:**

**ALP, 41**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**KAP, 2**—Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Dickson.

**INDEPENDENT, 2**—Gordon, Pyne.

Pair: Furner, Crandon.

Resolved in the negative.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Electricity Prices



**Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (6.09 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for using record high electricity prices as a secret tax that is crippling Queensland businesses and costing Queenslanders jobs.

Higher taxes are in Labor's DNA. Using electricity businesses as a way of propping up their failing budgets is a time-honoured Labor tradition. We saw it under Peter Beattie, whose gold plating of the electricity network drove the massive spike in prices we saw in the last decade. We saw it under the likes of Anna Bligh, whose crazy green schemes are still adding hundreds of dollars to household electricity bills. We saw it under Andrew Fraser, who stunningly wrote to the federal energy minister in 2009 arguing the case for higher electricity prices. I am happy to table that letter from a Labor treasurer going on the record to argue the case for higher rates of return of the energy businesses—a move which would have increased prices.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 5 February 2009, from the former treasurer, Mr Andrew Fraser, to the former Minister for Resources and Energy (Cth), Hon. Martin Ferguson, regarding Australian Energy Regulator's review of the WACC [\[1405\]](#).


We are seeing these secret taxes yet again under this Premier and her Treasurer. Labor's pre-election budget strategy, if you want to call it that, was based entirely on using the dividends from these businesses to prop up their budget. What have they done since coming to power? They have had to abandon their harebrained scheme to merge the generators because of competition concerns from the ACCC. They have crippled electricity businesses with billions of dollars of dead debt. They are ripping 100 per cent of profits out of the GOCs and leaving them cash starved. They continue to pursue a ludicrous 50 per cent renewable energy target which will only succeed in pushing costs even higher. Labor's extreme renewable energy scheme will cause electricity insecurity, cost taxpayers \$18 billion and will force households, businesses and industry to pay more.

They have overseen a 70 per cent increase in wholesale power costs. A jump in prices means that households and businesses are paying record-high electricity prices. They refuse to clamp down on dodgy bidding practices at both state owned generators, because they are addicted to the dividends that those generators are providing to the budget. Why? It is because they are using those profits and dividends as a secret tax. Dividends at the generators have almost doubled. That is being paid for by Queenslanders. Things are so bad that now the ACCC is investigating claims that the generators have been price gouging, not because the Palaszczuk government took any action on the issue but because the LNP wrote to the ACCC about that price gouging.

If one needed any more proof that things have reached crisis point, one need look no further than the CCIQ Pulse survey, which was released only two days ago. Business confidence, business conditions and profitability are all down, according to the survey. Not once since the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government has business confidence been at a positive level. What is the biggest issue facing Queensland small businesses? The biggest issue is electricity prices! The survey shows that prices have skyrocketed in the past two years, under this Labor government. Under Labor, almost half of all businesses have seen prices jump by between 25 and 49 per cent. More than 10 per cent of businesses say that prices have jumped by 50 to 74 per cent. Another 10 per cent of businesses say that bills have gone up by 75 to 99 per cent. Around five per cent of businesses say that their electricity costs have more than doubled.

Businesses are saying that they have no choice but to cut jobs and pass on the costs to customers. Weekly earnings growth in Queensland is the weakest in the nation. Queenslanders should be earning \$1,200 more than they are, but under Labor our earnings growth is far behind the national average. At a time of historically weak wages growth, this government is implementing policy and making decisions that are driving up the costs for households.

This government simply does not get it: if you cripple businesses with more debt and rip 100 per cent of profits out of them, it will hurt Queenslanders. If we keep hurling towards an unrealistic renewable energy target, their own independent research body says that it will cost billions. If your budget strategy relies on increasing profits from businesses, that is paid for by Queenslanders. This government's electricity policies are hurting Queensland families and businesses and costing jobs.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (6.14 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'condemns' be deleted and the following words inserted: 'the Commonwealth government's failure to deliver the policy certainty which the electricity industry needs to invest in new generation and place downwards pressure on power prices.'

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order. The amendment that has been suggested by the member for Mulgrave fundamentally changes the motion. The motion was about the state government. The amendment that he has suggested makes the motion about the federal government. The motion was about the state government and its taxation regime. I suggest that the amendment is out of order.

**Mr PITT:** I rise to a point of order. I have undertaken consultation on this particular amendment and we have been given advice that it does meet the requirements. I seek your ruling on the point of order raised by the member for Callide.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will hear the member for Yeerongpilly.

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise to a point of order. It is also a national electricity market, so you cannot talk about electricity prices without talking about the national market. The point of order is ignorant and frivolous.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have taken advice and my ruling is that the amendment is consistent with the rulings I have made in the past.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No! It is consistent with the rulings I have made in the past.

**Mr PITT:** The LNP have dreamed up suggestions that dividends earned from government owned electricity businesses involve some sort of secret tax on Queenslanders. That could not be further from the truth. They also think that there were changes to our generators' debt levels when that is not the case. How those unchanged debt levels can have any effect on power prices is explainable only by the LNP.

The simple proposition here is that they whinge and complain about revenues to our energy GOCs, which they wanted to sell off. The proceeds that they are worried about right now would have been going to private shareholders, including shareholders overseas. We have kept the assets in public hands. We have kept those dividends and revenues and we have reinvested them back into the system. Therefore, I have no idea why they continue to push that argument, when it is absolutely flawed. The regulator knows this and the market participants know it. It is only the member for Burleigh, the member for Indooroopilly and all of those opposite who do not get it.

The gearing levels do not set market prices. We know that Queenslanders are hurting from electricity prices. We are absolutely and acutely aware of it. Of course, it was the 43 per cent increases inflicted by those opposite that set the new benchmark for what is hurting Queenslanders. Using the LNP's logic, when he was treasurer the member for Clayfield inflicted a 43 per cent tax on Queenslanders, which cost the average Queensland household \$436 extra, during their time in office.

We have used the levers available with government ownership to shield Queenslanders from price increases experienced in other states. This year, southern states with privatised power have staggered under the weight of 19 per cent rises in the Australian Capital Territory and South Australia, 11 per cent across the border in New South Wales and nearly 10 per cent in Victoria. However, because we have kept our assets in public hands, Queensland has the lowest average price rise of 3.3 per cent. If the LNP had had their way and sold off the assets, the profits would have gone overseas. Instead, we have been able to reinvest \$771 million to slash the proposed price increases by more than half. That is a real saving of \$56 for the average household. When it comes to small businesses, that was halved and we were able to save \$99 for small businesses. The member for Indooroopilly is quick to point the finger at previous Labor governments, but he has failed to mention that our Palaszczuk government has acted. In 2015, we directed Ergon and Energex not to appeal the regulator's revenue determination, which has resulted in a \$184 savings for household bills over three years.

It is undeniable that the NEM is broken, which comes to the point about the federal government and its lack of policy and leadership. The NEM is not delivering for households, businesses, industry or government. The lack of policy certainty under both the Abbott and Turnbull governments has undermined industry investment and new infrastructure, which is needed to make up for the closure of privately owned Hazelwood Power Station in Victoria and Northern Power Station in South Australia.


Even federal Treasurer Scott Morrison was reported last week as saying that the ultimate solution to price stability is long-term policy certainty for investors. Still the federal LNP government has failed to act on the recommendations of its own Chief Scientist, Dr Finkel, to implement a clean energy target. A clean energy target is critical to alleviating price pressures across the country. Households would be about \$90 per year better off over the next decade under a clean energy target. Industry and consumers are all united in their calls for federal policy action, yet all they do is twiddle their thumbs. If it were left to the Turnbull government we would have nothing happening.

It is only because of our government and actions that we are taking under our Powering Queensland Plan that we are able to see real action happening in this state. We have returned the Swanbank E gas-fired power station to service after it was mothballed by those opposite. We have directed Stanwell Corporation to place downward pressure on wholesale prices. We have unlocked over 450 square kilometres of gas for the domestic market. We have reinvested \$386 million of dividends to help establish a clean energy hub in North Queensland. We have undertaken a 400-megawatt reverse auction to unlock future renewable energy.

Our policies are the envy of the nation. What we need to happen is stop having one hand tied behind our back. That is exactly what is happening under the current federal government's lack of policy direction. The Energy Users Association of Australia has said that our plan is 'providing real benefit and a ray of hope for all energy users'. Forward wholesale prices for 2018 have dropped 15 per cent since their release. This is worth \$75 to the average customer.

The LNP have not learnt from their mistakes. They continue to spruik their energy policies as having been based on affordability. They think a 43 per cent price rise is affordable. They promised Queenslanders they would save \$120 a year. They put their prices up by \$436. This is a failure of the LNP at a federal and state level and we are going to deal with it.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow Treasurer and oppose the amendment that has been moved by the Treasurer. We cannot have a defined national policy if we have states racing off and bringing in their own stupid and ridiculous targets, such as the 50 per cent renewable target that this Queensland Labor government has put forward. In South Australia we have a prime example of what happens when states rush into a 50 per cent renewable target. They had the lights going out in South Australia and they have the highest wholesale prices not just in Australia but in the world.

There is no doubt that this government has been caught out using electricity prices as a hidden tax. The people of Queensland know that. The ACCC are coming to that conclusion very quickly. I attended the Brisbane ACCC meeting and I attended the Townsville ACCC meeting. What did the people who attended those meetings say? They said that they are being heavily affected by the price of electricity in this state. Who do they blame? They blame the Labor government. They have been using the electricity generators in this state to impose a hidden tax on the people of Queensland. They have been costing jobs in this state because they have been pushing up the price of electricity in this state.


We need to look no further than the budget papers. Budget Paper No. 2 shows people that the generators in this state have in fact earned \$410 million more than was anticipated in the previous budget. Did the Treasurer wake up one day and all of a sudden have an extra \$410 million sitting in his bank account? Did the generators tell him that they were doing a wonderful job of earning more money for the state? Did this ring alarm bells with the Treasurer? Did he think, 'I wonder how these generators are making so much money'?

It is quite clear that they were gouging the system by changing the way they bid into the wholesale market. There is no clearer proof of that than when the government announced its Powering Queensland Plan. When they announced their Powering Queensland Plan and gave a direction to Stanwell to change their bidding practices future wholesale prices fell immediately by 10 per cent. They only told one of the two generators to change their bidding practices. That is a clear indication that the government were gouging the people of Queensland. They have been using electricity as a hidden tax in this state.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I apologise, member for Burleigh. There is too much chatter. I counsel the Treasurer on his interjections that he should not interject so much that it appears he is trying to talk over the top of the member for Burleigh.

**Mr HART:** The expert panel says in relation to how to achieve a 50 per cent renewable target that prices should stay basically neutral. It says that because there is a hidden carbon tax in there. The calculations that lead to that conclusion show an assumed hidden carbon tax.

I was at Rockhampton a few weeks ago and went to Dobinsons Spring and Suspension. They have put solar on their roof. After the 30 per cent increases in electricity they are talking about scaling back their business and having to lay off people. This is happening all over the state. There is one group to blame—and that is the Labor Party. Those opposite have been using electricity as a hidden tax.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.26 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment. The Palaszczuk government is fixing the LNP's mess by putting downward pressure on electricity prices because we know that electricity is a major cost-of-living pressure for Queensland families. We are cleaning up their mess—and, boy oh boy, did they make a mess: a 43 per cent mess.

That is why we have extended the eligibility for concessions to another 157,000 Queenslanders to help them with their energy bills. I urge all Queenslanders to apply. I think this is a fantastic initiative. It has been extremely well received by baysiders.

Let us put some facts on the table. Electricity prices are the result of the national electricity market. While the Palaszczuk government is happy to fix electricity prices, what we all need is for the federal government to step up and fix the national electricity market, rather than simply fight amongst themselves.

The Powering Queensland Plan has been applauded by Rod Sims, Chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. He stated—

The good news is, the Queensland Government, alone of any government, has drawn on its own budget to remove that cost to consumers and I certainly applaud them for doing that and again I think it's evidence of a welcome focus on affordability ...

Our \$1.6 billion comprehensive PQP retains electricity assets in public ownership, promotes Queensland's sustainable energy mix, including coal, gas and renewables, and provides power bill concessions to vulnerable Queenslanders. Our actions mean Queenslanders have the lowest forecast electricity price increase for 2017-18 of 3.3 per cent compared with 19 per cent in South Australia and the Australia Capital Territory, 11 per cent in New South Wales and 10 per cent in Victoria. It also confirms the government commitment to a 50 per cent renewable target.

Under the Palaszczuk government two large-scale solar farms have started generating power. In addition, there are currently a total of 20 renewable energy projects which are either committed or under construction. These projects will deliver 1,781 megawatts of renewable energy capacity, \$3.4 billion in investment and over 2,700 construction jobs, the majority of which will be in regional Queensland.

Contrast this with what happened under those opposite—not one single large-scale renewable project was commissioned under their term. More than 1,300 renewable energy jobs were lost. It was a renewable blackout. These new large-scale industries are not only supporting jobs and growth in our region but, once in operation, additional supply to market will help put downward pressure on wholesale prices.

Renewable generation is now the cheapest form of generation to build and is also the quickest. Because the Palaszczuk government has retained our energy assets in public hands, unlike the LNP who would have sold them off, we directed our government owned generator Stanwell to alter its bidding strategy to put immediate downward pressure on current and forward contract prices.

What those opposite fail to understand is how important it is to keep our assets in public hands. That is the way to put pressure on electricity prices. That is what the LNP planned not to do when they were in government. They had plans to sell our assets. Have we heard anything today about the future plans in that regard? I have not. We have kept our power generators in public hands.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I am having difficulty hearing the member for Lytton. As I have said before, if I cannot then I am certain Hansard cannot.


**Ms PEASE:** We are attracting new public sector investment in large-scale projects because we have energy security. Those opposite like coal-fired generation so much so that they want to flog it off to overseas interests and sacrifice those returns which are used to ease pressure on prices and the cost of living. The facts are in and the facts are that renewable generation is now the quickest and cheapest energy infrastructure to build and we urgently need new supply to reduce prices.

Over our term of government, prices for households have increased by an average of only 1.9 per cent. Let us go back to where I started. We need the federal coalition government to step up and fix the national electricity market rather than simply fighting amongst themselves. Never forget that energy prices increased by 43 per cent under the Newman-Nicholls government.

To date the federal coalition government has stifled investment in new generation, stalled progress in modernising the NEM and left Australia without a clear path to meeting its emission obligations. The only solution the LNP has offered is a new coal-fired power station which will take longer to build, cost more to build and generate electricity at a higher cost than renewable generation.

It is time for those opposite to stand up for Queensland with their federal counterparts. The Palaszczuk government is delivering large-scale renewable industry. Queensland is getting its own power stations, with 21st century technology, producing affordable, clean energy—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.31 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Indooroopilly. I have to say—to follow the Labor member who just spoke, the member for Lytton, who has obviously drunk the Kool Aid—seriously! Come on! Here we have a member of this House—

**Ms PEASE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to take a point of order. I take personal offence at the member for Nanango's comments and I ask that the member withdraw them.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw, but it is incredible that we have a member over there who has obviously read the speaking notes that have been handed around. They are all reading from the same—

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition knows that when a withdrawal is made it needs to be without qualification. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, 'I withdraw but ...' and then said a number of other things. I think the Deputy Leader of the Opposition needs to rephrase her comments.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw my comment in relation to the Kool Aid and drinking it. What we have seen is a member in this House—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Pause the clock. We will wait.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes, I can hear you, member for Kawana. I do not know what you were drinking. We are all on the same page.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It just shows how out of touch those opposite are, particularly those from Brisbane city. I quote the member for Lytton when she said that all Queenslanders can benefit from the Premier's big announcement in relation to Alinta Energy. I see the member for Cairns shaking his head, and so he should because everyone outside of the Brisbane CBD cannot—sorry, I will correct that. In the Labor Party's words, everyone outside of South-East Queensland can get this big discount, but let me read this. Any member of this House who resides in the postcode—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I am having difficulty hearing the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.


**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Let me give you an example of somewhere within South-East Queensland. I appreciate that people in Bundaberg and Kingaroy automatically do not get it but, if you live in the postcode of 4306, guess what? You also cannot get this discount that the Premier is carrying on about. I will read out some of those regions because they are quite close to the Premier's own electorate. They are in the Ipswich region in areas like Amberley, Blacksoil, Karalee, Karana Downs, Ripley and Willowbank. I ask the members for Ipswich and Ipswich West what they are doing about this, because I know that my constituents in Somerset who are hurting from electricity prices will not be fooled by this Premier and her incompetent government and by all the headlines that say it will ease the cost of living for them and ease the cost of power because it is a falsity. The Premier should hang her head in shame. She is even misleading the people in South-East Queensland, irrespective of the people in Roma or out west. Do not worry about them. She is misleading the people in her own backyard.

What I can say is that higher power prices are a tax by stealth—pure and simple. We have been travelling around this state meeting businesses, mums and dads, people who are fed up and frustrated with the Looney Tunes talk from this Labor government. We heard this morning that the CCIQ survey shows that power prices are the No. 1 issue for businesses.

We have a Premier here who has presided over a period of the highest ever electricity prices in the state of Queensland. We have seen their mad rush for renewables. What is that going to add to power bills? We heard the member who spoke just before me carrying on that we should have more and more renewables. What have we heard? It is going to cost \$10.8 billion. Where do you think that money will come from? Those prices will end up on the power bills of each and every Queenslanders. They will end up on the bills of each and every mum and dad across Queensland, each and every pensioner, each and every business owner, each and every small business owner and each and every major industry who have decided that they have to leave this state because of this incompetent government and their mad, headlong rush into renewables.

All they are doing is pushing power prices up. They are taxing Queenslanders and, from what we have heard from those opposite, they are proud of it because apparently everywhere across Queensland can get this great discount that we read about in the paper. Anyone outside of South-East Queensland knows that that is a falsity. They are misleading the people of Queensland. It is typical of this Labor government to completely forget about rural and regional Queensland. Only the LNP will stand up for the people of Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (6.39 pm): Let us be very clear about what this motion is. This is the latest attack by the LNP on the public ownership of our power assets. That is what it is about.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, I will consider inviting the member for Yeerongpilly to start again if it becomes a rabble.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** All right. I call the member for Yeerongpilly to start again, please.

**Mr BAILEY:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let it be very clear what this motion is about. This is the latest attempt by the LNP to do over public ownership of our power assets and to privatise them. They have been defeated on the substance of asset sales and now they are attacking it by the back door. That is what this motion is about. They are attacking the fact that we are using the dividends this year to cut the power price increases in Queensland by more than half. That is what they do not say in this debate. That is why they are so deceptive and so misleading of Queenslanders—because they do not tell the truth. The truth is that we are getting the best power price outcomes anywhere in this country in terms of the wholesale price. We have had the lowest wholesale prices in this country since March of this year, and that will continue for the next three years.

What we are seeing here is the good old LNP trick involving the promise of one thing before an election. Remember that one where they said they would not privatise without a mandate but then they went ahead and did it anyway. This is what they are trying to do this time. They are saying, 'We won't sell assets,' and then they will get into power—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I can see that the member for Gregory is very excited in the back corner.

**Mr BAILEY:** We are seeing that the lowest wholesale price increases in mainland Australia are in Queensland—at 3.3 per cent versus 19 per cent in other states. We are seeing the lowest wholesale prices across the country since March and for the next three years in Queensland under this government.

Let us look at the LNP policy. They mucked up power before with 43 per cent price increases, and that is why they are in opposition right now. That is the truth of it. What have they got planned? These are their two policies—one, get rid of the 50 per cent renewable energy target, a target that is driving 20 large-scale renewable projects for Queensland and \$3 billion worth of investment; and, two, wait for it, and I will quote the member for Mount Coot-tha, their madcap plan for a ninth coal generator. That is their plan—to back old technology that is expensive and that will put bills through the roof. The most devastating critique of Tim Nicholls' energy policy was by the Treasurer of this country. Scott Morrison, who is from the same party as Tim Nicholls, said in the *Australian Financial Review*—

... let's not think that there's cheap new coal, there's not.

He said that a coal-fired power station—

takes seven years to turn up. So if we think that is all of a sudden going to make your power bills cheaper next month, it won't.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I can hear you loudly from your seat, member for Mermaid Beach.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes, I can hear you very loudly.

**Mr BAILEY:** I know it is embarrassing to hear that Scott Morrison has demolished their energy policy in the national media over the last few weeks. Let me quote Scott Morrison again—

... the era of cheap, coal-fired power is coming to an end and anyone claiming it is the sole solution to the nation's energy dilemma is propagating a myth.

The member for Clayfield, by the federal Treasurer's own words, is propagating a myth. That is very clear.

What the opposition never do is they never stand up to Canberra. They never stand up to their own party. They are not fit to be the government of Queensland. When it comes to the national electricity market, they will not stand up to the federal government. They will not listen to people like Alan Finkel, the Chief Scientist of this country, who tells us that new coal-fired power is not only a little but a lot more expensive than renewable energy. They do not listen to Alan Kohler, who said on national TV only a few weeks ago that the lowest wholesale prices in the country are here in Queensland. That was from Alan Kohler. If you know better than Alan Kohler, good luck to you on that one.

The Australian Energy Council has made it very clear that if there was ever going to be a new coal-fired power station it would not be in Queensland, because the price signals are in South Australia and Victoria. That is from the Australian Energy Council. The price signals are lowest in Queensland because we are delivering 20 large-scale renewable energy projects—the cheapest form, the latest technology, the best for people's bills. The Australian Industry Group, the peak business body, has said that prices would have to sustain at nearly double the level to pay for a coal-fired power station.

This is yet another stunt by a bunch of energy incompetents, a bunch of energy ignoramuses, who mucked it up last time and who will muck it up again if they get half a chance and get in again. We have seen nothing yet. It was 43 per cent, and we would see a lot more if they ever got the chance again.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 42:**

**ALP, 41**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Gordon.

**NOES, 44:**

**LNP, 40**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

**KAP, 2**—Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Dickson.

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Pyne.

Pair: Crandon, Furner.

Resolved in the negative.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, for any future divisions on this matter the bells will ring for one minute.

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

**AYES, 44:**

**LNP, 40**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

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**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Gordon.

Pair: Crandon, Furner.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.54 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Finance and Administration Committee report on the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 by 5 October 2017; the Health, Communities, Disabilities Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report on the Hospital Foundations Bill 2017 by 13 October 2017; the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee report on the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 by 3 November 2017; and the Public Works and Utilities Committee report on the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 by 5 October 2017 and the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill 2017 by 13 October 2017.


Sitting suspended from 6.55 pm to 8.00 pm.

## MOTION

### Liberal National Party, Political Donations

Resumed from p. 2272, on motion of Ms Trad—

That this House calls upon the Liberal National Party to save Queensland taxpayer funds and immediately disclose the secret list of donors behind the \$100,000 worth of secret donations.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (8.00 pm), continuing: Let me begin where I finished some hours ago, when we started debating this motion. I was talking about the Leader of Opposition Business, the member for Callide, who was talking about the great own goal scored by the Deputy Premier when she scribbled out this motion without anyone's knowledge. Without the Premier's knowledge the Deputy Premier scribbled out this tactical motion about leadership and put it before the House to debate.

I was watching the dynamics over there, and when the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Clayfield, was speaking about the leadership of the Premier, the Premier was getting quite upset. She was getting quite agitated and she kept saying to the Leader of the House, 'Get up on a point of order. I don't like what I'm hearing. Get up on a point of order!' I saw the Leader of the House, who was sitting over there, say, 'No, Premier, that's okay. We'll complete the debate.' The Leader of the Opposition then spoke about more leadership issues the Premier and Deputy Premier have, and I watched the dynamics. The Premier then said again to the Leader of the House, 'Stirling, get up on a point of order!' He said no, but after the fifth time the Premier did not like what she was hearing the Leader of the House finally got up to a point of order and said, 'The Leader of the Opposition is not talking about the motion.' What a load of rubbish, because the Deputy Premier had just given a 15-minute diatribe with respect to the leadership of the opposition but she did not want to hear about the government's own leadership and the lack of leadership from the Premier.

Then the debacle continued. They put forward a motion to talk about the leadership of the Premier, and then they could not find enough members of the Labor Party to support the Premier to talk on the motion, so they tried to guillotine the motion. It is their motion which they tried to guillotine. In the three years that the member for Inala has been the Premier, I think that is probably the first motion she has actually spoken to. In fact—I am happy to be corrected—it would be the first time I have heard the Premier speak in the parliament without it actually being question time.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Yes, but Jeff made her do that.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Yes, of course. The Leader of Opposition Business baited the Premier to the extent that she felt compelled to speak. After the Premier spoke, the shuddering started and the shivers went up the spine. The mistake was made. The Leader of the House and the protection racket tried to start, the censure started, the guillotining of the debate started and the agitation started. They saw that it was not such a great idea to get the Premier up to speak. As I said earlier, the reason they keep the Premier tucked away and hidden from prying eyes is that when she does open her mouth she usually stuffs up. Queenslanders can see it. When the Premier opens her mouth, no-one knows what is going to come out. Their own members do not know what is going to come out of her mouth, but she makes stuff up. Clearly, as we saw with the Leader of Opposition Business, the Premier made stuff up about what conversation she might have had with him. The Premier is renowned for that.

The Premier also goes to press conferences in Townsville and then, when asked about an issue in South-East Queensland, says to the media in Townsville, 'No, I'm in Townsville. I'm not talking to you about that today.' Does the Premier think that the media and social media does not travel from South-East Queensland to Townsville and regional Queensland? Does the Premier think that she has a prerogative to go to Townsville and only talk about issues that she wants to talk about and not what journalists want to ask her about?

Talking about stunts, last week at the Ekka the Premier attended the CWA announcement and gave a birthday cake to Lady Flo. The Premier was at a press conference because they thought, 'It's the fair. It's the carnival. It's where the city meets the country. Surely, today of all days, we can bring the Premier out of the darkness and have her speak in front of a live press conference.' Of course, when the Premier was asked about a particular matter she turned her back and walked away, and there were no answers for the journalists.

A few weeks before that the Premier was at another press conference where they dragged her out. It was in fact about the 'mangocube' sitting up the back there, the member for Yeerongpilly. The Premier was asked about that, and she just walked out of the press conference. As she was walking away from the press conference she said, 'No, I've finished the press conference. I've finished it.' It is a dictatorship when the Premier thinks she will only answer questions that she wants to answer at times when she wants to go out into the public domain. The Premier spouts off about accountability, integrity and transparency, yet over the last three years I think we have seen that that is all talk and no action.

We then saw the pallbearers of the Labor movement—the education minister, Kate Jones, and the health minister—get up and defend the Premier, but there were no backbenchers. I did not hear any of the backbenchers get up and defend the leadership of the Premier. As the member for Callide points out, this motion has been an own goal. It has now turned into a motion about the leadership of the Premier. If the opposition had moved this motion then we would have been happy to debate it. We would have had our members all up talking about it. We would not have tried to guillotine it. We would not have had the member for Logan squawking down the back there. We would have given him an opportunity to speak about leadership.

The poor member for Bundamba is sitting up there, and we know the relationship between the member for Bundamba and the member for South Brisbane. I suspect what happened is that when the member for Bundamba went to the Leader of the House and said, 'Leader of the House, I want to be on the speaking list for this motion,' the shutters came up. Then, just as they did in estimates, they tried to shut the member for Bundamba out again. While they raise the argument that they were shutting out the Liberal National Party opposition, the real answer is that they were trying to shut out the member for Bundamba. Let the record show that the Leader of Opposition Business tried to open the door and get her back on the speaking list tonight—

**Mr Springborg:** So benevolent!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** So benevolent. I take that interjection from the member for Southern Downs. We do not know what the member for Bundamba is going to say. It may be a mistake to leave her on the speaking list. I know one thing: the Deputy Premier should be more concerned about what is going to come out of the member for Bundamba's mouth than about the Liberal National Party opposition. If I know anything, that is one thing I do know.

We talked about accountability and transparency, but they did not mention the union movement. They did not mention that one of the first pieces of legislation they introduced was to get rid of transparency and accountability measures for the union movement. The Liberal National Party government said that if you are a union thug—if you are a union fat cat—sitting in the back office or driving your \$150,000 Mercedes-Benz but doing a press conference and putting a 'shareable' out there, you act for the workers. 'We're all about the workers,' but they are walking around with credit cards—

**Mr Power:** Name them! We want names.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Name them? Dave Hanna. Who is the other fellow? Michael Ravbar. I am happy to name them. Do you think that by throwing an interjection at me and daring me to name them I am not going to name them? I will name them to your face. Michael—

**Mr Whiting** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Murrumba and member for Kawana, please cease the conversations across the chamber. All comments must be directed through the chair. Members, I know this is a heated debate and I do not think anyone could accuse the member for Kawana of not being provocative, but Hansard still needs to hear what he is saying.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. If the member for Murrumba with his interjections thinks that I will not name these union thug fat cats, then I will—Michael Ravbar and Dave Hanna. Look where they are at the moment. They are all in the selfies. I tell you what: you will find a selfie of Dave Hanna and the Labor Party—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I just warned the member for Kawana and also the member for Murrumba for conversations. Everything must be directed through the chair, please.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Let me name some other names to see if members pick up any correlation or if there is a theme developing here: Mike Kaiser, Bill D'Arcy, Gordon Nuttall, Keith Wright, Grant Musgrove, Merri Rose, Bill Shorten and ripping off AWU workers. Let us not forget Paul Pisasale, who just got thrown out of the Labor Party. Let me name them again: Mike Kaiser, Bill D'Arcy and Gordon Nuttall. Talk about accountability and transparency! This is the Labor Party that came into this parliament and got rid of section 57 of the Criminal Code which made it illegal to lie to parliament. Why did it do that? It did that to protect corrupt former minister Gordon Nuttall. Gordon Nuttall is a corrupt politician who was sentenced by the courts and the Labor Party came in here and moved an amendment taking out section 57, yet those opposite talk about—


**Mr Seeney:** Recalled parliament!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Yes, it recalled parliament in extraordinary circumstances to take out of the Criminal Code lying to parliament. Those opposite say that they are proud that the first piece of legislation they brought in was about protecting dodgy unions and donations. I will tell members what: I am proud that one of the first pieces of legislation we brought in was to reintroduce section 57 into the Criminal Code. I am proud the Liberal National Party reintroduced a section in the Criminal Code designed to catch politicians lying to parliament. Those opposite protected Gordon Nuttall and his corruption and then of course they washed their hands of all of the issues about Gordon Nuttall—'Nothing to see here. Nothing to do with us.'

I refer to the points that the shadow Attorney-General made in his contribution earlier with respect to the issue at hand here. We know that the committee that looked at the donation legislation had two documents tabled and, with respect, I wrote to the committee at that stage and provided Crown law advice to show that the Commonwealth law would prevail with respect to these donations. That is why the Liberal National Party did not introduce the seven-day real-time disclosure. It was our policy to introduce it. We had a policy after a green paper to introduce real-time disclosure, but then all of the lawyers in the state government said, 'You can't do it. It will be found not to be valid by the High Court because the Commonwealth law will prevail.' That is why we did not head down that path. The shadow Attorney-General has made the additional points with respect to the other element that the Commonwealth law is incompatible with the state law. That is the issue at hand. That is the issue that is being debated in the courts.

This morning the Deputy Premier talked about the courts trying to wield power; the Supreme Court judges are going to have the wisdom that the Deputy Premier mentions. The Deputy Premier might not be subject to the sub judice rule, but she is certainly subject to the contempt of court proceedings. If we talk about civil proceedings, we only need look to the federal government where three federal ministers were responsible and had to apologise to the court because of civil proceedings.

Because we only have an hour for this guillotined debate and I want my colleagues to make their contributions tonight as well, I say this with respect to the Minister for Health: the Minister for Health got up and squawked when he said, 'I back the Premier. I back the Premier.' As the old saying goes, you have to get behind someone before you can stab them in the back, and that is exactly what the health minister is doing today. You have to get behind someone before you can stab them in the back. In conclusion and on a completely irrelevant note, tonight I welcome to the state parliament in the public gallery my good friend from primary school Mr Luke Palmer on his first visit to Parliament House.

 **Mrs JR MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (8.13 pm): At the outset I want to thank the Leader of the House for the rare opportunity of allowing me to speak in the parliament. I have listened intently to previous speakers and I intend to make a philosophical and honest speech here tonight in relation to the motion. The point is that the people believe that political donations have the tendency to corrupt decisions of all levels of government no matter when they are declared or how they are declared or the level of the political donation, whether it be \$100, \$1,000, \$10,000 or millions of dollars, because the people believe that apart from small donations or purchasing raffle tickets the system of government itself right across the nation needs reform.

Many people in Queensland cannot understand why donations are needed at all given that we have public funding of election campaigns, that party members pay fees to political parties, that MPs—all of us who belong to political parties—pay part of our salaries to political parties and that unions pay affiliation fees, but I do not know what goes on in the opposition with the LNP. There are also fundraisers like dinners and conferences. The fact is that political parties have morphed from genuine parties of common values and beliefs to businesses where the prize is the biggest business of all—that is, government at national, state or local government levels. There has been a serial hijacking of all political parties by a new political class of people who would not know a single person who lived in the suburbs like Redbank Plains or Bundamba, people with very little connection to workers or their families, people who describe branch members as ‘branchies’ with disdain for those branch members and people who rarely ever take part in community events. This is the political class I am talking about. This is a ‘winner takes all’ approach whereby money and donations buy access, they buy power and they can buy decisions, even those that are detrimental to the local community, and we know that has happened in Ipswich. No wonder the people are over it!

The worst of it I believe is at local government level and the person who moved this motion tonight is the Deputy Premier, who was the previous minister for local government. One may ask: why are mayors of cities raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for election campaigns? It is absolutely obscene. Why are councillors raising tens of thousands of dollars? Is it greed, is it ego or is it corruption—a corruption of values of good governance which may lead to the corruption of decisions and systemic corruption of the public sector? I called out the alleged corruption in Ipswich on many occasions. On numerous occasions I told the Premier of Queensland that I believed that the former mayor of Ipswich was allegedly corrupt. The Deputy Premier also knew of my concerns, as did other ministers. The State Secretary, Evan Moorhead, and the State President, Dick Williams, of the ALP also knew, as did many ALP branches in Ipswich, trade unions and loyal and honest ALP branch members. I was the only MP—state or federal—to call out the alleged corruption in Ipswich, not just in relation to funding but also other circumstances. In relation to my time as police minister, I told the Premier that the then mayor was allegedly corrupt and I believed had access to information confidential to the Ipswich police comms centre.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Member for Bundamba, I just ask you to be extremely careful that you are not referring to anything that is—


**Mrs MILLER:** I am. I am aware. My concerns were ignored and all I got was, ‘Just fix it,’ which was code for directing the Police Commissioner under the Police Service Administration Act. I refused to do it. The Premier stood by an allegedly corrupt former mayor and got rid of an honest police minister. I also raised matters like money changing hands and suspicious trips all over Australia and internationally only to be rebuffed because the former mayor was popular and an ALP member. I got told, ‘Oh, he’s very popular.’ It was his political immunity and alleged corruption, and he was also a member of the ALP. It reminded me of another era in this parliament—the Sir Joh era when he, too, was popular. There were also murmurings about dodgy money then, but because he was popular and a card-carrying National Party member the sins were washed away until Fitzgerald.

As a member of parliament you are known by the company you keep and the values by which you live your life. To walk past corruption is a corrupt act in itself. To walk past corruption is a value statement of one’s very low value system. I never wavered. I called it out and I resigned.

Our system of government has learned very little 30 years since the landmark Fitzgerald inquiry. Political parties still protect their own on the high altar of populism. It is viewed like a protection card, that they are untouchable. This is exactly what occurred in Ipswich and the ALP. In the last few weeks in Ipswich with the mayoral by-election campaign, we once again saw dodgy type donations. For many days people were calling on one councillor, Councillor Tully, to say who had paid for the huge billboards. The calls were ignored until last Saturday, the day of the by-election for mayor, when Councillor Tully declared that Graham Staerk, who runs a Gold Coast PR firm, had donated some \$18,000. In fact, Mark Solomons of the *Brisbane Times* reported that Mr Staerk paid for billboards on 8 August but that under the new ECQ rules such donations should have been disclosed within seven days. That appears not to have been the case. Will there be an investigation? I ask that of the Attorney-General. Why was this not disclosed? Maybe it is because Graham Staerk was involved in the Tweed Shire Council elections, where he was described as a mastermind in organising the group Tweed Directions, which constructed a campaign funded by money primarily sourced from developers. Is this the same Graham Staerk also noted in the CMC inquiry into the 2004 Gold Coast City Council elections, where he worked as a consultant to Ron Clarke? His name and local government elections raise alarm bells. I wonder whether this is why the disclosure was delayed.

The people of Queensland are right to be suspicious of political donations. There should be one law for all levels of government—Commonwealth, state and local. The people should be consulted on the detail. What is right? What is fair? What is reasonable? Real-time disclosure of donations is a must, not a maybe. Wherever there is money there is power and there is corruption or potential for corruption. Corruption takes many forms, including knowledge, as with the Ipswich police communications centre, influence and the ultimate destruction of honest people. That is what happened to me by my very own government, by my own party, but in recent weeks and months the truth has come out, as it always does.

The worst infectious disease of mankind is corruption in all its forms. The cure is decent people calling it out, reporting it, shining the sunlight on it, with openness and transparency. The decent people are always let down by judases who would prefer to ignore it, dance around it and hope it goes away in a valueless swill of mediocrity and political convenience. Let the people of Queensland be forever vigilant on political donations and corruption on all sides of this House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (8.23 pm): I refer to the blowing up of the Deputy Premier's ill-fated political stunt, which she tried to pull this morning. What a debacle today has become. What a disaster. The Deputy Premier thought she was going to be extremely smart and stand up to dupe the Premier again, right in her face—just like she did on the Adani deal. It just went completely wrong, because when the Leader of the Opposition called it out for what it was the Deputy Premier realised her mistake.

Of course, the debate was meant to be curtailed during the day. The Labor Party tried to shut down the debate and did not want us to talk about it, because it realised that the bomb had blown up in its face. We on this side of the House started today by talking about the Labor Party and its cons, costs and crises. What have we seen today? We have seen a con from the Deputy Premier, trying to con the Premier that something was going to happen in favour of the Labor Party. Then it turned into an absolute crisis that has cost us all the day—all because this Deputy Premier decided that she was going to move a motion.

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection from the member for Callide. She tried to be half smart and it has blown up in her face.

I listened with great interest to the member for Mansfield's contribution. It was a very good contribution to this debate because it set out what it should have been—that is, the matter is before the courts. I went to the university of the real world and I got my law degree. I do not know where the Premier got her law degree and I do not know where the Deputy Premier got her law degree, but they should have listened when the separation of powers and influencing the court were taught. They decide that they know better so they come in here and try to influence this House. The influence did not work for them, because they lost in that debate. Here we are still debating it.

The Leader of the House then came into this House to try to curtail the debate again. We moved an amendment to extend debate of the motion to two hours so that more people on our side could contribute. No-one on the other side of the House wants to talk about the ill-fated Premier or the ill-fated Deputy Premier and what they did to their side of politics today by moving this motion. What a debacle. What a crisis we have seen.

Let us look at some of the close links we see in relation to donations and the Labor Party. The member for Kawana just started on that but I will add to it. Who are the most powerful unions and how much do they contribute to those opposite and their campaigns? Gary Bullock, the secretary of United Voice, donated \$518,000. This is the union that represents some of the lowest paid people in this state. They give away our hardworking—

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Minister and member for Callide, please cease your conversation across the chamber. The member for Nanango has the call.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I would like to take up that line of thought, though, given that we just heard a minister opposite say that it is none of our business where that money comes from. I think those hardworking people who contribute to United Voice would like to know that nearly half a million dollars goes to those people opposite—

**Mr Seeney:** Out of the pockets of the workers.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Out of the pockets of the workers. They would care. The Minister for Industrial Relations says, 'Who cares?' The lowest paid people across this state care. They want to know where their money goes. It is an embarrassment that low-paid workers across our state have been told by a minister in this House that their union is giving half a million dollars—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There are too many people reacting to comments from either side. There is one person speaking and it is the member for Nanango. The member for Nanango has the call.


**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** If I can move on to the AWU, Ben Swan donated \$296,730.55. Peter Simpson from the ETU donated \$245,985. Then we see good old boy Michael Ravbar from the CFMEU, he of the selfie with the Premier, who donated almost \$162,000. Let us not forget the RTBU, the authors of Labor's 'rail fail'. They gave Labor almost \$68,000. One would have to ask: what favours did the Labor Party give their union mates in relation to those cash donations? We have heard from those opposite that they do not care.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Minister and member for Callide, I have already spoken to you about conversations across the chamber. Next time I will warn you.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I want to conclude on this point: ultimately what we are talking about here today is the simple fact that the Deputy Premier essentially moved a motion against her own Premier because she did not trust the leadership capabilities of the Premier of Queensland. When you are the Premier of Queensland and the only thing you have done for this great state is initiate 213 reviews, you become known as a Premier who just reviews and simply does not do.

I think the people of Queensland deserve better. They deserve better than this inept government. Today they certainly have seen this government for what it is: a mob of backstabbers, a mob of people who are just so untrusting of their own Premier they have to try to unseat her through a motion in the House. I will conclude as the member for Kawana did and acknowledge the presence in the gallery of two great constituents of mine, Barb Madden and Andrew Shearer-Smith. It is great to see them here in the gallery today.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (8.32 pm): I recognise that the last couple of speakers on the other side have actually talked to the motion. I will give them that much.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Thank you.

**Mrs D'ATH:** You are welcome, member for Nanango. They are at least talking about political donations. The majority of the debate that we heard earlier today had absolutely nothing to do with this motion.

**Mr Hinchliffe:** And absolutely zero to do with the Leader of the Opposition's motion.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection from the member for Sandgate. The Leader of the Opposition has had to leave it to his deputy to talk to the motion because the Leader of the Opposition could not.

**Ms Trad:** The member for Callide actually did a better job than him—which is rare.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take the member's interjection. We have heard a lot from the other side praising the member for Mansfield and his contribution. The way they summarised it was that it was a sensible clarification of what this is actually about. There have been a number of speakers on this side who I think have accurately summarised the contributions from the opposition—that is, those opposite have sought to trivialise this debate. They have sought to trivialise this issue. Political donations are not trivial to the people of Queensland.

The member for Mansfield has tried to describe this as simply seeking a clarification from the court. Others have said it is a legitimate legal issue that they are seeking to ask the court's assistance on. The point is that it is not the LNP who asked for it. It is not the LNP who said, 'You know what? We don't believe that these are valid laws so we are going to test them.' It is the Electoral Commission of Queensland that has had to do that after more than two years of these laws being in place. These laws passed in May 2015 and the LNP has had to be dragged kicking and screaming to have these laws challenged. At any point the LNP could have filed its own matter before the court and sought to test this, but it did not want to do that because it did not want to be the one to be seen to be hiding from political donations—not publicly anyway. It has been left to the ECQ to file this matter to finally get the LNP to comply with the legislation. It is disgusting. It is a waste of taxpayers' money.

**Mr Seeney:** To work out what your law means because you don't even know.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I know exactly, member for Callide, what these laws mean.

**Mr Seeney:** No, you don't! The court will decide what it means.

**Mrs D'ATH:** They mean transparency.

**Mr Seeney:** The court will decide what it means. That's the whole purpose of the court.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, I have warned you about conversations across the chamber. These are not just interjections. I warn you under standing order 253A for disorderly conduct.

**Mrs D'ATH:** What we are hearing from the member for Callide is that the LNP can decide which laws they choose to comply with or not based on their interpretation of validity until a court overturns them; not they will comply until such time as the court finds that they are not valid. They are going to choose not to comply with these laws. They talk about being tough on crime, but they themselves will not comply with laws of this parliament. I talked earlier today about youth justice and the ridiculous policy of those on the other side of taking licences off kids, yet their own member for Broadwater was driving around unlicensed. I have an LNP candidate in Redcliffe who is running around saying they do not need to comply with the local laws of the Moreton Bay Regional Council because the LNP told them they do not have to comply with local council laws.

There is a pattern here. The LNP has decided which laws it will comply with and which ones it will not until such time as they are court ordered to comply. This is the party that wants to be in government after the next election. This is the leader who wants to be the premier.

**Ms Simpson:** Are you replacing the courts, are you?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I am not going to the point of the constitutionality of the legislation.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There are too many conversations. These are not interjections, these are conversations. If members continue I will warn each one of you.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take the interjection from the member for Maroochydore because for two and a half years there have been inappropriate claims by those on the other side about how I should interfere with court decisions. In fact, on one occasion interfering with police matters as well. Those on the other side should not talk about separation of powers because we know their interpretation of separation of powers. I know personally what separation of powers means because I had to spend the first few months in this job fixing up the mess that those on the other side created in relation to the damage with the legal profession and the judiciary because they interfered with that separation of powers.

**Mr Byrne:** Did you see that press conference, Fiona?

**Ms Simpson:** You've got no idea about the separation of powers.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take the interjection.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, I warn you under standing order 253A for disorderly conduct. Minister and member for Rockhampton, I warn you under standing order 253A for disorderly conduct.

**Mrs D'ATH:** The LNP has been belligerent about this issue. They have chosen to not comply with ECQ directions for more than two years. We have heard the interjections and we have heard the debate on this motion that the LNP truly believes that we need to test the validity of these laws before the court. There is a flaw in that argument from that side. They have been very selective in relation to that argument. They are declaring donations now under real-time disclosure. In fact, under their own parliamentary committee report, report No. 56 back in February 2014, they said they could not introduce monthly reporting because they believed it would not be consistent with the Commonwealth Constitution, yet they are now complying with real-time disclosure.

They say that they cannot comply with \$1,000 donations or they could not keep \$1,000 donations because it would not be consistent, yet they are applying it now. There is only a select group of donations for which they are choosing not to comply. They are not taking a consistent approach. If they actually believed what they were saying, they would not be complying with the law as a whole. They would not be complying with real-time disclosure, because their own committee report says that they do not believe it is constitutional. They would not be complying with the donation thresholds that are in the legislation right now, but they are. However, there is a select group of donations that occurred over a period that they do not want to disclose. Why? That is the question. Why is the Leader of the Opposition choosing not to disclose those donations?

This is not just a legal issue; it is also an ethical issue for the Leader of the Opposition. As a party, they have made the decision to comply with the majority of the legislation that they themselves claim is not constitutional. They themselves have made that decision. Yet, when it comes to those donations specifically, they are choosing to argue, 'No, we shouldn't until it is tested'. It just does not ring true. There is something going on here. There is another issue that the Leader of the Opposition should address. Aside from why they will take incredible steps to fight disclosing \$100,000, they may end up spending \$100,000 fighting the case. However, still they do not want to disclose those donations.

The other question is: what would the Leader of the Opposition do in government? What would Tim Nicholls do? Will he go back to lifting this threshold, which presumably would be well over \$13,000, linked to CPI again? Would they go back to that? Would they scrap real-time disclosures, because according to their own committee report they do not believe that is constitutional either? Would they scrap that? They are not being honest with the people of Queensland. What is their policy? What is their direction here? Will they bring back the mandatory ID requirements? Suddenly they do not like ID scanners, but let us see if they want to bring back requirements to show ID for voting, so that they can disenfranchise the most vulnerable in our community. The LNP is not being silent just on political donations; they are being silent on what their future policy direction is when it comes to political donations. The people of Queensland have a right to know what their policy is. What are they going to do after the next election, if they win government? The people of Queensland have a right to know that.

I will go briefly to some of the comments that were made in the February 2014 committee report on the LNP's legislation. The Queensland Council of Civil Liberties said that the 'continuous comprehensive and total disclosure of both income and outgoings' was essential to an election finance system. Ben Marshall said—

I would suggest that donations and political parties must be even more open than they are now to ensure our democracy isn't subverted by the flow of money. This amendment weakens democratic oversight, and therefore our democracy. We should know who is donating to whom and in what amounts.

The QCU said 'the sizeable donation made by the former member for Redcliffe to the LNP prior to the 2012 state election' was a reason for concern and 'given the relatively recent history of corruption within Queensland politics it would be beneficial for public confidence if the current thresholds were to remain'. I speak on behalf of the people of Redcliffe when I say that we still want to see that \$50,000 go to a good cause and not into the pockets of the LNP.

Dr Paul Williams said 'a higher threshold will only make it harder to detect who's donating what to whom'. Alastair Lawrie's submission added further weight to the opposition to an increased disclosure threshold, describing it as 'a major retrograde development'. He said—

As well as being a vital anti-corruption measure—disclosing who is funding whom, and by what amounts—the public has a legitimate right to know where political parties and candidates are obtaining their funding. Increasing the threshold for disclosure by more than 1100% deprives the public of this right, and increases the possibility of people and organisations seeking to exercise nefarious influence through political donations.

Katter's Australian Party strongly opposed the proposed amendments, claiming they offer no positive outcomes and will have no other effect than to reduce scrutiny on donors to the major parties. They said—

This is again to the benefit of larger corporate-type donors who are not as commonly associated with minor parties.


Our experience in growing a minor party is that we appeal less to the affluent sectors of the population and medium to larger size business.

Family Voice Australia said—

Mandatory public disclosure of financial contributions to political parties and candidates and their campaign expenditures is an important safeguard against inappropriate influence on the political system.

That is what people had to say when the LNP sought to lift the threshold of donations.

Not only is the Leader of the Opposition not showing leadership to his own party and to the people of Queensland by not disclosing these donations—that is, he is not showing leadership in outlining what the LNP's future policy would be; he is also wasting taxpayers' money. This will be a costly exercise. Today I saw the directions order and this matter is going through until November. I suspect there will be extensive work done in preparation for these proceedings. This did not need to occur. Taxpayer's dollars are being spent to get the LNP to comply with legislation that they themselves are complying with in many other areas, but are selecting not to apply in relation to these donations. They should be honest with the people of Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition has the opportunity to rectify this immediately and he should do so. He should show leadership. Otherwise, he should question his leadership ability in the LNP.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (8.46 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Deputy Premier. The political reality of the situation in the parliament tonight is that the government is a minority government and that neither the government nor the opposition have the numbers to defeat or pass the motion without the support of the crossbench. Therefore, my contribution to the debate will be directed to the members of the crossbench, who will have to make up their minds about the merits of the motion. In addressing the merits of the motion, I will go from a couple of different angles. First of all, I am going to talk about the substance of the motion. Notwithstanding what the Attorney-General just said in terms of characterising the way that the member for Mansfield made his contribution to the debate earlier today, the LNP is not selectively deciding which laws apply to the LNP and when. The matter that is before the court at the moment is testing the law. It is testing the law after a situation where the LNP actually told this parliament, through the committee process and through the debate on that legislation, that in our opinion and in the opinion of others the law is unclear. The government was given notice about our concerns in that regard.

For the Attorney-General to raise that as an issue is very interesting, because I am aware of only one other person in this country who has actively said, 'We are going to decide when and where we adhere to the laws of the land' and that was the national secretary of the ACTU. She said that members of that union and other union members across the state can pick and choose when they adhere to industrial laws of this country. She said that publicly and notoriously earlier this year. The attorney's own people, her own tribe, have said very clearly that the union movement will decide when they comply with the law of the land. After giving notice of our position, the LNP is testing the legislation. We are having the legislation tested in that regard.

The substance of the motion was dealt with effectively by the member for Mansfield earlier in the debate. He very clearly articulated the reasons why the substance of the motion moved by the Deputy Premier is flawed.

The second point that I want to deal with this evening is how the debate has been framed by the mover of the motion, the Deputy Premier, and not the Premier. The Premier eventually had to be shamed into making a contribution to the debate, only after the Minister for Health and the Minister for Education had made their contributions. The Premier had to be shamed into making a contribution.

The Deputy Premier, after framing this whole argument as a matter of leadership—as the Attorney-General did in her contribution—was, in my opinion, very effectively rebutted by the Leader of the Opposition who related to the parliament the litany of failures that has characterised this government over the last 2½ years. In terms of the framing of the argument tonight, the government tried to flee the field in terms of scrutiny and allow this debate to be fully ventilated.

That takes me to the third element of what we are talking about tonight. How is this motion being dealt with as a matter of procedure? Is this a well-planned, reflective motion that has been moved by the Deputy Premier earlier today? We can see a lot of thought went into it. We can see that it has been carefully crafted. We can see with all the little bits of scribble and rubbing out that the Deputy Premier spent a long time reflecting on the substance of the motion and how she was going to put this argument. The fact of the matter is that they needed a distraction for some reason today and it popped into the Deputy Premier's mind that this would be a good way of trying to distract the parliament and the public from the real issues that needed to be addressed earlier today in parliament. That did not go very well.

The Leader of the Opposition touched on this matter earlier today. He said it was a very interesting moment for the government to move this motion. The Premier said in her contribution to this debate that they have been warning people since this debate in 2014. This parliament has been meeting for 2½ years and the government has never taken the trouble to move this particular motion to address the substance of the issue the motion addresses, but they have today. What a shocking indictment on the Premier's argument in relation to that particular issue that they have had the opportunity to do it for 2½ years and yet they have left it until today.

Labor's own members had to jump up and down for an opportunity to contribute to this debate. What we saw, in an extraordinary example of hypocrisy, was the Leader of the House move a closure motion against a resolution that the government had moved itself. That has to be one of the few instances in the history of this parliament when a government has moved a closure motion against a matter which they instigated debate on. The circumstances in which they did that are quite extraordinary.

After they lost the vote on the closure motion, the gag motion, and the parliament repudiated them the Leader of the House came in before the six o'clock debate and moved another motion saying, 'Let's hit the mercy button. Let's only debate it for one more hour. Let our embarrassment only continue for another hour tonight. The mercy button was agreed to by the crossbench.'

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! I realise this is a very heated debate, but we still need to hear what the member for Hinchinbrook is saying.

**Mr CRIPPS:** The Leader of the House came in here and pleaded to the parliament to put in place a safety net, a mercy button, so the Labor Party could hit the mercy button and only have one hour of debate and the continued embarrassment would be over.

In terms of the merits of this motion, the substance is not there, the Deputy Premier has failed to frame the argument with any coherence whatsoever and the procedure has been all over the shop like a dog's breakfast. It will be very interesting to see if the crossbench reward this litany of failure and throw out this motion moved by the Deputy Premier or treat it with the disdain that it deserves.



**Hon. L SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (8.54 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker—

**Ms Trad:** Madam Deputy Speaker—

**Mr Seeney:** You have spoken already.

**Ms Trad:** I have a right of reply. There are five minutes left.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, the advice I have received is that you do not have a right of reply.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** I think what we have seen today is election silly-season sort of stuff. We have seen an overreaction from the Deputy Premier. This is a motion that was cobbled together with about five minutes notice and it has basically blown up in her face and in the face of the government. If it was constructed coherently we would have seen it executed with a greater degree of perfection in this parliament today rather than it executing the Deputy Premier herself. We have seen an irrational approach to this. We have seen a delusional approach to this debate by those members opposite, without any cohesion whatsoever. It clearly behoves all members of this parliament to be somewhat consistent with regard to the way they approach this debate.

Indeed, I think it is fair to say when we have these discussions that no-one is perfect. The thing that concerns me most is that when I listen to honourable members opposite they profess great transparency and yet I have seen them be part of government actions in this government and previous governments which are anything but transparent.

It has been mentioned on this side of the House during the course of the debate today that we had members opposite who came in here at the end of 2006 to move a motion in this parliament to exonerate Gordon Nuttall from criminality. Not only did we have the removal of restrictions in the Criminal Code in Queensland around lying to parliament; we also had members of the Labor Party at that stage move to actively exonerate one of their own of criminal conduct.

Can members imagine what would have happened if Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen or any LNP government, in whatever iteration, had done that at any time? I have sat in this place and seen a former premier take legislation—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** If we want to be consistent, why is the Deputy Premier, who personally signed the receipt for the Eddie Obeid \$5,000 donation, not rebating that money to Eddie Obeid? At no stage have they ever given that indication. Let that also stand part of the record in this place.

I have seen a government that has hidden hospital waiting lists. I have seen a government that has not even disclosed the dental waiting lists—that was the former Labor government of this parliament. I have seen a government that took a report that undermined their tree-clearing legislation to cabinet to make sure it was hidden from Queenslanders for future reference.

We have members opposite who come into this place and pretend that they believe in the rule of law. They pretend that they believe in the separation of powers. They pretend that they believe in the right of the courts to be able to decide matters which are unclear. Indeed, if the Attorney-General were so confident in her own legislation when she introduced it into this place she would have sought to put a penalty provision in it with regard to retrospective disclosure. She did not because it was unclear at the time whether the law they were seeking to pass through this parliament could have retrospective effect. That is why they were silent on that.

The real issue that we are dealing with here is a government which hid its own legal advice which, in effect, contradicted the legislation that it put into this parliament that seeks to give effect to the sorts of things we are debating here today—legislation which we know and the government knew should be

tested in court, legislation which may have been inconsistent with Commonwealth legislation. Indeed, if this government has nothing to hide then it will be happy for the court to decide. If the court decides in their favour then the matter will be settled. If the court decides in our favour then it will be settled. The reason it is in the court is that it is unclear. The legal advice provided to this government by the Crown Solicitor two years ago in itself was unclear.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! In accordance with the motion agreed to earlier in the day, the time for debate of this motion has expired. The question is that the motion be agreed to.

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

**AYES, 46:**

**ALP, 41**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**KAP, 2**—Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Dickson.

**INDEPENDENT, 2**—Gordon, Pyne.

**NOES, 40:**

**LNP, 40**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

Pair: Furner, Crandon.


Resolved in the affirmative.

## TRADING (ALLOWABLE HOURS) AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2310, on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (9.07 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill. I do so because it will mean a stronger economy in the electorate of Murrumba and future Bancroft, especially in the area of North Lakes. Retail is at the centre of growth in our area. Let me state it officially: North Lakes is now the fastest growing area in Queensland. The mayor, Allan Sutherland, has stated that it is now the fastest growing area in Australia.

The population of North Lakes and the surrounding area has increased from 52,000 in 2011 to 72,000 in 2016. North Lakes is home to 20,000 residents and 900 businesses, supporting 7,700 jobs. That will rise to 13,000 by 2023. One of the reasons that we have such strong growth is that we are now the leading retail and lifestyle centre in southern Queensland. There is a huge amount of investment going into retail infrastructure in our area. There is the new Ikea and the Westfield link mall, linking to Ikea, which has 60 stores, and that has delivered 900 jobs.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Members in the House, there is far too much audible noise through conversations. Members, I am having difficulty hearing the member on his feet. Can you please take your conversations outside or listen to the member on his feet.

**Mr WHITING:** As we know, it is the site of Queensland's first Costco as well. In the area of retail space, there is the \$250 million Laguna project coming—boutique shopping, a hotel, an office tower—with construction starting next year. The \$75 million stage 2 Primewest Homemaker Centre opened earlier this year, and that has created hundreds of new jobs. There is a lot of retail infrastructure and investment coming into my electorate. What these investors need is certainty, and this bill delivers that certainty by cutting red tape and increasing choice for retail customers in my area. With this bill we see 99 trading hours provisions reduced to just seven standard trading hours provisions for large stores such as we see in North Lakes.

It is astounding that over the past months the LNP have continued to stand in the way of the reduction in red tape. It is the world turned upside down! This is the most basic of red-tape reductions that we can do and they have squibbed it. They have said it is too hard. They have thrown up their hands and walked away from it. The member for Mount Ommaney decried what she saw as a lack of

certainty, but I will tell members what generates most uncertainty for retail—and that is job cuts, job cuts as we saw from the LNP government during the term of the Campbell Newman government. That was the worst time for retail—the cuts to jobs from the LNP. People were telling me that everyone was shutting their wallets and purses. They were not spending their money. The worst thing for retail that we could see in this state is the return of an LNP government and their liking for what they call ‘rightsizing’ the Public Service.


What have the LNP said about the effects of the bill on small business? They have intimated that competition may kill them. What about the traders in those larger shopping centres that rely on more store traffic? I am talking about coffee shops such as Coffee Hit at Westfield North Lakes. In one large shopping centre, the Shopping Centre Council reported a 13 per cent increase in monthly customer foot traffic following the introduction of Sunday trading. Weekend customer traffic also increased from an average of 17 per cent of weekly traffic to 26 per cent of weekly traffic. With this approach in our bill, we can increase gross state product by \$79 million and support an extra 1,000 jobs.

I have to commend the minister for the changes she has outlined, which I will go through. In regional areas, there will be an 8 am start instead of a 7 am start, Monday to Friday. It will be 8 am to 6 pm on weekends. Where it said 7 am previously when we are talking about regional Queensland, it is now 8 am. Where they do not have Sunday trading in regional Queensland, there will be a moratorium on that. There will be no further applications for five years. That gives real stability to the retail industry in that area as well. These are great changes that the minister has brought in, and I would like to see everyone here supporting them.

In South-East Queensland, the hours will still be 7 am to 9 pm, Monday to Saturday—the same as it is now. The trading hours for Sundays and public holidays will be standardised across Queensland from 9 am to 6 pm. That will suit the large retailers in my area very well. It will mean more sales and more jobs. We attract shoppers from throughout South-East Queensland, but we also attract people from the regions who travel up to five hours in some cases to come to Costco and other large-scale shops. I know that this bill will help build up in my area the customer base for all those North Lakes businesses, and that means more jobs for local people. More jobs means a better lifestyle for the residents in my area and that drives more development and more economic development.

Development is certainly riding high on this retail culture in the North Lakes area. There are 5,000 new home sites in North Lakes, 2,000 home sites in the Capestone development at Mango Hill and 600 house sites at the Aspire site in Griffin. There is a flow-on from the retail to the development, and it means other investments flow throughout the community as well. We have Queensland’s best new health hub, led by the state government’s North Lakes Health Precinct. That hub includes the new Icon Integrated Cancer Centre, the latest facility by another Queensland company providing every possible cancer related service to the people of Queensland.

We also have Keymax, a great local company, headquartered in North Lakes. They are delivering a \$40 million boutique hotel into North Lakes, as well as an office tower on Anzac Avenue. I have met Jan Kraaij and I appreciate his dedication to keeping his company headquartered in North Lakes. All this growth has driven the spectacular success of the North Lakes Sports Club. They wanted 10,000 members in their first year of operation; they got 12,000 members in just three months of being open. They employ 130 local people. I am very proud of the emergence of North Lakes as the leading retail hub in Queensland. This bill supports the growth of that hub, supports our local economy and supports those local people who work in those local jobs. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (9.15 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017, a bill which the LNP will not be supporting, a bill which will have significant detrimental impacts on small businesses right across the length and breadth of this state, including in the Aspley electorate. Small businesses are not just the backbone of our economy; they are the lifeblood to a healthy and vibrant economy. The LNP is the only party that truly understands and backs our small businesses here in Queensland.

As a former small business owner myself, I know just how hard it is for small businesses to make a crust these days, particularly when they are forced to compete against the big retailers. Just this morning, a constituent of mine summed up the pain that this government seems hell-bent on inflicting upon some Queensland small businesses. Shane Brough runs his own small business in the member for Stafford’s electorate, a government member who will vote to make the life of my constituent and his family and so many more of my small business constituents harder because of their support of the bill.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Ms DAVIS:** Shane emailed me this morning outlining the impact of the bill on his business as he saw it, Minister. He wrote—

I have been a small business operator for the last 18 years and have slowly seen our market share decrease.

I have had a news agency for that period. There have been a number of factors but a couple stand out. The change to Sunday trading saw our figures drop by 20 per cent in the first few weeks, the drop in the price of milk by Coles and Woolworths saw our milk sales reduced to nil. The GFC has also played its part.

We have had to change our direction where we focus mainly on distribution as our walk in trade has dropped by 70 per cent.

This proposed change to trading hours will only affect small business operators like myself, as we are used for convenience because of our hours, so why would you go to the local shops when the likes of Coles and Woolworths will be open from 6.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Ms DAVIS:** Shane closes by saying—

As for the supposed 1,000 new jobs, this will come at the expense of the small business closures.

Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, the minister is interrupting while I am reading into the House my constituent's very real and grave concerns with respect to the bill. It would serve her well to listen to the concerns of small business owners who are very worried about the impact of her bill on their businesses.


This bill before us is an affront to many of the hardworking small business owners in the Aspley electorate. I am proud to say that Aspley is home to many terrific small businesses, hardworking people, mums and dads, just trying to get ahead by providing goods and services in a market where they must stay nimble and competitive against the larger retailers. Sadly, some of these small businesses are doing it tough and they are telling me that these laws will only make it tougher.

In typical fashion, Labor have made a complete hash of their own reforms, but who would be surprised because Labor do not get small business. I acknowledge the work of John Mickel and the task force in reviewing trading hours, but the fact that the government gave its response only two days after they received the report meant that the report did not get the proper consideration of government that it should have and that the legislation was bound to have flaws—and it does. There is a smell of union influence in responding to the review within 48 hours, because this government's usual response time to reports is well known. They drag the chain and then kick them into the long grass.

I have a number of established motor traders along Gympie Road in Aspley. Many have been part of our local landscape for a very long time and have contributed greatly to the economy of our local area. Our family has purchased cars from these businesses because we support local businesses and the local people they employ.

The element of the bill regarding the motor traders was so poorly received by the industry that even government members of the committee agreed to scrap planned changes because of the negative impact on the industry and with there being no real benefits to consumers from the proposed changes. Had the minister bothered to listen to the motor industry from the outset, she would have known they had good reason to reject the changes. Had she listened to people like Andrew, who works at one of our local motor traders, as I did she would have known the impact on the employees.

This piece of legislation typifies Labor's approach to small business and independent retailers in this state. The minister should do the right thing and take the whole process back to the drawing board and consult properly. The minister should speak with small business owners, speak to people like Shane from Aspley, who is extremely concerned about the impacts of this bill on his business and on the job losses that it will lead to.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (9.20 pm): About nine out of 10 of the businesses in the region I represent are small businesses, and this bill does nothing to support small business. I oppose the bill. I received significant feedback from a number of businesses around the Scenic Rim opposing the bill. From the hardware side, I speak of shops like Mitre 10 in Boonah, Kalbar and Beaudesert and other hardware shops in Canungra and Tamborine Mountain and across the region. They will be put at a disadvantage by changes to trading hours that allow their large competitors, owned by retailers that completely dominate the Australian retail market, to open earlier, close later and squeeze even further the margins of small business. Small businesses keep small towns alive—towns like Boonah, where I live, and Beaudesert, the town where our Mitre 10 manager Clint Spence manages a business that employs many locals and is part of the fabric of the economy. There is no doubt that Bunnings makes a massive impact on the turnover of these businesses, but to keep businesses in these towns—towns not big enough yet to support a big player—we need to protect our small businesses. This bill is simply throwing small businesses at the mercy of big players.

I know that the closure of local businesses is a significant issue for many people in my electorate. They are concerned to constantly see the shutting down of businesses that had once thrived because they have been unable to compete in what is a very tough business environment for small business. This bill simply adds to that tough environment for small business. I know that Clint Spence, the manager of Mitre 10 from Beaudesert to whom I referred, had made some very, very strong arguments in his position as representative of the hardware stores of Queensland in a submission made to the committee in opposing this bill.

I also want to mention our small and independent grocery retailers, our IGAs in Boonah and Tamborine Mountain and FoodWorks in Canungra and Beaudesert. They play a key role in employing locals, providing convenient shopping in some cases. In some cases they are the mainstay of the local retail economy. In fact, in Boonah the joy was apparent in the community a couple of years ago when IGA invested significant amounts of money in upgrading their shop so that people had a better retail experience. That was overwhelming for that community. It has resulted in a whole lot more people shopping locally and supporting local jobs and their local businesses. That business employs many, many local people, both older employees and younger employees alike, including schoolkids who get their first job in their local IGA. That has all been put at risk because the power given to major retailers in this bill to trade longer, both during the week and also at weekends, will definitely intrude into the space of the IGA in the retail market. Major retailers came to Beaudesert some years ago, but this opens up the field even further for them to intrude into that space.

Smaller retailers do not have the ability to reduce their staff outgoings through the negotiation of large-scale enterprise agreements with unions. These retailers do not enjoy the buying power of Woolies and Coles—buying power that often is a result of their absolute domination of the retail market and in some cases the abuse of market power that those major retailers exercise. These independent retailers, the IGAs, simply do not have the ability in many cases to compete on price alone. They do have a different offering in the market, and this bill squeezes them out of that space. Our smaller retailers need to be supported to ensure that the entire market is not taken up by two or three major players. This bill is a major step backwards.

I refer to comments that have been made to me by a local retailer in relation to IGAs. As a result of the deregulation of trading hours in South-East Queensland last December, they have noticed that there has been a reduction in employment in Queensland. For every reduction in turnover for our independent retailers there is a resultant reduction in employment at those independent retailers. On the other hand, that reduction in turnover of the independents does not result in an increase in employment at the major retailers. In fact, in the last decade the major retailers have not increased their level of employment after any deregulation of trading hours. This bill not only does not support small business but it is a job-destroying bill for small business in our small communities. It is a job-destroying policy. As was put to me, the submission of the smaller retailers is that jobs lost in the IGA stores, in our independent retailers, after deregulation of trading hours are jobs lost for good because those jobs do not pop up again in major retailers. They are lost for good. This bill is bad for our small businesses, bad for our small retailers, bad for our small towns and bad for jobs as well.

The original bill dealt with the issue of motor traders trading on a Sunday. I understand that the committee has recommended this proposal be removed from the bill by the government. I was personally contacted by a couple of Beaudesert motor dealers who made a very compelling case, one that was also made comprehensively by the Motor Trades Association of Queensland, that Sunday trading would merely mean the same amount of sales per year with an extra one-seventh—at least—in employee costs being incurred. It could perhaps be even more when Sunday penalty rates imposed are taken into account.

The government is backtracking on this proposal, but the fact it was put up in the first place without any consultation at all with the industry is an indictment on this government. Motor dealers simply cannot pluck another group of experienced employees out of thin air to work an extra day a week. They cannot have people with no experience working in such an industry. When people want to buy a car they want to deal with somebody who knows what they are talking about, who knows their product and who knows how to deal properly with consumers in a professional and efficient manner. Unlike some other parts of the retail sector, there is a degree of specialisation in the motor vehicle sector where other employees cannot be deployed on weekends in a relatively easy manner. I refer in particular to a submission that was made to me by a local dealer from Beaudesert, Peter Gwinner from Scenic Motors. He made the point—


The change to trading hours will not increase business the same number of vehicle sales will be spread over a 7-day period having a direct impact on our operating costs which will ultimately impact the consumer.

He is saying that no more cars are going to be bought or sold on a Sunday, but the costs will be higher and ultimately they will be passed on to the consumer. I know that has been withdrawn, but this government simply did not get this bill right in the first place. That is just one example of how it was not put together correctly in the first place. He goes on to say that—

Failure to evaluate trading hours as industry policy including the industrial relations framework and employment policies has the potential to put SMEs at risk of the loss of business opportunity leading to business failure and insolvencies.

I think this is a salient warning to all members that this bill—not only in relation to motor dealers but in relation to other small businesses as well—puts small businesses at risk of failure and insolvency. We know what happens when small businesses go broke and become insolvent. The result is that everyone loses their job. That is a lose-lose situation for everybody. In conclusion, this bill is a job-killing proposal for small businesses, for small communities.

Consultation on this bill was completely inadequate, not only in terms of dealing with particular sectors but also the business industry as a whole. The jobs that are lost in small businesses, especially in independent grocery markets, will not be replaced by the major retailers. We should all oppose this bill, especially those members in regional and rural Queensland where our independent grocery retailers and motor traders—especially our independent hardware stores—play such a key role in the local economy. They are not just a place of economics, a place where people are employed, but they are also part of the key fabric of our rural and regional communities. This bill should be opposed because it will kill jobs in those businesses and in those communities.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.30 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017, which was presented to parliament with the explanatory notes by the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Hon. Grace Grace, on 1 March 2017. The bill was referred to the Finance and Administration Committee, which handed down its report on 28 April 2017. The committee made three recommendations: firstly, to include the Cairns CBD in the defined tourist area; secondly, to refer to the street addresses for Westfield Chermside and Westfield Garden City shopping centres; and thirdly, to exclude the application of the new extended hours to motor vehicle or caravan retailers, thereby retaining the existing trading hours.

The amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 seek to reduce restrictions on trading hours in Queensland. The amendments proposed by the bill represent significant reforms with substantial economic and employment benefits for Queensland. The changes in the bill followed a comprehensive review of Queensland's retail trading hours by an independent reference group chaired by former Speaker and now QUT school of justice associate professor John Mickel. As the minister said in her introductory speech—

The Palaszczuk government is today introducing the most significant changes to Queensland's retail trading hours in more than two decades. The changes in this bill will modernise and simplify current trading hours to support jobs, cut red tape and increase choice for consumers.

A massive 99 specific trading hours provisions are contained in over 40 pages of orders by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission which will be replaced by just six trading hours provisions covering all large stores across the state. Based on previous independent studies, Queensland Treasury estimates that the proposed changes have the potential to increase the gross state product by up to \$79 million and support up to 945 full-time-equivalent jobs.

The key proposed reforms in the bill will mean that allowable trading hours for non-exempt shops under the act will be extended in South-East Queensland from 7 am to 9 pm Monday to Saturday in line with the decision by the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission in late 2016. In regional Queensland, trading hours will be from 7 am to 9 pm Monday to Friday and 7 am to 6 pm Saturday. Trading hours for Sundays and public holidays will be standardised across Queensland from 9 am to 6 pm. Those regional towns which do not currently have Sunday and public holiday trading will be able to opt in to these trading hours through an application to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. That situation does not change.

The employment thresholds at which independent retail shops become subject to the same trading restrictions as larger non-exempt shops will be lifted from 20 to 30 employees on the floor in any one shop and 60 to 100 employees where a number of related shops are operated. This will remove a current brake on employment and business expansion for smaller retail businesses, and the people of Queensland will be able to buy cars and caravans on a Sunday.

It is clear that reducing restrictions on trading hours is consistent with the Queensland government's economic framework and the government's strong focus on growing a more innovative and productive economy, which is critical for facilitating private sector business growth and investment in our great state of Queensland. Queensland's current trading hours regimen has created a lack of uniformity and uncertainty in trading hours between different areas and in the types of shops that may open on Sundays and public holidays. Considerable variation and anomalies in the treatment of retail trading hours apply throughout regional Queensland. This has created complexity and confusion for consumers and it has placed an administrative burden on small and large businesses. The Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017 will ensure that Sunday and public holiday trading is standardised across the state, with towns previously not permitted to trade on Sundays able to opt in through application to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission.


The proposed changes address concerns from business and communities that Queensland trading hours arrangements are far too complex. This is a huge reduction in red tape that could create up to 1,000 extra jobs in Queensland. Under the new laws, butchers and shops at exhibitions and trade shows will be able to trade without restrictions. There will be provision for special trading hours applications for international events such as the Commonwealth Games, and Queenslanders will also be able to buy cars and caravans on Sundays. It is also good news for some handymen and garden enthusiasts because it means that all hardware stores will be able to open on Sundays from 6 am. The overhaul means that all non-exempt shops must stay closed on Good Friday, Anzac Day, Labour Day and Christmas Day. Under the proposed changes Easter Sunday will become an open trading day in South-East Queensland.

This bill will mean a huge reduction in red tape, more jobs for Queenslanders, a stronger economy and healthier retail competition, which means lower prices for customers. No-one will be made to work any additional hours allowed by the changes unless they have voluntarily agreed to do so. Businesses benefit from reduced administrative costs and compliance regulation, enhanced productivity through higher capital utilisation and operational efficiency, increased competitiveness with other industries and jurisdictions, including online retailing, and higher sales from residents and tourists. Retail workers benefit from an increased range and higher number of potential working hours, increased flexibility and higher incomes.

The retail trade industry employed 255,000 Queenslanders in 2015-16, which equates to 11 per cent of the overall jobs in Queensland—almost \$10 billion in wages. Consumers benefit from less restrictive trading hours regulations through increased choice, flexibility and convenience as well as lower prices through enhanced competition and lower congestion costs where the total retail activity is spread over increased hours.

In closing, I would like to thank the Finance and Administration Committee chair, Peter Russo, the member for Sunnybank, and the deputy chair, Mr Ray Stevens, the member for Mermaid Beach. I would also like to thank the members of the committee—David Janetzki, the member for Toowoomba South; Jo-Ann Miller, the member for Bundamba; Steve Minnikin, the member for Chatsworth; and Linus Power, the member for Logan—the secretariat and submitters.

I note that the minister has sought various amendments to the bill. The key amendments are that trading hours outside South-East Queensland would be from 8 am and not 7 am. Also the opt-in provision for 21 towns that currently do not have Sunday trading no longer exists in the amendments. There will be a five-year moratorium, that is, no option to opt in for Sunday trading for five years under the proposed amendments to the bill by the minister. I commend the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017 with the amendments foreshadowed to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (9.38 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill before the House and note that the LNP will be opposing this bill. The Caloundra region has over 4,500 small businesses that are sole traders with no employees and just over 2,000 traders with one to four employees, so in Caloundra there are over 6,500 businesses that are small businesses that have four employees or less. It is the small businesses of Caloundra that indeed make the region the vital area that it is, and those businesses operate six to seven days a week to provide an income for themselves and their families. The coast has a number of economic drivers, but small business is a critical component.

I want to pay homage to the various chambers of commerce across the Sunshine Coast region but in particular the Caloundra chamber that operates the Sunday markets in Bulcock Street. It is important to understand that these businesses make Caloundra the vibrant lifestyle community that it is. Without limiting myself, I want to acknowledge Vicki Taylor who operates Red Hot Chilli Pepper,


Graeme Bowden of The BookShop Caloundra, Coral Brown of Daze and Nites, Darryl Lang of Travelscene, Lamkin Lane Espresso Bar and Angie of La Dolce Vita on Bulcock Beach. It is businesses such as these that provide excellent service to those who live there and the tens of thousands of tourists who visit Caloundra, but it is businesses such as these that are under threat as a consequence of this bill being passed tonight.

The big players such as Coles and Woolworths are daily extending their reach, and with each move it is a small player that suffers. A quick look at Woolworths shows that Woolworths Food Group brand includes Woolworths Rewards, Woolworths supermarkets, Caltex Woolworths and Woolworths Money. Its Endeavour Drinks brands include Dan Murphy's, BWS, Langtons and Cellarmasters. Its portfolio of businesses include Big W, EziBuy and AHL Group. On the other hand, Wesfarmers owns the Coles division, which was formed in 2007 as a result of the acquisition of the Coles Group. This chain now includes Coles supermarkets, Bi-Lo supermarkets, Coles Online, Coles Express fuel and convenience stores, Vintage Cellars, First Choice Liquor, Liquorland, Spirit Hotels and Coles Financial Services.

When we consider small businesses, we need to think outside of the businesses themselves. We need to consider the people behind the businesses—the Vickis, the Graemes, the Corals and the Angies. If we refer to them simply as entities, we will lose sight of their worth and we need to remember that each of the people named have families they support. They also pay taxes, they buy local goods and services from other small businesses, their children attend local schools and they belong to volunteer community groups, whether it be a P&C, a P&F, Neighbourhood Watch, local environment groups or ratepayers organisations, but these organisations also provide an education for their children when they are employed in that business. They learn finance, they learn business planning, public relations and customer service—all very good tools in their own life practices in their own businesses or their own families.

It is equally important to understand that conglomerates such as Coles and Woolworths are growing every day, and we know that the big players do not care about the small business owner or operator. They are there for their own individual profits. The retail sector across the globe is changing dramatically. It is changing daily with the arrival of organisations such as Amazon this year in this nation. With its growth and its capacity to engage with the community, we will see stiffer competition with the larger brands. I can guarantee members that Amazon is an aggressive player and it will push the larger organisations such as Coles, Woolworths, JB Hi-Fi and the like to change their marketing strategy. That will be to the risk and detriment of the small business operator. Amazon is a cutthroat organisation worth billions of dollars each year and its profit margin is one that is driven by one thing—garnering as much support of the market as it possibly can. That will drive larger organisations to adopt similar practices and that will then flow through and have an impact upon small businesses. This means they will use extended hours of trading to increase their reach into the community at the risk of small businesses. The threat they face will lead to an even more aggressive approach in that market. At the end of the day, the bill allows these large conglomerates to grow bigger and bigger. With outside pressures coming on board, we will find that they will be enlivened to take even bigger and bigger gambles and risks and that will mean small businesses suffering as a consequence of those actions.

This bill had been debated some time ago and adjourned in this House until today, with 32 amendments now before the House in a bill that should have been negotiated, consulted, planned, executed and drafted much clearer than it has been. Indeed, there is no doubt that due to the concerns raised by the LNP the amendments in the House today are as a consequence of the hard work of the shadow minister, and more importantly, the lack of knowledge, fortitude and ability of the minister herself. We are being asked to rush through 32 amendments to save the name of the minister, who should have done her homework a lot better than this. She should have consulted a lot wider than this and taken on board the issues raised by the LNP and other members and organisations that made contributions to the debate. The fact that the minister is here today having to grovel to the House to look at the 32 amendments to save her hide is indicative that this government's actions show that it is a do-nothing government that lacks any plan for the future, that does not understand small business and that finds itself in a position of having to scramble to cobble together a series of amendments to try to get a resolution in its favour. Only the LNP can provide strong, effective leadership in this state. Only the LNP has a track record of supporting small businesses and, more importantly, understanding small businesses and working with them.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (9.46 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. The electorate of Gaven lends much of its success to small business. From the Olive Pit cafe on Lavelle Street in Nerang to Kokko Maria in Carrara, these businesses are

the backbone of our electorate and importantly the backbone of Queensland. This Palaszczuk Labor government has consistently demonstrated that it does not care about small businesses and, furthermore, the thousands of people that they employ across the state. I note that reducing restrictions on trading hours is consistent with the current state government's economic framework. What economic framework would that be? The one that puts thousands of people across our great state out of work and has left so many Queenslanders out of pocket. It is clearly just another poor policy from a poor-performing government.


I note that the minister has circulated amendments which address many of the concerns raised by the LNP, and this would not have happened without our intervention. These 32 amendments have been rushed into the House today by the minister and they are nothing more than a last-minute attempt for the minister to save face, a last-ditch desperate plan to resuscitate a bad bill. This bill has effectively been on life support for almost three months while the minister rushed around and tried to cobble together enough parliamentary support.

The committee made three recommendations, the first of which calls for the Cairns CBD to be included in the defined tourist area. Cairns is a bustling tourist hub, so it makes sense that its CBD would be in a defined tourist area and I question how it could be anything else. The second recommendation is that the bill be amended as per Queensland Treasury's advice to refer to an appropriate address for the Westfield Chermside and Westfield Garden City shopping centres. For a government that makes a point of saying that it is one of consultation, it is very surprising it would not take Queensland Treasury's advice. It is, however, indicative of this Labor government and the constant lies and misinformation that it feeds Queenslanders.

The third thing members of the Palaszczuk Labor government recommended is that the bill be amended to exclude the application of the changes to motor vehicle or caravan retailers, which we have seen has failed, and specifically Sunday trading for motor dealers and caravan sales. This Labor government has failed, as it so often does, to explain what possible benefit these changes will have. It is just another botched review from this do-nothing government. In fact, government members of the committee have agreed to scrap planned changes for motor dealers and caravan sales because of the negative impact to the industry and, furthermore, consumers. As always, the government has failed to do its job properly and will inevitably need a review of its review because the minister has failed to do her job and has therefore failed small business.

For a government that claims to listen, it certainly has not listened to small business. There was no proper consultation with existing businesses, who are incredibly concerned that there will be job losses. This is a win for big business but nobody else. These worries are compounded by concerns that this will lead to a distortion in market share and reduced competition and, therefore, higher prices for Queenslanders. The non-government members of the Finance and Administration Committee found difficulty with the overall expected outcome of changes to the operating hours for the differing types of retail outlets and were therefore unable to recommend the passing of the bill by the House.

The LNP understands that there would be some solid community support for the extension of trading hours to grocery retailers such as Coles and Woolworths, which have over 200,000 union affiliated employees on their payroll. The non-government members are of the opinion that job losses threaten the smaller independent traders, who cannot compete with the lesser wages paid by the big, non-exempt operators under their union negotiated EBAs, and that this would result in net job losses to the retail sector rather than the unsubstantiated 945 increase featured in the Mickel report. There is little doubt that the current system has its complications, but the proposed changes to the bill are in no way the answer. This government has not made an adequate case for the amendments and, as is often the case with this Palaszczuk Labor government, the policies are ill conceived and normally unsuccessful.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (9.52 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. We now are in the third year of our term of government, and we have an impressive record on economic management, with 94½ thousand jobs created since we were elected, economic growth that is the strongest in the nation and business and consumer confidence at a high. The amendments contained within the bill now before us represent further significant reform, with substantial economic and employment benefits to Queensland. I congratulate the minister for her personal commitment to making this quite difficult area of policy work.

The retail trade industry employed 225,000 Queenslanders in 2015-16, equating to 11 per cent of overall jobs in Queensland and almost \$10 billion in wages. It is a hugely important sector. That is why this bill is so important. Based on previous independent studies, Queensland Treasury estimates

the changes proposed within this bill have the potential to increase gross state product by up to \$79 million and support up to an additional 945 full-time-equivalent jobs. That sounds pretty good to me.

Queensland's current trading hours regime has created a lack of uniformity and uncertainty in Queensland. Different trading hours apply in different areas of the state and vary according to the size of the store, the products being sold and the days of the week on which the shop wants to trade. This has created complexity and confusion for consumers and has placed an administrative burden on small and large businesses.

In 2016, in response to concerns raised by business and the community that Queensland's trading hours arrangements were difficult to navigate and may act as a disincentive to business expansion, employment and economic growth—so it was in direct response to those concerns; no-one made it up out of nowhere, as the opposition seems to be implying—the government approved the review of Queensland trading hours arrangements and appointed Mr John Mickel, Associate Professor with the School of Justice at QUT and a former Speaker of the Queensland parliament, as the chair of an independent reference group established to conduct the review.

I want to go to another of the furrphies that seems to be cropping up quite a lot in LNP speeches when we started this debate a while back. There was a great conspiracy about the review panel being stacked by unionists and not being representative. I think when those opposite were in government they appointed Mr John Mickel to some of their own boards. Let us look at the make-up of the panel of that independent review. There were four unions represented on that review panel but also four non-union members of the panel: the National Retail Association, the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland, Master Grocers Australia and the Queensland Tourism Industry Council. That sounds like a pretty balanced board to me.

The review received more than 170 public submissions. They considered the opinions of consumers, workers and business owners in order to deliver reforms that would benefit the state's employment and economic growth. The review made 13 recommendations to which the government has responded by amending trading hours laws. I think 170 sounds like a lot of submissions. That sounds like an issue that was really widely canvassed and that the consultation was very thorough. I just cannot understand the point they are making about lack of consultation.

Those recommendations formed the basis of the bill we are now considering and there was a committee process. There were quite a few submissions to that committee, including by the Retail Council, the Queensland State IGA board, the National Retail Association and the Motor Trades Association of Queensland. The committee also seemed to have a number of public hearings. It travelled to a number of different places, had teleconferences and made some recommendations. As a result of that committee process—great shock—some amendments were suggested. Can members believe it? I cannot think of any other bill that has been through a committee process that has not had amendments. In fact, I think we could count on the fingers of one hand—perhaps two—the number of bills that have gone through the committee process and that have not had amendments. In speech after speech members opposite have said that it is outrageous that there are amendments. My goodness! How new and different is that?

The proposed package will increase our gross state product by an estimated \$79 million per year, support up to an additional 945 full-time-equivalent jobs, reduce regulatory burden on businesses, workers and consumers, bring the state's trading hours further in line with other east coast states, and the list goes on. Retail workers will benefit from that increased range and number of potential working hours. Consumers will benefit from less restrictive trading hours regulation through increased choice, flexibility and convenience as well as lower prices through enhanced competition and lower congestion costs where total retail activity is spread over increased hours. It will also reduce red tape. The changes will see a massive 99 specific trading hours provisions contained in over 40 pages of orders from the QIRC replaced by just seven specific trading hours provisions. This will mean a significant reduction in the regulatory burden for business.


Let us talk about red tape and the LNP, because those opposite have been carrying on about that quite a bit in this debate. Let us see what small business said about red tape when those opposite were in government. A Queensland Chamber of Commerce & Industry April 2015 red-tape survey report stated—

The burden of red tape has intensified over the past two years and continues to adversely impact the performance of Queensland businesses.

The same survey found that one in four businesses felt that growth was hindered by red tape and were disappointed that the LNP government had let them down. That is how much those opposite know about what small business wants and about what is important around red tape. Opposition members should not lecture us about what is good for small business, because small businesses are telling their own group that they do not think they know what they are doing.

I was heartened by evidence from other jurisdictions about what this bill is likely to achieve for business in Queensland. The independent review noted that evidence from previous significant changes in retail trading hours regulation suggests that further deregulation is likely to support increased employment in the industry. For example, the Productivity Commission reported in 2014 that, according to the National Retail Association, Coles added 450 jobs when Sunday trading was introduced in 2002 in the Brisbane and near metropolitan region. This claim is also reflected in ABS labour force statistics, with retail employment in Queensland increasing by 12.6 per cent compared with more modest increases in New South Wales and 6.9 per cent in Victoria. Specifically, I note the quote in the committee report about evidence in other jurisdictions where there has been a relaxation or total deregulation of trading hours. Those jurisdictions show a continued and thriving small business presence. Essentially, the changes to trading hours in other Australian jurisdictions did not reduce the participation of small business.

I wish to speak quickly to the recommendation about the application of new extended hours to motor vehicle or caravan retailers. I acknowledge the contribution of Downtown Toyota, who are wonderful community supporters in my local area. I thank the minister for considering the issues raised by the industry and want to let her know how much that is appreciated. I thank the committee for their very hard work on this report. I thank the minister again and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (9.59 pm): I rise to speak against the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. As a dutiful parliamentarian I wrote this speech and when I look at the top page it has 'May 2017'. I have been waiting for so long to deliver this speech that the pages of my speech are starting to go yellow with age. I thought the bill was lost in the mists of time. The only reason it was lost in the mists of time—or certainly headed that way—was that we have had a bill presented to this parliament that was ill conceived, was flawed from start to finish and there were all sorts of problems with it. The government decided some months ago that there was no way in the wide world it was going to get it through, so what did it do?

**Ms Jones:** We are now. Woo hoo!

**Mr ELMES:** I am getting to that, Minister. It was reversed out and we have had all this other legislation come in. The reason it was reversed out was that the government could not get it past the crossbenchers. It will be interesting to see, when it comes time for the vote, what sort of deal has been done with some of the crossbenchers in order to save this tragic piece of legislation and for it to go through the House. As I said, the bill is ill conceived. It does not address the significant objections raised by submissions to the parliamentary committee. It has a litany of basic errors that even the government recognised needed to be corrected during the course of this debate. As an example of how inept the drafting of the legislation was, they could not even get the address right for two of the major shopping centres in South-East Queensland, Chermside and Garden City. They have admitted to that. An amendment will have to be moved tonight to correct that simple error. To demonstrate how little this government knows about Queensland outside the south-east corner, the bill as originally presented forgot about the city of Cairns. It forgot that the city of Cairns gets the odd tourist that goes through it, so it is going to need to fix that up too. That is another piece of arrogance from this government that it has admitted needs to be corrected.

There was one issue that the government did listen to. From the time that the bill first went before the committee the motor dealers and the caravan dealers of this state, particularly the motor dealers—

**Mr Costigan:** They arced up!

**Mr ELMES:** Thank you very much, member for Whitsunday—arced up like I have not seen them arc up before to make sure that their views were heard and thankfully, from the point of view of the motor dealers and caravan dealers of this state, they have been removed from the legislation.

I would like to quote to the House from two letters that I have received on the issue recently—maybe not so recently because the ink is a bit faded—which present vastly contradictory positions. The minister wrote to me in March claiming that the decision to standardise trading hours will play a huge part in contributing to creating jobs and stimulating the Queensland economy. The primary justification,

in my reading of the minister's letter, is that the government believes that the new hours provide flexibility for customers to shop over a wider span of hours. As if we do not already have enough opportunity to get to the shops and buy what we need seven days a week!

Let me present the other side of the coin from a person involved day-to-day in dealing with the potential disaster for hundreds of Queensland small businesses and their owners and families being threatened by the government through this bill. The proprietor of several small supermarkets, one of which is in my electorate, which service some of the smaller communities in the Sunshine Coast wrote to me pleading for this offensive bill to be rejected. The person in question pointed out to me that the liberalisation of trading hours leads to less employment due to a drop in independent retail sales and that hundreds of millions of dollars are generated into the Queensland economy through interaction which occurs via small independent players. We would be deceiving ourselves tonight if we come into this place and go through this particular debate and not stick up for the small independent players, the small business owners that are the backbone of Queensland's economy.

I know which letter I believe is better informed and more likely to be an accurate depiction of the consequences of this anti small business bill. The IGA state board, in its submission to the committee, highlighted that following the deregulation of trading hours in South-East Queensland in December last year IGA supermarkets lost \$1 million in trading each week in turnover. That means fewer jobs. Fewer hours means fewer jobs, not more as the government is trying to claim. The undeniable fact is that this bill does not promote increased employment. All it will do is move existing jobs from hundreds of small businesses into the major outlets which have an increasing stranglehold on retail in this state. With those jobs will go the livelihoods and hope for a better future for the hundreds of families who operate those small businesses.

I doubt that the number of jobs lost will match the few extra that might be created by the big retail players. All members of this House—at least those who do some shopping—will be aware that big supermarkets are employing increased technology to reduce the number of staff that they need. Anyone who has walked into a Woolworths or a Coles supermarket or a Bunnings or a Big W will know there is some poor staff member standing there trying to direct you into a self-service check-out which is going to deny the people behind those cash registers their jobs. All this is doing is giving the Coles, the Woolworths, the Big Ws, the Bunnings and that lot the opportunity to reduce their staff turnover and put you, me and everyone else in this parliament through those self-service check-outs.

I wonder whether some of the ministers over there have actually been to a shopping centre or to Coles and Woolworths recently and understand that there is a bit of movement in the way they are trying to direct people to do their shopping. They do not employ any more staff than they need. The result of this legislation will be increased workloads for existing staff in the big retailers as they cope with increased demands caused by the closure of smaller supermarkets. Perhaps our AWU aligned Premier is more interested in furthering the needs of her AWU factional ally, the federal opposition leader Bill Shorten. It is the AWU that covers most employees in the supermarket sector.


**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Could we please allow the member for Noosa to be heard.

**Mr ELMES:** Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. I have always said that you are a wonderful Deputy Speaker. History has shown that supermarket staff cannot count on the AWU to protect their best interests. Members might be aware that when Mr Shorten led the AWU federally, enterprise bargaining agreements were struck with Coles and Woolworths that actually disadvantaged workers.

Not only is this proposed legislation ill considered; it was hardly considered at all before the government announced what it planned to do following the Mickel review. The government took just two days to deliver its response to the Mickel review findings in February this year. There can only be two possible scenarios in this situation. Either the government told Mr Mickel what to say in his report—and anyone who knows John Mickel would know that no-one tells John Mickel what to say in a report—or it had no intention of taking any notice of what was in the report because it knew what was going to happen anyway. Either scenario is an insult to good government. It is an even bigger insult to hundreds of small business owners who are entitled to objective and fair consideration of their interests by this government. They did not get that with this narrow-minded bill. Make no mistake, this is a cruel, uncaring piece of legislation which is focused on improving the profits and market share of Sydney and Melbourne based big corporations at the expense of Queensland families and the small businesses they run.

The government asserts that the current system of regulated trading hours has become unwieldy. If that is the case, this botched attempt at correcting the situation is a long way from a satisfactory solution. It will not be long before we witness the demise of many small suburban supermarkets and other small businesses that will not be able to compete with the might of the few big players, bolstered by longer trading hours and supported by this government. On behalf of the small businesses in Noosa and those who work in them, I cannot and will not support this bill.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (10.09 pm): I want to back up the contribution to the debate of my learned colleague and good friend from Noosa, particularly in regard to suburban supermarkets and those in rural and regional communities. My electorate of Whitsunday is very diverse, from the northern suburbs of Mackay through to the heart of the reef, the iconic tourist town of Airlie Beach, which is still recovering from Tropical Cyclone Debbie, and the great sugar-milling town of Proserpine, which is home to Faust's IGA. That name is synonymous with the local community.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I hear the interjections from the people in the cheap seats, including the member for Logan. Rugby League is a beneficiary of the Faust family and Faust IGA. It was great to catch up with Paul, or 'Poodle' as his friends call him, and Mick Faust—

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Pine Rivers, if you are going to interject you will need to do so from your own seat.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Paul and Mick Faust are great supporters of the local community. Last Friday, it was great to go along to the Proserpine State School fete. Whether it is a school fete, the local Rugby League—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I take the interjection from the member for Logan about the mighty Brahmins. The late Sam Faust lost his battle with leukaemia some years ago and is sadly missed by many people in the community. The Faust name is famous right across the town of Proserpine. In the cattle industry we have Charlie and Karen Faust of Proserpine Station at Lake Proserpine, which was partly submerged by the damming of the Proserpine River and is now named the Peter Faust Dam. The Faust name has stood the test of time through world wars, the Great Depression, economic recessions, the good times and the bad times in the sugar industry that underpins the town.

As the member for Noosa and others on this side of the House have rightly pointed out, this has dragged on because the bill has been a dog's breakfast. There are 32 amendments. It has had more scratchings than a full card at Doomben. It has been very sloppy. It has been poorly received in Proserpine by people such as Paul and Mick Faust, who are worried about the big boys the member for Noosa talked about, such as Woolworths, Coles and Bunnings. Let us not kid ourselves about that. The other night I was at the Proserpine State High School for their musical extravaganza, along with high school students from Pine Rivers State High School. I know that there is concern about what this bill will mean for a lot of schoolkids who work at the check-outs or in the aisles, stacking the shelves and so forth. It is a concern for people in small communities and Proserpine is no different.

There is no doubt that this bill has pressed buttons with people in the motor trades industry. I remember receiving correspondence from Ben Hancock, the dealer principal from Crossley Holden, which is a great dealership from which I bought my trusty Commodore, the flying fortress, which was serviced by Tony Vitanza and the boys out the back. Ben Hancock was concerned. He said, 'Costo, will you stop it? Will you block it? Will you fight it?' I said, 'We'll be in the trenches fighting with you, Ben.' At the end of the day, it is an added expense to open for another day to sell cars. Will Crossley sell more cars over seven days instead of six? No! The same goes for Robert Filby at Filby's Motors, which is another great supporter of the local community. Robert is following in the footsteps of his dear father, Bob. That is another business that has stood the test of time. Whilst the Crossley family is no longer on the showroom floor with Ben taking over, from a hands-on point of view, Robert Filby still has his hands on the wheel—no pun intended—at Filby's Motors. Some 3½ years ago my Prado came off his showroom floor and it has already clocked up 257,000 kilometres. They are concerned, as is Stephen Grittner from Rod Grittner Nissan.

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask members to keep their conversations to a minimum. Along with some interjections from members to my right, it is getting hard to hear the member for Whitsunday speak.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Stephen Grittner is the dealer principal at Rod Grittner Nissan. His father passed on a few years ago. It is a great family business. All those businesses are within a stone's throw from my electorate office in Proserpine. They have all been concerned about what has been going on in relation to this ill-conceived bit of legislation. It has been poorly drafted. Despite what we heard from your good self, Madam Deputy Speaker, earlier in your contribution to the debate, we on this side of the House do believe there has been poor consultation.

There is no doubt that this side of the House stands up for small business. I am proud that for 20 years my grandfather had a small business, a general store, in Nebo and also in Mackay, through tough times. In those days in Nebo he would go to J Michelmores & Co, which was an iconic Mackay business. They started Fort Cooper Station in 1906, where my great-grandfather worked as head stockman for 37 years. In those days things were very different in terms of getting supplies from the regional centre and bringing them up the road to Nebo, which was mostly dirt. Today we talk about the roads, but those before us could lecture all of us from both sides of the House on bad roads. If my grandfather was alive today, I am sure that he would say, 'Boy, make sure you get in that House and stand up for small business and fire a shot, because this is not at all good legislation.'

As has been mentioned on this side of the House earlier in the debate, the committee's take on this bill was not very good. I see the member for Gympie shaking his head and I acknowledge his contribution earlier this evening. The committee did not like it. Even the government members did not like it. We have seen the minister cave in to pressure from the Motor Trades Association of Queensland and other industry groups, because the bill has gone down like a lead balloon. I acknowledge the work of the Proserpine Chamber of Commerce, because Proserpine is doing it tough in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

**Ms Jones:** What are you doing about it?

**Mr COSTIGAN:** What am I doing? I am pressuring the Palaszczuk government to show us some coin and some love. I take the interjection—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Minister and member for Whitsunday, I am not going to have arguments across the chamber. I have already given a warning to members in general and I will warn members who continue to have interchanges across the chamber.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** There is no need to be concerned, but I will not cop it when I am asked what I am doing about my community still hurting.

**Ms Jones:** Nothing.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I take that interjection from the Minister for Tourism. I reject what the minister is saying. I am doing everything I can to get my community back on its feet. I acknowledge the great work of the Proserpine Chamber of Commerce—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** As I hear those in the cheap seats speaking again—under people such as Chris Patrick and Karen Vloedmans, who are doing their best in difficult times as a lot of businesses in Proserpine struggle to get back on their feet. Cafe on Main has come back online. A lot of people might say 'big deal', but in Proserpine it is a big deal.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Hearing that from the member for Logan—

**Mr Power:** There are businesses that are important there, too. They are all important. That is the point.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Logan. We will let the member for Whitsunday finish his speech.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I look forward to showing my constituents, including those in the business community of Proserpine, how disrespectful some members have been in this debate tonight. The people of Proserpine are hurting, as are those in Airlie Beach and other communities.

**Ms Jones:** You are doing nothing.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I think you are looking in the mirror, Minister. In the last two days my constituents have been battling bushfires in Hideaway Bay, which is not too far from where Tropical Cyclone Debbie crossed the coast. There are a number of people in the business community who are hurting—the Faust

family, the Crossley family, the Filby family, the Grittner family. There are families in Mackay hurting as well. We could go and talk about this with North Jacklin, who had North Jacklin Nissan for so many years. In fact, my grandfather bought a car off him before he even started North Jacklin Nissan many moons ago.

We heard the contribution from the member for Mackay, who almost put us to sleep. She talked about Mackay Toyota. It is funny that she finally got the message that this was bad legislation. On that note, I salute and acknowledge the recent passing of Col Searle. Along with his brother, Ron, they were the founding fathers of International Motors, now Mackay Toyota—a very significant motor vehicle dealership. They, along with the Camilleri family—the local Jayco dealers at Bakers Creek—certainly pushed back against what was initially put forward by this minister. I see that the member for Mackay has a bit of a smirk on her face. This is a serious issue. I am glad she finally listened. It goes without saying that we will continue to stick up for local small business.

**Mrs GILBERT:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. The member for Whitsunday is being offensive once again. Every time he gets up to speak he seems to have a go at me. I would ask him to withdraw because he is a bully.


**Mr COSTIGAN:** I withdraw. I find the comments from the member for Mackay offensive and I ask her to withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Whitsunday, your time has expired.

**Mr Costigan** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I accept that. Member for Mackay, I ask that you withdraw.

**Mrs GILBERT:** I withdraw.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (10.21 pm): The member for Whitsunday mentioned every single car dealership except for Fraser Ford in Main Street, Proserpine, didn't he? It shows what a fraud he is. Take offense if you want, but you are not in the right seat. What a joke. This is the member for Whitsunday, who knows that his days are numbered. His name is mud. To know this one only has to go to the Whitsundays and talk to local industries, small businesses and families in Proserpine. The first plane trip I took was to Proserpine when I was 10 years old. I have family up there and they know the form of the honourable member for Whitsunday. You are d-e-a-d, dead.

I challenge the honourable member for Whitsunday to tell us what he is doing about the LNP leadership in Canberra. What are they doing about paying back the category D funding? Nothing. What is he doing? Has he put pen to paper? No. Has he called his federal colleagues? No.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I find the comments—

**Ms JONES:** Accurate.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I find the comments inaccurate and misleading and I take offence at them because I have written to the Prime Minister about these issues.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! What is your point of order, member for Whitsunday? Do you find the comments offensive?

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I take offence at what the Minister for Tourism has said and I would like the minister to withdraw.

**Ms JONES:** I withdraw.

**Mr POWELL:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I refer to your ruling earlier about the member for Pine Rivers interjecting from a seat that is not hers. During the final contribution of the member for Whitsunday and during the contribution of the minister the member for Pine Rivers continued to interject from the wrong seat.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you for pointing that out. I note that the member for Pine Rivers is now back in her seat. I did miss that.

**Ms JONES:** Last time I checked I was talking, and I am the member for Ashgrove. I was making the point that there is only one side of politics that is fighting for category D funding for the Whitsunday Regional Council. Ours is the side of politics that is fighting for category D funding—\$120 million. Do members know what those opposite, including the member for Whitsunday, want to spend that money on? It is not a vote and it is not a plebiscite; it is a survey.

**Mr HART:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I think this bill is about trading hours, not category D funding.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call the member for Ashgrove.

**Ms JONES:** There was a lot of latitude given to the member for Whitsunday when he named every car dealership, except for Fraser Ford, in his electorate. He kept on talking about how he is standing up for his community. We know that there is only one side of politics that has the money in the kitty to restore infrastructure after Cyclone Debbie in the honourable member for Whitsunday's electorate. It is not his side of politics. The LNP wants to spend money on a survey.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I take that interjection. We are the side of politics that wants to build the Whitsundays airport.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, I ask you to ensure that you are speaking to the bill.

**Ms JONES:** Absolutely. The upgrade of the Whitsundays airport will deliver jobs, jobs, jobs which means more trading hours.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I appreciate that the minister is a bit fired up and getting carried away, but I ask you to rule on relevance. The Whitsunday Coast Airport has nothing to do with trading hours anywhere in the state.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have already spoken to the minister about that. She has assured me that she will be speaking to the bill.

**Ms JONES:** I would not have mentioned it, except that the member for Whitsunday preceded me in the debate and he talked about it. Thank you member for Whitsunday. You like to dish it out, but you cannot cop it.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Ashgrove, I warn you under standing order 253A for disrespecting the chair. Everyone needs to settle down.

**Ms JONES:** In addition to the comments made by the member for Whitsunday that were inaccurate and not true, I rise in support of this bill. I rise in support of this bill because in 266 days we are going to ensure that the Gold Coast is alive and a thriving community—

**Mr Hart:** You won't be there.

**Ms JONES:** I take the interjection from the hubristic member for Burleigh. I actually will be there because I purchased tickets out of my own pocket. I will be there with my family to witness the Commonwealth Games. It was our government, a Labor government, that from day 1 supported the Commonwealth Games. I was a member of the cabinet when we endorsed the \$1.5 billion to secure the Commonwealth Games for Queensland.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister, could I ask you to make sure that you are relevant to the bill.

**Ms JONES:** With all due respect, I am responding to the interjection.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister, can I ask you to speak to the bill specifically.

**Mr WATTS:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. My point of order relates to relevance. The minister has now been given guidance several times. We have a long speaking list and if everybody is not going to be relevant it is going to be a very long night.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I have already made the point.

**Ms JONES:** I thank Madam Deputy Speaker for her guidance. I advise all members of the parliament that the bill we are debating tonight provides for 24-hour trading during the Commonwealth Games. That is why I am talking about the Commonwealth Games. I was responding to the interjection from the member for Burleigh, who said that I would not be at the Commonwealth Games. I wanted all members of the House to know that as a mother of a Queensland family I have purchased tickets to go to the Commonwealth Games. I can assure all members of the House that in 266 days our government, through this bill, will ensure that the Gold Coast is a thriving destination for all tourists, like me, who want to go to the Gold Coast for the Commonwealth Games.

Confidence in our tourism economy is booming at the moment. For the Gold Coast, member for Burleigh, the Commonwealth Games is going to be a game changer. I am so pleased that I was part of the cabinet that decided to fund the Commonwealth Games. We know that when the LNP were in government it had Peter Costello go through every line item of the Commonwealth Games and walk away from them.

**Mr Hart:** The bill is about trading hours.

**Ms JONES:** I am talking about the Commonwealth Games and trading hours. A specific amendment in the trading hours bill that we are debating here tonight is about providing a streamlined process to have 24-hour trading for the duration of the Commonwealth Games. Keep up, member for Burleigh. The \$1.5 billion of investment—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Minister, I ask you to please direct your comments through the chair.

**Ms JONES:** Thank you, but I was responding to an interjection from the member for Burleigh. All of this would not have happened without the games. Jeff Wood from Executive Recruitment said—

If we pull off a good Games then our reputation globally will be so much better and domestically as well. People will look at the Gold Coast and say they have come of age ...

That is why this bill today is so important. The bill makes specific provisions for special trading hours during the Commonwealth Games. It will deliver a streamlined process for the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission to declare that shops in a stated area are exempt from trading hours restrictions during special events of local, national and international significance like the Commonwealth Games.

The Commonwealth Games is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for people like me who have purchased tickets and all others to showcase what is great about the Gold Coast and Queensland. For example, the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate, has said—

I think it removes the red tape and allows that have a go spirit—

which you know I stand for, Madam Deputy Speaker—

(If it will) take effect by the Commonwealth Games ... small business can benefit.

Those comments are from the Mayor of the Gold Coast. He said that the Gold Coast was the perfect city to have shops being able to open at all times. He said that our city is built on tourism and you have international people who are here and who are wondering why everything closes at 9 pm. This goes to the heart of the issue of the bill before the parliament here tonight. Despite having Gold Coast members in the LNP, every single one of them has spoken against this bill.

This bill is about ensuring that we have a global focus during the Commonwealth Games, that we have 24-hour trading during the Commonwealth Games, that we put our best foot forward during the Commonwealth Games. I would argue that all remarks about the Commonwealth Games are, indeed, relevant to the bill because it is actually about ensuring that we have 24-hour trading during the Commonwealth Games.

Southport councillor Dawn Crichlow said, 'I think it is a jolly good idea,' adding it would be especially useful for tourists who stayed in serviced apartments and who might need particular items at odd hours of the day. We have had endorsement from all levels of government, except for those opposite.

I want to finish by talking about the Motor Trades Association. I want to acknowledge and thank the honourable minister for her leadership, for listening to the industry, for responding to the industry. The chair of the Gold Coast Titans, Rebecca Frizelle, is one of the largest owners of motor trading companies in Queensland. She has a Gold Coast business and is a member of the Motor Trades Association of Queensland. I have to tell you a great story, Minister, and I want it in the *Hansard*. Back in April when you made the comment about the fact that you had listened to the Motor Trades Association—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the minister to direct her comments through the chair.


**Ms JONES:** Thank you. I want to acknowledge publicly the role of the minister in listening to industry and making the change to say that motor traders will not be forced to work on Sundays. In an email that was sent to me they said that, when this was communicated to the James Frizelle Automotive Group workers, the workers cheered. They vocally expressed their endorsement of the minister's position in acknowledging and listening to industry. I want to thank the minister publicly here today.

**Ms Grace:** Thank you for your lobbying.

**Ms JONES:** Thank you. I take that interjection from the minister. The Premier has said from day one that we are not going to be like the LNP government who refused to listen to industry. We have listened to industry and we have made the appropriate changes to the legislation to ensure that the Motor Trades Association are listened to and that the reforms in the legislation will enshrine the

protections that they have had and the operating environment in which they currently work. I want to acknowledge the minister for listening to industry and for working so hard to ensure that that stays in place.

With those few words, I want to say as the Commonwealth Games minister that I think this is great legislation. It is legislation that will ensure that we put our best foot forward during the Commonwealth Games and will provide a long-term legacy for everybody who stands up for Queensland.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (10.33 pm): In following the Minister for the Commonwealth Games and the Minister for Tourism, I think it is pertinent to note the contrast of this legislation that the government claims is about creating jobs with the problems with respect to the failed ID scanners—which this minister is being very quiet about—in those very same tourism areas of the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and many other areas. I can tell the minister that foreign tourists who will be coming here, even if they have a foreign driver's licence, will find that many of those scanners do not scan foreign licences effectively. They have been stopped from coming into my local venues and we want to see that fixed.

In addressing the trading hours bill that this government has touted and failed to put through the parliament previously because of a number of problems with its drafting, I think we should note that small business is really the engine room of jobs here in Queensland and they deserve to be listened to. They are not bit players; they are the major players when it comes to employing people. When people think of our beautiful Sunshine Coast, the region where I live, they first think of sun, surf and the stunning natural environment.

**Mr Elmes:** And Noosa.

**Ms SIMPSON:** And they think of that place further north over the drawbridge called Noosa. When they do think of the Sunshine Coast region as a whole, they know that it is an area of great beauty. It is also one of the premier areas for small business in Australia. In fact, it has one of the highest rates of entrepreneurs in Australia—that is, self-employed small business people.

Of the 61,000 small businesses across the Sunshine Coast region, an estimated 61 per cent are sole operators. This means that our region is a powerhouse of highly motivated individuals, independent people who like to chart their own future and have a go. They are the truly courageous ones who put their own capital on the line to support themselves and their families and to create work for others. Their profits are reinvested locally and they are on the whole tremendously engaged in our local community. They work hard and their views deserve to be heard. I want to see them make a good living and to see that hard work and courage rewarded. The LNP and I stand up for small businesses because there is no union for small businesses. They are their own workforce. They are the ones who put their own capital on the line. They are the ones who often mortgage their own homes in order to create the jobs around them.

Let me talk about the small businesses in my area. We are a tourism area. We already have extensive trading hours. It is not that long ago that we saw another increase in hours for larger shopping centres, larger supermarkets. I have to say, disappointingly, that this has had a marked negative impact for the many small businesses, particularly corner stores and independent supermarkets, as there has not been a commensurate increase in customers for the increase in hours. It is very good access for customers as far as their retail experience is concerned, but there has not been a lot of extra customers and dollars.

I have heard from those small businesses who have been hurt as large operators cut into the hours they used to make their profits. Some of those large operators are able to operate with cheaper wage structures due to enterprise bargaining deals that are not available to smaller businesses. I need to mention this because there is an irony. We have a situation where in the hospitality field on the Sunshine Coast the legal opening hours are not the problem. We see many of those small businesses closed on public holidays because they simply cannot afford the workforce to operate. The small business owners themselves try to put the hours in, but ultimately I think it is time an audit was done of the number of small businesses in the hospitality sector that are actually closed or not open for the hours that they can be open because it is simply unaffordable.

I say to our Minister for Tourism, who has been silent on this, that this is a major issue for our tourism areas. I want to see these people able to make a go of it, to make a profit, to be able to employ more people—more young people and more people across all ages. I challenge this government to do


an audit of the number of businesses in the hospitality sector in tourism areas that are actually closed and are not open for the number of hours that they can be. Let us have an inquiry into that, and tell the truth because we want to see those jobs grow.

When this bill was first proposed, the concerns were quite significant. On a positive note, I acknowledge that there are some amendments that we championed which I am pleased to see being addressed. I want to talk about my local motor dealers who approached me. They are not small businesses but they are very local businesses. They employ a lot of local people, they invest back into our community and they are great supporters of many community events. When the motor vehicle dealers and their workers approached me, they put a very compelling case that the original proposals the government had put forward were inappropriate for their industry.

Many of the workers who sell cars are on commission or part commission and the number of cars being sold would not increase for the amount of extra hours they would have to work, given they were being asked to work on Sundays. I appreciate that having motor vehicle operators open on a Sunday may seem to be a positive for many people, but the reality is that the extra turnover is not there and therefore the wages plus commission being received would be less for the number of cars sold. It is pleasing to see that there has been an understanding brought by the industry and there will be exemptions for motor vehicle dealers and caravan dealers, and these have been tabled today.

There are a lot of other amendments in this bill that have been tabled today. This is a recognition that a lot of things were overlooked when this bill was first put forward. That is why so many changes have been put forward today. Ultimately, if we want to see jobs grow in Queensland and we want to see people make a living and not just be the working poor, a number of other issues need to be addressed and they have not been addressed by this government. The government cannot simply say that opening hours alone will create the jobs. They need to look at the huge cost blow-outs that businesses are facing due to bad government policy. Businesses in my area have closed because of the blow-out in power costs in just the last 12 months. In the last 12 months under this government, a number have said that they cannot afford the huge increase in power costs.

We have also seen many in the hospitality sector not opening for even a part of the hours that are available on public holidays. This is something that demands an inquiry and an audit. This needs to be looked at because we have lost an opportunity to do something that we do so well in Queensland—that is, hospitality. Let us see our tourism industry prosper. Let us see them do well. Let us at least see this area have a focus on it in a way that this bill simply does not achieve.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (10.43 pm): I rise to make a short contribution on the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017. For some time trading hours have slowly been deregulated across Queensland. This has had deep ramifications to our local convenience stores and has caused a lot of these small convenience stores to compete with larger firms that have the financial capacity to wage relentless campaigns to ensure market dominance against them.


I have had recent conversations with my local Spar convenience stores, and the decision to extend trading hours on 1 December 2016 has been disastrous for these small mum-and-dad businesses. These small convenience stores give so much back to my local community through direct donations and donations in kind to my local sporting groups. The changes on 1 December, as I said, have already had a heavy impact on their sales and have greatly reduced their chances to expand their businesses and employ more people. Therefore, real employment growth with the small to medium convenience store sector has been greatly affected.

These are people with mortgages, families and bills to pay. They are people like Rahid from Upper Coomera Spar or Duncan and Grant from Oxenford Spar. They are the embodiment of the Australian spirit. They believe in having a fair go and trying to make their own way in this world. We should be doing everything we can to protect these businesses and allow them to grow, to give them their own little niche market so they can continue to expand and hire teenagers and get them into the workforce. These individuals cannot protest; they do not have the resources to protest. They have rent to pay, they have electricity bills and they need to be in their stores to manage their businesses and look after their customers to make sure they come back because they are satisfied.

In the long run, it is the consumer who suffers from the loss of these small businesses through the reduction of choice and competition. Therefore, extending trading hours for the big end of town will only speed up the demise of my local Spars and my local little IGAs. It is hard enough for these small businesses to make ends meet without giving an unfair advantage to the big end of town of Woolworths and Coles. They do not need any more assistance to increase their market share.

In the minister's opening speech back in May, she claimed that the bill will lead to an additional 945 full-time-equivalent jobs. The member for Noosa and other members on this side spoke about the self-service check-outs, and I can certainly say they are very prominent in my local Woolworths and Coles. The staff at my local Coles funnel as many people through these check-outs as possible. That is not creating employment growth; that is not helping to expand employment in my region. It is very crucial that we make sure these local Spars and local IGAs are looked after, that we give them their niche market and that we protect their hours.

On the northern Gold Coast we have had a bit of crime in recent times. There was an armed robbery at one of my local Spars and it was very emotional and tough for the individuals concerned. The shop owner said that they were insured and that they would be able to get some money back, but their business was competing unfairly against the big end of town. Those big stores have the financial capacity to actually take him on and easily knock him out of the market in the long run. He said that he came to Australia and this was his Australian dream and that he always believed that Australia had a fair-go mentality, which is what the LNP is trying to stand up for here. We are trying to stand up for those small business providers, give them a chance to expand and give them a chance to support our local sporting groups et cetera. That is why I stand 100 per cent with my colleagues on the LNP benches to say that, unfortunately, this is poorly thought out and it will be a great detriment to my local small businesses.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (10.48 pm): I rise tonight to speak about the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill. I will just give a brief history before I get into the bill. I do not want to sound like the member for Whitsunday, but I come from a family that has had over 100 years in small business and businesses—my father, my brothers, myself and the whole family. I learnt some things very quickly when I went from my media career to a career in small business. My business grew rapidly because we did a couple of things. The first was, as my father always told me, we had to keep our doors open to trade. The second thing was that small business is going through a lot of changes and there is going to be change for years to come as the economy changes, the digital interruption comes in and bigger players come in.

One of the big things I always had problems with when I was in small business is that when small business people start cutting the wages of working-class people and start driving them into the ground they start looking to shop elsewhere. Instead of slipping down to their local store to pick up milk and whatever, if people start cutting, chopping and hurting the average punter on the street that is when they drive them to the bigger supermarkets. They will drive that little bit extra to pick up the milk, the bread et cetera because they are watching their dollars and their budget. A moment ago a couple of members talked about when their livelihood and their house were on the line. They have not got that on their Pat Malone. I have had overdrafts that a kangaroo could not jump over. Some months we were travelling a bit mouldy, as we say in the business, but we worked hard to keep our nose to the grindstone and keep working at the business.

One thing I did like when I was in small business was extendible trading hours and there is a reason why. I had various retail outlets around the state. One of the reasons I liked them was that when the shops were open the customers were out; they were moving around and they were looking at things. We had more chance of getting customers through our door when they were moving around instead of when they were sitting at home and saying, 'This is not happening,' or, 'That is closed,' or whatever. The more people there were moving around, the more chance to capture those people coming into our shop. That is one thing that I thoroughly enjoyed about extended trading hours because that gave me more of a chance to capture more customers, sell my wares, let people know that I was operating a business and that my trading hours were from 4.30 to 10 o'clock every night. That is how we operated our businesses. That is one thing that happened. People moved around. Instead of sitting at home in their lounge rooms or at their barbecues, they were out going to the shops and so we got a chance to capture them.

When we talk about small business a couple of the members opposite start talking about penalty rates and overtime. I employed a lot of staff; my whole family did. I am very proud to say that we always paid penalty rates and we always will. Trickle-down economics does not work.

**Mr Harper:** They attack the unions.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I will take that interjection from the member. What happens is—and I have said it before and I will keep saying it—the more we cut people, the more they will look for the bargains, the more they will go to the bigger players because the perception is that the bigger players are cheaper. When people are doing it a bit tough and they are trying to save their money, that is where they will go. They think, 'Oh well. I will save 10 cents here, 15 cents there, 20 cents there and \$1 there.' It all adds

up when people are on a tight budget. Then people say, 'Let's cut the penalty rates.' All the staff I have employed—a lot of staff and I never cut penalty rates—always budgeted. Our penalty rates were built into our business expenses. The other day I said to a business owner who approached me about penalty rates, 'When I come into your shop will I get cheaper prices if you cut penalty rates?' 'Oh no,' he said. 'Hang on. You're telling me you can't afford to open. If you're cutting penalty rates, you're cutting wages. Will your prices come down?' He said, 'No, I can't do that.' I said, 'What is the problem with penalty rates?' He said, 'I don't know if I would employ people.' I said to him, 'Would you employ more people?' He said, 'No, I don't think so. I would just get the staff to do more than what they are doing now.' That is the crux of the matter. I keep saying trickle-down economics does not work in small business.

**Mr Harper:** It sounds like you valued your workforce.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I will take that interjection. I valued my workforce and I made sure that all my staff were paid the correct hourly rate and the penalty rates because I believe that goes around the economy.

When we look at small business I know it is hard. I hear those opposite talking about small business. I was at the coalface for over 20-odd years. I raised a family, paid off mortgages, bought businesses all through small business. I can honestly say that there is no better reward than owning a small business. However, people will only get out of a small business what they put in. They have to work hard and they have to work smart. They have to have great staff and they have to value their staff because the staff in a small business are the front line; they are the troops. When the small business owner is not there, they are the people who serve the customers and look after the customers that keep coming back. A lot of customers in small business come back for service. If people offer the right service and they talk to customers, they will come back; they build up loyalty. That is what happens in small business. They keep building and building. Small business owners keep their nose to the grindstone day in day out, seven days a week.

I heard the member for Whitsunday talking about his family and having a small business. As a child I can remember my father going to work at four o'clock every morning and getting home at 10 o'clock—every day, seven days of the week. When I left the media and I went into my own small business I did the same thing. Some mornings I would get up at three o'clock and I would still be going at 11 o'clock or 12 o'clock at night. If there were container loads of stock in, I would go until two o'clock in the morning, have a shower, go back and open up the business to commence work again the next day. That was my choice. I made that choice. I would just keep pushing ahead.

This is a great bill because it cuts the red tape. I want to congratulate the minister on the bill. Those opposite always talk about cutting red tape and helping small business. In my experience they are a hindrance in small business. When the Newman government was in power—and I have a lot of friends still in small business—they saw their turnover plummet by 25 per cent. If members opposite know anything they will know that turnover is a crucial part of a business. When the LNP was in power my mate's businesses dropped by 25 per cent, and those opposite talk about the power prices under the Labor government. I can tell them that I was a victim of their power prices. I was an absolute victim. I speak from authority. I can tell them now. When I was in business under the LNP government, my power bill jumped—it absolutely went high.


**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Those opposite were in power at that time. The first thing—and I will bring it back to my own local area—is the LNP talks about jobs and keeping regions looking after small business. However, when the LNP was in power they cut 14,000 workers. When they cut middle range public servants out of a city like Maryborough it has an effect on small business people. It has a major effect. The second thing is when they award a train contract to an Indian company that is not really good for small business in Maryborough. I did not see many of the small businesses in Maryborough relocating to India to make sure they got part of that \$4.4 billion contract that was awarded to an overseas company.

They are a couple of things that I remind the opposition of. When they stand here tonight with their holier than thou attitude I remind them that they caused a lot of problems with small business when they were in government. They cannot sack workers, take them out of a community and expect small business to compete. They cannot expect the turnover to go there. I know businesses. That dropped dramatically under the LNP. The same businesses are now going up. One business approached me the other day. He is up 27 per cent since the Labor government came to power. His turnover has increased 27 per cent. He is very happy with the trading hours and he is very happy with the Palaszczuk Labor government.

They talk about the power prices. Let us talk about insurance in businesses that is going through the roof and rents in shopping centres. If those opposite really want to talk about increases, let us have a fair dinkum talk about that. I do not see them standing there and criticising insurance companies or the multinational building owners that are putting up rents.

I would like to say thank you to the minister. She has listened. We talked about the amendments and that proves that she has listened. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (10.58 pm): I rise to speak to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill. Obviously if this bill is passed it will have an impact on a number of different industries throughout Queensland and I would like to canvass the retail industry in terms of supermarkets. Regarding the retail industry and in particular supermarkets, most of us in this place, if not all of us, would have received correspondence from Jos de Bruin, the CEO of MGA Independent Retailers relating to this bill. Mr de Bruin opens his letter by stating—

... the state government is planning changes to trading hours which will make it easier for Coles and Woolworths to swamp local, community-run supermarkets.

He continues—

The government's plan is anti-community, anti-consumer and anti-competitive. It works solely in the interests of the major national supermarket chains, the only sector driving this agenda.

Mr de Bruin also claims the Labor government is 'giving the green light to Coles and Woolworths to open longer hours to make it even harder for independent community based businesses to compete'. Mr de Bruin cites independent research carried out by Factualy in November 2016. Apparently, in part the research shows that 85 per cent of voters are satisfied with opening hours as they are right now, 66 per cent of voters think it is extremely or very important that local independent supermarkets survive and 60 per cent do not want to see more dominance of Coles and Woolworths. In light of Mr de Bruin's letter to MPs regarding the bill and his assertion regarding Coles and Woolworths, it is interesting to look at the relationship between Coles and Woolworths and the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association, the SDA, and any impact that relationship may have on this bill.

I must thank Mr Graeme Haycroft for the following information. According to Mr Haycroft, the Fair Work Act grants the SDA certain powers that are not available to other parties and the Fair Work Commission, which regulates the way in which these powers are interpreted, favours interpretations which maintain the status quo for the union. Mr Haycroft believes the SDA has used those powers to reap tens of millions of dollars for the Labor Party. He also asserts that the SDA has agreed to workplace agreements for Coles and Woolworths that dramatically reduce penalty rates for their workers, thereby substantially reducing labour costs for Coles and Woolworths.

We know that Coles and Woolworths control at least 70 per cent of trade in Australia, so having these sorts of workplace agreements in place is a huge benefit to Coles and Woolworths as long as it is not available to their smaller competitors. In return, the SDA is not negotiating similar deals with Coles' and Woolworths' competitors. Coles and Woolworths ensure that their 250,000 employees all join the union. Mr Haycroft points out that 250,000 multiplied by \$300 for each union due rakes in the very tidy sum of \$75 million a year. Apparently, the IGA tried to register an agreement with conditions similar to the one enjoyed by Coles and Woolworths and, interestingly, the SDA fought against the agreement in the Fair Work Commission. You may ask: what does this have to do with trading hours? Only registered unions can do special deals with employers that reduce award entitlements and conditions.

During the royal commission into construction unions it was revealed that if any person or organisation has a special power no-one else possesses—such as the special power that the Fair Work Act grants to the SDA—and that special power saves or makes money for another party such as a major retailer, then the party with the power can demand a reward from the party that benefits—such as, let us say, 250,000 employees paying an estimated \$75 million in union dues. Then let us just say that the union in receipt of that \$75 million does make substantial donations to the Labor Party, the same party that is currently in government—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Buderim, I urge you to make sure that you are speaking to the bill.

**Mr DICKSON:** Yes, I will. Would it surprise anyone that the Labor government might swing the trading hour pendulum in favour of the two major retailers who are providing the previously mentioned 250,000 employees who each pay \$350 in union fees?


I have a little hardware store in Buderim that has been operating for some time. It operates seven days a week, it is a one- to two-man operation and he works really hard and does really long hours. What this government is going to do here today is allow Bunnings to open at six o'clock in the morning. It is going to decimate him, and I am sure that all of you have one of these in your electorates. I have heard the LNP debate this bill all day long, so they must be going to vote against the bill this evening because they have the same problem I do: they want to stick up for small business. Alternatively, they will do what they did with the budget and vote with the Labor government to increase fees and charges, support 50 per cent renewable energy targets and all that sort of stuff. We know about that; that is in the past. I am sure they will not do that tonight. I am sure they will stick up for small business because they are the party of small business. That is what I hear every day.

There are other shop holders and small businesses right across the state of Queensland such as taxi operators, dairy owners, pubs and clubs and energy providers, and I suppose there are a lot of things that I believe in and One Nation believes in. We believe in Christmas cards; I know the Labor Party does not believe in Christmas cards. We believe in a whole lot of stuff. We want to make sure that small business is looked after, and we are going to vote against this bill because this is not a small-business-friendly bill. This is about looking after big business, and I explained to you why that is happening. I think all of Queensland knows it. This is about kickbacks from the Labor Party and kickbacks from the union, and that is why this is going through tonight.

I remember when I was in council—I started there in 2000—and every year Coles and Woolworths would come forward saying, 'We want longer trading hours.' They wanted longer trading hours in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003. Now we are in 2017 and the Labor Party is just about to give them exactly what they want. They have been belting on and on about this for years and years. You are going to give them the tickets to destroy small business. Woolworths, Coles and Bunnings will have their way, and it will be just like what happened in Rockhampton when I was a kid and Target came to town. I remember my dad saying to me, 'You see all of these small shops and corner stores around here? They're not going to be here one day because of Target.' It is true; that is what happened. That is the result. You do not see those corner shops anymore. I suppose you can call it 'the times', but now we have a chance to make a difference here tonight. The Labor Party can do the right thing in Queensland.

In relation to Sunday trading, I reckon it would be a great idea to let the chain stores open at 10 and close at four to let small business have a little niche in the market. What I am reading in this bill as it relates to Bunnings and hardware stores is that we are going to take that little niche away. We are going to take away the opportunity for these people to feed their families so the big chain stores can put in more automatic tellers like Woolworths. They tell you they are going to employ people, but they are not going to employ people: they employ machinery. Go to a Woolworths store and walk through the check-out. It is a machine; it is not a person. That is what you have to think about. This is about real people. You are taking real people's jobs away. That is what small business does; it produces real people jobs, not real machine jobs like Coles and Woolworths. Every one of you knows it is true. It is like teller machines at the bank. The cashier will tell you to go outside and use the machine. She is directed by the business to do that so there will be fewer employees, not more. Everybody in this House knows this is true. By supporting this bill you are supporting big business. By supporting this bill you are killing little business, and that is not what we should be about in this House. We should always be about looking after small business.

The ALP supports a whole lot of things like Safe Schools. It supports dropping the age of consent for anal sex from 18 to 16. It supports renewable energy. It supports all of those things, but how about supporting big business? That is what it is going to support tonight. How about really supporting people and little businesses? Support the little hardware store in Buderim. That is what I am going to do tonight. I will sit back and see what the LNP does. Is it going to support business or is it going to support the Labor Party, which supports machines instead of jobs?

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (11.08 pm): I rise to make a small contribution to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill. As we all know, this bill was poorly drafted to try and do a favour for some union mates, and it has been sitting in here on life support for some time now as they tried to cobble a deal together to allow this to be passed today. We do not know what kind of deal has been done, but what we do know is that the bill is now in a lot better shape than when it was originally going to decimate small business in regional communities and cause my motor dealers a great deal of pain.

I spoke to the Armstrongs, David at Wippells, the people at Toyota and Hughes Car Sales in Toowoomba and got their opinion of what the original bill was going to do to their business given the complete lack of understanding that had gone into preparing this bill. I heard the interjection earlier that

the minister listens. Maybe if the minister had listened a little bit at the start we could have saved an awful lot of time in terms of parliamentary process because we could have come up with a much better bill.

**Ms Grace:** That's the process, mate!

**Mr WATTS:** It might be the process, but let us face it: you would have to consider it a complete and utter failure if you walk in here with 32 amendments to fundamentally change the majority of the bill just so that you can bludgeon its way through the House. Motor dealers in my area were very concerned that they were going to be unable to attract decent staff if they were forced to work on Sundays. They were very concerned that it would destroy the families and family lifestyle of their staff. The committee finding that motor dealers need to be taken out of this consideration was a good thing. It is a shame that that could not have happened from the start and that people had to get very anxious and obviously we all had to spend a lot of time trying to ensure—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:**—that the voices of regional motor dealers were heard over and above the squawking of the member for Logan. We know that the bill was fundamentally flawed. We know that now we have 32 amendments that have been rushed into the House to try to resuscitate this bill to please the union lord and masters to ensure there is something in it for them, but the deal has been cobbled through. I spoke to Debbie Smith, who runs a couple of Foodland stores in my area, and she said that the original bill would have basically shut her business down, it would have destroyed her business and it would have handed over those local jobs to Coles and Woolworths so that they could sign up those people to their union membership and flick their fees to fund the member for Brisbane Central's campaign.

We all know the original intention of this bill. We also know that it has been a disaster as it has been going through the process in that there has been compromise after compromise and 32-odd amendments now to get it to the point where obviously some deal has been done to cobble its way through the House given the compromises that have been made. When I spoke to Debbie today after I had a good look at the amendments I said, 'What do you think?' She said, 'It's not really a very good deal for us, but it's better than nothing because my options are that my business is shut down and I sack all my workers or we look at these amendments and we try to work out how to survive against the monolith of the duopoly and the low wages deals that have been done to get a deal with the union.'

I am disappointed that hardware stores are not going to get the same kind of consideration. In my area at the moment there is a massive Bunnings being built. Make no mistake: I like Bunnings as a men's toy store just the same as anybody else, but for convenience and service those little hardware stores have been supporting my community for a long time and they needed a niche to allow their businesses to survive and provide those services for people who maybe have to use public transport to buy a bag of nails rather than drive their car. There are a lot of retirees and other people who are dependent on that in parts of my electorate, so losing some of those smaller stores and having a situation where they have to get down to the big monolith maybe difficult for some of those people. As I said, I am disappointed that hardware stores have not received the same consideration.

We know that this bill was poorly thought through and was a deal for the union lord and masters to be able to help the duopoly to get more union membership so that they can expand, collect that money and give it to the Labor Party. We know that that is what the bill was primarily about and we know that in regional communities the bill affects families. The member for Maryborough said that he worked about 25 hours a day and around about eight days a week.


**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:** Yes, which obviously was some kind of luxury. Even from his own words we know that small business is tough. I have been in small business for a long time and you put in a lot of hours. When you have put in all of your hours dealing with the public on the retail side, then you have the privilege of sitting down and filling out your BAS statement and making sure you spend time getting your PAYG done and sending off cheques to superannuation and doing a whole bunch of tax collection for the government. That is the joy of small business and I am sure many small businesses would enjoy that just as much as I have through my lifetime. Realistically, a small business needs the ability to be able to compete and it needs to be able to find a niche where it can compete, and often that niche is on service. We know that sometimes products might be a little bit more expensive, but they come with some advice, they come closer to home and they come with some more availability.

If the only retail model that is ever going to work in this country is a massive big box, massive turnover, small margin and lack of service, that may well work in the middle of a big city. To be honest, in parts of Toowoomba that may work as well. However, as you get to the outlying towns it does not

work and you end up with people in communities who have to travel 10, 20, 30, 50 or 100 kilometres to be able to find those big box shops because all of the little retailers have been unable to find that niche in the market any longer. They have been unable to compete against the profits and the lower wages that have been negotiated with the unions for the workers and the distribution advantages that some of those big box retailers have. It really places small retail in regional areas under a great deal of pressure.

Whilst I think there are a lot of bad things in this bill, some of these amendments have got the bill to the point where, as Debbie said, it might not be very good but it is a whole lot better than what she was terrified would come in and then she would see all of her life's work torn down as she tried to compete with unfair advantages that have been given to her competitors. What can I say? Ultimately, the bill is not great for small retail. We certainly know that in its original form it was diabolical for motor traders. We know that it was ill conceived, poorly executed, fumbled its way through the parliament and has had to be negotiated, and I do not know what kinds of deals have been done with various crossbenchers and others to get to the point where all of a sudden this cobbled together mess can become the new governance for retail and trading hours in Queensland. That is the situation we find ourselves in given that there may be a little lifeline for some of the small retailers that were really going to struggle under the initial form of this bill.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.18 pm), in reply: It is late at night, and when I hear contributions like that last one I really wonder what has happened to the LNP. I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate on this bill. This bill will simplify and standardise Queensland's complex trading hours laws which have been acting as a handbrake on jobs and business expansion for too long. As Steve Wardill commented in the *Courier-Mail* this morning, Queensland's chaotic trading hours have long been ripe for reform and it is this Palaszczuk Labor government that is taking up that challenge and is reforming these laws after governments of all colours have ignored this issue for many years. The current numerous trading hours arrangements developed over many years have created complexity and confusion for businesses and consumers alike.

I will provide a couple of examples. For Sunday trading alone, there are 30 different trading zones across Queensland. Under the act, non-exempt shops close at 5 pm on Saturday but 6 pm on Sunday. Fathom that. I could give other examples in relation to the number of employees who can be employed by some of the smaller independent retail shops, putting a brake on additional staff they may need. These are just a few examples of how the current regulation of trading hours simply needs to be reformed. As Steve Wardill said, they are ripe for the picking.

These issues have been put in the too-hard basket for over 20 years. It has taken the Palaszczuk Labor government to tackle them head-on, listen to stakeholders and introduce laws that will deliver real reform. Under the reforms contained in our bill, the number of trading hours zones will reduce from 99 to just 12, supporting up to an additional 1,000 jobs. Generating jobs and cutting red tape is what this government is all about, and that is what the trading hours reforms in this bill will deliver.

Earlier today I circulated a list of amendments to the bill that I propose to move during consideration in detail. The amendments include those I flagged during my second reading speech and respond to the recommendations of the Finance and Administration Committee from its examination of the bill.

Those opposite talk about there being 31 or 32 amendments. Some of these are extremely minor. One was an oversight which is being corrected and one was in relation to the motor trades and caravans. After listening to them and hearing their concerns, we took the recommendations of the committee through the parliamentary process. That is what these parliamentary committees are all about. We will not make any apologies for accepting recommendations from the committee. We are a government that listens. We are not an arrogant government like the LNP that at times ignored its own majority committee recommendations. It was pathetic. We know that LNP members are sitting opposite because of their arrogance and the way they carried on when in government. This is a listening government that will make no apologies if we believe that a good idea has come forward. Maybe those opposite can take a dose of that medicine.

The amendments include adding the Cairns CBD to the list, as it was omitted. We are amending and expanding the areas for Westfield Garden City and Chermside Shopping Centre. Of course, as I said, the current trading hours for motor vehicle and caravan retailers will remain the same. I thank all those on this side of the House who spoke to me about that. Most of the members here came and saw me. Once the motor vehicle and caravan industry focused on the bill, they realised that maybe Sunday

trading was not for them. It is interesting to think that a business does not want to trade, but quite clearly there are issues specific to that industry. We listened to them and now have said, 'Okay, if that is what the industry wants, we are more than happy to leave it as it is.'

Following further discussions with stakeholders, the government proposes what I believe are some further sensible amendments to the bill. We have listened to stakeholders and acknowledged the concerns of small business about the effects of trading hours reforms on regional Queensland in particular. The government proposes amendments to the bill which address those concerns while also maintaining the benefits of simplifying and standardising current trading hours. Honestly, enough. This is just ridiculous.

The government proposes amendments which address those concerns while standardising current trading hours. Under these amendments, the trading hours for non-exempt shops outside of South-East Queensland will be: Monday to Friday, 8 am to 9 pm; Saturday, 8 am to 6 pm; and Sunday and most public holidays, 9 am to 6 pm. The effect of these amendments is to change the opening time currently proposed in the bill for shops outside of the south-east corner from 7 am to 8 am. I let everybody on the other side of the House know that in South-East Queensland there are no changes. The hours remain the same. There are no amendments. They are what the QIRC determined under the previous government that it was able to do nothing about. They stay the same.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Instead of interjecting ad nauseam, the member for Mudgeeraba may want to listen. There is no change in her area. An exception to this with regard to the hours—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. One moment, Minister. Member for Mudgeeraba and other members, the minister is responding in reply. We are getting on with the business.

**Ms GRACE:** The exception will be the Townsville tourist area, which will retain its own unique 7 am start, Monday to Friday. Those 21 towns that currently do not have Sunday and public holiday trading will remain that way for the period of the five-year moratorium under the bill, with an amendment that removes the provision currently in the bill that allows applications to be made to the QIRC to opt in to Sunday and public holiday trading. That is an eminently sensible amendment. This means that smaller retailers will have the certainty of knowing that there is a five-year moratorium on further trading hours applications to the QIRC. That stability is unbelievable. It has not been there for many years. This will provide a period of stability and certainty for all parties and will put a stop to the revolving door of expensive and time-consuming cases in the QIRC, as is presently the case.

For the information of the House I add that 15 of those 21 towns have never had an application for Sunday trading. The six that did over the past five years were not successful. I also note the recent decision of the QIRC, on 14 June 2017, to permit Sunday and public holiday trading in Warwick and Stanthorpe. An amendment is proposed to add those towns into the schedule of the bill because of the QIRC decision. This is the schedule that lists those regional areas outside of South-East Queensland where non-exempt shops can trade on Sundays and most public holidays.

Finally, the current provision for a review of the act will be clarified with an amendment that provides the review must be conducted and completed before the end of the moratorium period. I will move amendments in consideration in detail, and other key reforms in the bill will remain, as I have previously outlined. A number have been included and they will remain as part of the bill.

In introducing these reforms the government also recognises that changes to trading hours can have impacts on retail workers and their families. That is why this bill includes protections for retail workers that will make it an offence for an employer to require an employee to work any extended trading hours that have been introduced by this bill unless the employee has freely elected to work those hours. This agreement to work must be in writing.

The end result of these reforms is that most non-exempt businesses across the state will be covered by just two major trading hours zones. One zone is in South-East Queensland, where there are no changes and where the core trading hours will reflect the decision of the QIRC in December 2016, and one zone is in regional Queensland with the core trading hours I described earlier. There then will be a small number of other arrangements to the bill to cover special needs and circumstances such as longer trading hours for designated tourist areas like Cairns and the Gold Coast, the earlier opening hours which will apply to hardware stores, and the arrangement for motor trades and caravan shops, which will retain their existing trading hours as recommended by the committee.

The Palaszczuk government has worked in good faith consulting with crossbenchers and stakeholders and as a result has put forward these additional amendments to address the genuine concerns raised while still achieving the benefits of substantive trading hours reforms. I wish to thank

those stakeholders we have worked with throughout this process. Trading hours is a hard fought area of public policy, but I found that all parties conducted themselves in a thoroughly professional and respectful manner. I wish to thank in particular Dominique Lamb and David Stout from the NRA and Jos de Bruin, Roz White, Debbie Smith, Peter Piccone and other members of the MGA management committee whom I met with personally. I again give my sincere thanks to former Speaker John Mickel, who chaired the independent reference group that conducted the review which underpins the bill before the House. John did an excellent job. He worked very well with the committee and obtained many submissions.

The changes in this bill will modernise and simplify current trading hours to support jobs, cut red tape and increase choice for the consumer but, more importantly, provide the stability needed for small business in the state during the five-year period of the moratorium. This bill is about retail hours stability, more jobs, more choice and less red tape. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 33—



**Ms GRACE** (11.30 pm): I seek leave to move amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

**Ms GRACE:** I move the following amendments—

**1 Clause 7 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)**

Page 9, lines 33 and 34 and page 10, lines 1 to 7—

*omit, insert—*

**tourist area** means—

(a) any of the following areas under the 2017 trading hours order—

(i) Area of New Farm of Inner City of Brisbane;

(ii) Gold Coast Coastal Tourist Area;

(iii) Hamilton North Shore Area;

(iv) The Cairns CBD Area;

(v) The Great Barrier Reef Wonderland Tourist Complex; or

(b) the town of Port Douglas; or

(c) the Pacific Fair Shopping Centre located at Broadbeach Waters on the corner of Hooker Boulevard and Sunshine Boulevard.

**2 Clause 7 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)**

Page 11, line 2, before 'This'—

*insert—*

(1)

**3 Clause 7 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)**

Page 11, after line 5—

*insert—*

(2) However, if subdivision 3 applies to a non-exempt shop, the shop's closing time for 24 December is the closing time provided for under subdivision 3.

**4 Clause 7 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)**

Page 11, line 6, after 'shops'—

*insert—*

**and shops selling motor vehicles or caravans**

**5 Clause 7 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)**

Page 11, line 8—

*omit, insert—*

than—

(a) a hardware shop; and

(b) a shop engaged in selling motor vehicles or caravans.

**6 Clause 7 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)**

Page 11, table after line 9, from 'In any other area'—  
omit, insert—

<b>In a schedule 1AB area</b>		
Monday to Friday	(a) if the shop is in the Townsville Tourist Area—7a.m. (b) otherwise—8a.m.	9p.m.
Saturday	8a.m.	6p.m.
Sunday and public holidays, other than closed days	9a.m.	6p.m.
<b>In a seaside resort</b>		
Monday to Friday	8a.m.	9p.m.
Saturday	8a.m.	6p.m.
Sunday	n/a	n/a
Public holidays, other than closed days	9a.m.	6p.m.
<b>In any other area</b>		
Monday to Friday	8a.m.	9p.m.
Saturday	8a.m.	6p.m.
Sunday and public holidays, other than closed days	n/a	n/a

**7 Clause 7 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)**

Page 11, after the table after line 9—  
insert—

(3) In this section—

**n/a** means the shop is not permitted to open.

**schedule 1AB area** means an area, within the meaning of the 2017 trading hours order, mentioned in schedule 1AB.

**seaside resort** means a Tourist and/or Seaside Resort within the meaning of the 2017 trading hours order.

**8 Clause 7 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)**

Page 12, lines 1 to 5—  
omit.

**9 Clause 7 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)**

Page 12, after the table after line 9—  
insert—

**16EA Shops selling motor vehicles or caravans**

(1) This section applies to a non-exempt shop engaged in selling motor vehicles or caravans.

(2) The shop's core trading hours are—

<b>Day</b>	<b>Opening time</b>	<b>Closing time</b>
<b>If the shop sells motor vehicles but not caravans</b>		
Monday to Friday	8a.m.	9p.m.
Saturday	8a.m.	(a) if the shop is in a prescribed area—6p.m. (b) otherwise—5p.m.
Sunday	n/a	n/a
Public holidays, other than closed days	(a) if the shop is in a prescribed area—8a.m. (b) otherwise—n/a	(a) if the shop is in a prescribed area—6p.m. (b) otherwise—n/a

Day	Opening time	Closing time
<b>If the shop sells both caravans and motor vehicles</b>		
Monday to Friday	8a.m.	9p.m.
Saturday	8a.m.	5p.m.
Sunday and public holidays, other than closed days	n/a	n/a
<b>If the shop sells caravans but not motor vehicles</b>		
Monday to Friday	8a.m.	9p.m.
Saturday	8a.m.	6p.m.
Sunday and public holidays, other than closed days	n/a	n/a

(3) In this section—

*n/a* means the shop is not permitted to open.

**prescribed area** means any of the following areas within the meaning of the repealed car yards order—

- (a) The Gold Coast Area;
- (b) Redcliffe Peninsula;
- (c) City of Brisbane Area;
- (d) City of Logan Area;
- (e) Town of Beenleigh Area;
- (f) Near North Coast Area;
- (g) Shire of Pine Rivers Area;
- (h) Redland Shire Area;
- (i) City of Ipswich.

**repealed car yards order** means the order titled 'Trading Hours—Non-exempt Shops Selling Motor Vehicles—State' made by the industrial commission under section 21 on 8 December 1989, as it was in effect immediately before the commencement of the *Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Act 2017*.

Notes—

- 1 The repealed car yards order was repealed on the commencement of the *Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Act 2017*—see section 57.
- 2 The repealed car yards order can be viewed on the QIRC website—see section 46A.

**10 Clause 7 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)**

Page 13, after line 1—  
*insert—*

**16EB Application of subdivision**

This subdivision does not apply to a non-exempt shop engaged in selling motor vehicles or caravans.

**11 Clause 7 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)**

Page 13, after line 7—  
*insert—*

- (3) If a non-exempt shop is not permitted to trade on a Sunday, a reference in subsection (1) to the shop's opening time under subdivision 2 is, if the day in question is a Sunday, taken to be a reference to 9a.m.

**12 Clause 7 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)**

Page 14, lines 2 and 3, from ', being' to 'lot 3 on RP 812659'—  
*omit.*

**13 Clause 7 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 2)**

Page 14, line 7, from ', being' to '258311'—  
*omit.*

**14 Clause 13 (Amendment of s 21 (Trading hours orders on non-exempt shops))**

Page 15, lines 19 to 23—  
*omit.*

- 15 After clause 27**  
Page 19, after line 21—  
*insert—*
- 27A Amendment of s 36AA (Protection for employees—Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017)**  
Section 36AA(4), definition *south-east Queensland area—*  
*omit.*
- 16 Clause 28 (Insertion of new s 36B)**  
Page 19, line 23, '36A'—  
*omit, insert—*
- 36AA
- 17 Clause 30 (Insertion of new pt 7A, hdg and new ss 46A and 46B)**  
Page 21, lines 10 to 13—  
*omit, insert—*
- 46A Publication of particular repealed orders**  
The industrial registrar must ensure the following orders are published on the QIRC website—
- (a) the 2017 trading hours order;
  - (b) the repealed car yards order within the meaning of section 16EA.
- 18 Clause 30 (Insertion of new pt 7A, hdg and new ss 46A and 46B)**  
Page 21, after line 16—  
*insert—*
- (1A) The review must be finished before the end of the moratorium period under part 8, division 6.
- 19 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 6)**  
Page 22, lines 5 to 14—  
*omit.*
- 20 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 6)**  
Page 22, after line 23—  
*insert—*
- prescribed s 16D shop** means a non-exempt shop—
- (a) to which section 16D applies; and
  - (b) that is not permitted under that section to open on Sunday and public holidays.
- 21 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 6)**  
Page 23, lines 21 to 32 and page 24, lines 1 to 21—  
*omit.*
- 22 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 6)**  
Page 24, line 27, 'extended hours order'—  
*omit, insert—*
- order made on an application dealt with under section 60(2)
- 23 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 6)**  
Page 24, lines 30 and 31, from 'mentioned' to '(a)'—  
*omit, insert—*
- under section 21
- 24 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 6)**  
Page 24, lines 32 and 33, from 'mentioned' to '(1)(a)'—  
*omit, insert—*
- under section 21
- 25 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 6)**  
Page 25, lines 6 to 10—  
*omit, insert—*
- (2) If the application relates only to prescribed s 16D shops, the industrial commission may, if it considers it appropriate and with the consent of the applicant, deal with the application as if it were an application for an order under section 21 prescribing the following trading hours for the shops for Sundays and public holidays (other than closed days)—
- (a) opening time—9a.m.;
  - (b) closing time—6p.m.

**26 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 6)**

Page 26, lines 3 and 4, 'shops to which section 58 applies'—  
omit, insert—

prescribed s 16D shops

**27 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 6)**

Page 26, lines 10 and 11, from 'make'—  
omit, insert—

make an order under section 21 prescribing the following trading hours for the shops for Sundays and public holidays (other than closed days)—

- (a) opening time—9a.m.;
- (b) closing time—6p.m.

**28 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 6)**

Page 26, lines 33 and 34, 'shops to which section 58 applies'—  
omit, insert—

prescribed s 16D shops

**29 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 6)**

Page 27, lines 11 and 12, from 'have'—  
omit, insert—

have prescribed the following trading hours for prescribed s 16D shops for Sundays and public holidays (other than closed days)—

- (i) opening time—9a.m.;
- (ii) closing time—6p.m.

**30 Clause 31 (Insertion of new pt 8, div 6)**

Page 27, after line 12—  
insert—

**62A Particular orders required to be approved by regulation**

- (1) This section applies to an order made under section 21 during the moratorium period in accordance with this division.

*Example—*

an order made by the commission on an application mentioned in section 60(2)

- (2) The order does not take effect until it is approved by regulation.
- (3) The order takes effect—
  - (a) on the day the regulation is notified; or
  - (b) if the regulation states a later day—the later day.
- (4) This section applies despite section 21.

**31 Clause 32 (Insertion of new schs 1AA and 1AB)**

Page 29, lines 26 to 28—  
omit, insert—

**Schedule 1AB Areas for s 16D**

section 16D

**32 Clause 32 (Insertion of new schs 1AA and 1AB)**

Page 30, line 23—  
omit, insert—

- 22 The Stanthorpe Area
- 22A The Warwick Area

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

*Tabled paper:* Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes to Hon. Grace Grace's amendments [\[1406\]](#).

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I note the minister has moved 32 amendments en bloc. It is a little less than the 200 amendments she moved in the racing bill. The Minister for Employment has form with amendments she moves en bloc. We opposed the bill in its current form and we did it because the LNP is the only party in Queensland that supports, backs and sticks up for small business. We would have voted against the second reading debate had these amendments not been foreshadowed. The reason we are supporting the bill before the House now is because I have had conversations with members of Master Grocers Australia who say they want the bill to be passed now because the amendments are included.

The government was forced by the LNP to move these amendments to stick up for our independent retailers. Members on this side of the House referred to it as the bill that lay dead on the table for months because the government could not secure a deal. I was surprised when I woke up this morning and saw in the paper that the government had secured support for the bill from the member for Cairns and the member for Cook. It did not mention that the minister was moving 32 amendments to the bill to secure the support. When I read it I thought, 'How on earth could the members for Cook and Cairns be now thinking this is great legislation for our independent retailers?' It is because the minister has been forced to move the amendments proposed by the LNP in our contribution to the debate to protect small independent operators like our FoodWorks, NightOwls, local IGAs, Friendly Grocers, Foodlands, Be Fresh, Fruit Sheds, corner stores and independent supermarkets. The LNP is supporting these amendments because they will effectively give a moratorium on no additional trading hours for Coles and Woolies for five years in areas that do not have those extended trading hours at the moment.

That is good news for our small and independent operators right throughout Queensland. The original bill did not cater for that. The original bill was a Coles and Woolies bill. With the LNP amendments that we proposed it is not a Coles and Woolies bill. Master Grocers have told me that if this bill is defeated tonight and the status quo remains they will be detrimentally impacted because Coles and Woolies will run off to the QIRC and for years put them in the courts which will cost many hundreds of thousands of dollars. These amendments will stop that.

These amendments should have been moved weeks ago. Had the minister done her job properly at the start and consulted and stood up for small businesses we could have had this debate and had reform in the retail trade sector. The LNP will support these amendments because we are the only party in Queensland that supports and backs our small to medium operators.


**Mr DICKSON:** I believe that One Nation and the crossbenchers are the only ones supporting small business. We are going to vote against the bill at the third reading. We made it clear tonight that we understand what these amendments are all about. This is about pacifying small retailers. It is about giving them a small window of five years, which is insignificant in the scheme of things. I made it very clear in my speech that tonight is all about big business. It is about bending over for big business and laying down on the floor for big business. The crossbenchers will be voting against this bill. After this election comes and goes we will turn this over. We make a commitment here tonight that if we have the balance of power this will be rewound.

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Kawana for now supporting the amendments. The LNP did not force the government to make these amendments. They came about because of the meeting that I had directly with all stakeholders, because of the lobbying on this side of the House in regard to motor vehicles and caravans and because of the meeting that I had directly with members of the MGA management committee. The member for Cairns and the member for Cook did more to get these amendments across than any of the LNP members opposite.

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 33, as amended, agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.36 pm): I move—


That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Division: Question put—that the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.42 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.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.43 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Mount Ommaney Electorate

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (11.43 pm): In my electorate of Mount Ommaney, there have been more celebrations to report on since parliament last sat. On 13 August we welcomed the church congregation of Riverlife. It has relocated from Kenmore to new facilities at Seventeen Mile Rocks. They now call the electorate of Mount Ommaney home. I had the pleasure of being invited to their grand opening.


Just two days later, I attended Janmashtami celebrations, which is a major event on the multicultural calendar. As everyone would know, it is Lord Krishna's birthday. The temple for the Krishnas is located right across the road from Riverlife. It is a classic example of how Mount Ommaney showcases Queensland's diversity at work, with different faiths coexisting.

A number of our community groups and churches have celebrated milestones in the past couple of weeks. A couple of Saturdays ago, the Rocks Community Garden celebrated its 10th birthday. The community garden attracts people from all walks of life, ages and cultural backgrounds. They have a common goal, which is to grow home-grown produce. I make a special mention and thanks to Alie Blackwell and her committee for organising such a terrific morning.

Last Saturday the Centenary Christian Kindergarten held its 40th birthday. It was great to see many past teachers and students in attendance. When you know of the humble beginnings of the kindergarten, you understand that for 40 years they have provided not only exceptional care but also peace of mind to many parents who knew that they were sending their child to a loving and nurturing environment. They have an outstanding reputation. Director Jenny Male needs to be congratulated on her leadership. She has been the director there for the past 11 years.

Topping that off, on Sunday afternoon the Good News Lutheran Church at Middle Park also celebrated 40 years of putting down roots in the Centenary suburbs. The afternoon tea and entertainment provided by the congregation was first class. They are a great bunch of people. I am so proud to represent the great electorate of Mount Ommaney and its people. It is a great place to be a part of.

### Maryborough Electorate

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (11.46 pm): I rise to talk about what has happened in the electorate of Maryborough in the past two and a half years since the election of the Palaszczuk government. On being elected, one of the first things that the government did was to improve the Torbanlea floodway, which had been a problem for Torbanlea residents travelling to Hervey Bay and for kids travelling to and from school. We then reinstated the pathology department at the Maryborough Hospital. It was the only hospital on the east coast of Australia that did not have a pathology department. We reopened and expanded TAFE in Maryborough, which was a great thing for local students.

**Ms Pease:** Gosh, you have been busy. Good on you. You are delivering for your community. Well done!

**A government member:** Delivering for Maryborough.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take those interjections. It is a committed government that is delivering for Maryborough and I would like to say 'thank you'. The new TAFE enables students to study and be tutored in Maryborough, which is a great achievement. I personally thank the member for Redcliffe on behalf of the young people who can now stay in my community and attend TAFE.

Through our commitment to school funding, we are getting a brand-new \$4 million creative arts hall at Maryborough State High School, which will transform that school into one of the best high schools in Queensland. I congratulate the principal, Simon Done, who has done great work at the school. He has signed an agreement with the University of the Sunshine Coast where students can do courses, which is working well.


**Mr Costigan** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday: it is a very good university. It is good to see that my local Maryborough high school is working with USC to make sure that the children and young adults of my electorate get a great educate. There is also the \$1 million

music hall at Tinana State School. The arts is a very important part of education. I am grateful to this government, which has listening to the community of Maryborough and is investing money into creative arts and music in our education system. While sport is very important within school, so too are the arts. We have to remember that more people participate in the arts than play sport. It is great to see that the government and the minister are committed to the schools in my electorate.

I would also like to thank the government and ministers for the traffic lights at St Helens State School. It was one of the most dangerous schools for people to enter when taking their students to school and to exit when taking their students home from school. This is a great job. The Palaszczuk government has definitely delivered for my electorate.

### Office of the State Coroner

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (11.49 pm): I want to speak about the unacceptable delays in the coroner's office. I want to firstly bring to the attention of the House a circumstance involving one of my constituents, Mrs Vicki Smit. Vicki's husband, Ben, was a traffic controller who was killed at roadworks in September 2015. This is a tragic situation with which she and her family have had to live for almost two years now.

I am concerned about delays in the coroner's office in relation to a determination as to Mr Smit's death and the issues that arose from that. The person who was driving the vehicle that hit Mr Smit has now died. There are issues arising from the case involving that person's prescription medication. There is the issue of a person driving under the influence of prescription medication and causing this dramatic accident.


Mrs Smit is looking for some closure with respect to liability for the matter. I suggest the community is looking for some guidance from the coroner as to whether there are public safety and public health issues involved in relation to people being able to drive vehicles when they are under the influence of prescription medicine. They are significantly important matters.

I have made representations on Mrs Smit's behalf a number of times, but after almost two years the matter has not come to a conclusion. It is an unsatisfactory matter. I plead on Mrs Smit's behalf for the matter to be resolved and to be brought to a head. I will be writing to the Attorney-General in that regard.

Unfortunately, it seems that Mrs Smit's case is not an isolated case. Yesterday we had the coroner's report tabled for the 2015-16 year. I point out that the coroner is required to file this report with the Attorney-General as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. I note that it was given to the Attorney-General in January 2017. I also note that the Attorney-General in turn filed it out of session, if the date on the letter that accompanied the report is correct, which it appears to be.

The report shows that at 30 June 2016, 290 cases or 13.63 per cent of pending matters were more than 24 months old. That figure exceeds the national benchmark. The applicable national benchmark of undetermined matters in the coroner's care should be zero. In other words, all matters should be resolved after two years. This report shows that 290 or 13.63 per cent of cases are still outstanding after two years. I do not know if that is acceptable to the Attorney-General. It is not acceptable to me. I will be writing to her about both this matter in general and Mrs Smit's matter in particular.

### Road Safety Week

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (11.52 pm): I rise tonight to speak in support of Queensland Road Safety Week which is taking place this week. On Saturday I had the pleasure of opening the Ipswich Road Safety Expo held at the Ipswich Turf Club. This event was attended by all ages, and helped to promote the Join the Drive's 'Speaking up for road safety' campaign which aims to raise awareness of the fatal five in road safety: speeding, drink and drug driving, seatbelts, fatigue and inattention and distraction.

The enthusiasm of the expo organisers and volunteers made the event a success in its promotion of road safety to the Ipswich public. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those involved in organising the expo: Senior Constable Kerrin Sheedy from the Ipswich District Crime Prevention Unit, who did a fantastic job; Angela Harms from the Ipswich PCYC; the Ipswich City Council; and the Department of Transport.

It just so happened that at the Ipswich Turf Club on the same day the Handmade Expo Market were celebrating their ninth birthday. It was all happening at the Ipswich Turf Club on Saturday.

Road Safety Week is a great opportunity to educate and challenge our acceptance of road trauma, not only as it relates to fatalities, but also as it relates to road crash injuries. Put simply, road crashes involving death and injury should not be accepted as a normal, unavoidable part of road travel. In the past year in Queensland, 151 people have died on our roads. These include drivers, passengers and pedestrians—people whose lives are taken prematurely from loved ones, families and friends.

The far-reaching costs of road crashes on the community cannot be underestimated. Just one crash can have enduring costs and impacts on individuals, families and friends, workplaces and communities. Individuals involved can face expensive, ongoing medical and legal costs, disability related costs and the loss of quality of life. Workplaces are directly impacted through loss of productive workers, and families endure costs due to the loss of loved ones or caring for family members permanently disabled by road trauma.

I must give special praise to our emergency services, including our police, ambulance services and other emergency workers and volunteers. Let us not forget the incredible jobs they do every day responding to road crashes, providing emergency care and helping to enforce road safety throughout the state.

I am proud to be a part of a government that is committed to a vision of zero fatalities and serious injuries on Queensland roads through its Road Safety Action Plan. The Road Safety Action Plan urges Queenslanders to speak up for road safety and to spread the message that road safety is everyone's responsibility. Events such as the Ipswich Road Safety Expo and countless other road safety events this week help to start this important conversation in communities all over Queensland.

In closing, safer road travel is vitally important to local communities in Queensland. I am proud of this government's vision and commitment to promoting road safety this week.

### **Burdekin Electorate, Schools**



**Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.55 pm): Tonight I want to share with parliament an initiative that I have delivered in the Burdekin electorate for the benefit of all my school students. I made the decision this year to deliver into every school in my electorate copies of what are commonly called the bucket books. There are two books. One is for students in prep to year 3 and is titled, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A guide to Daily Happiness for Kids*. The other is for students in grade 4 and above and is titled, *Growing Up with a Bucket Full of Happiness: Three Rules for a Happier Life*.


Is that not what we should be doing as adults—giving our children some guidance, support and tools on how to live a happier life? These books are centred on the concept of an invisible bucket—an invisible bucket that each and every child carries with them every day. The goal is to fill the bucket and to keep it full. So how do they fill that bucket? It is pretty simple. They do it by doing the right thing, by being respectful, courteous, and polite, by helping others, obeying the rules and doing the little things that make their life, and in this case the lives of their fellow students, better. Being outdoors and doing their best fills their bucket and, more importantly, they can protect other people's buckets. On the flip side, they empty their bucket by being rude, disrespectful and bullying other students. Put simply, name calling and cheating dips into their bucket and the central message is that heroes stand up for others.

These books target bullying, by teaching resilience and kindness and lifelong messages on how to live their life in a positive way. A number of schools in my electorate have embraced this concept and feedback from parents and teachers is that it works exceptionally well in addressing poor behaviour within the school ground. I have even had parents contact me to say that their children use this concept at home and that it is an extremely useful parenting tool.

There is a simple message here that children embrace willingly and utilise so effectively to control and highlight poor behaviour. I have witnessed that being put into action and I have to say it is humbling to watch and heartwarming in its effectiveness. We all have a story to tell about the devastating consequences that bullying can have on our young people, the loss of life and families being torn apart. If I can prevent even one case of bullying through the delivery of these books and the message they contain then I will have done my job.

I know that there are a number of psychologists, particularly around Townsville, who are using these books in their practices. A number of schools that have had these books for some time have made them a part of their curriculum. The success it has brought to their schools and the improvement in the behaviour has been nothing short of astonishing. I certainly would recommend these bucket books to all members tonight.

### Nudgee Electorate

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (11.58 pm): It is a pleasure to have this opportunity to rise to speak about my electorate of Nudgee and some of the local achievements that have taken place this term under this Palaszczuk Labor government. When elected in 2015, I spoke of the significance public transport plays in my electorate, with 12 railway stations across the electorate, and I spoke of my desire to enhance public transport facilities for the benefit of local commuters.


This term it has been wonderful to see a new pedestrian footbridge, signage, lighting and CCTV, as well as additional commuter carparks being delivered at Banyo Railway Station; additional commuter carparks at Nundah park-and-ride; an interim expansion to park-and-ride facilities at Nudgee Railway Station, with a longer term expansion to come; as well as an upgrade of Boondall Railway Station.

I turn now from public transport to education. It has been an absolute highlight working with my local school communities to see much needed improvements delivered, benefiting our local kids. The crowning jewel in this regard is the new \$6 million performing arts centre being built at Wavell State High School; at Earnshaw State College—\$250,000 for new senior school bathroom facilities, a full-time guidance officer, \$60,000 for the installation of industrial ceiling fans in the hall and a \$5,000 grant for engineering, robotics and programming from Queensland Rail; \$5,000 for a new shade sail and seating for the prep area at St Pius Primary School; \$5,000 for security intercom, shade sail and new trees to enhance privacy at C&K Banyo Kindergarten; and road safety improvements with flashing school zone lights installed for St Pius Primary School, Boondall State School, Geebung State School and St Kevin's Primary School. Every one of these improvements I have personally advocated for on behalf of my local school communities. It is about making our children safer and making sure that they, teachers and families have the very best facilities to support their learning journey.

In health, the electorate is now home to a new \$13 million 24-hour ambulance station and QAS Emergency and Fleet Management Precinct in Geebung and a new \$3.3 million Step Up, Step Down mental health facility at Nundah. We are jointly funding the upgrade of the Gateway Motorway to six lanes between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge to improve congestion on the Gateway Motorway and Sandgate Road. We are supporting local families, making the renowned Triple P—Positive Parenting Program free to families, and it has been a pleasure to run three of these sessions in my own electorate. We are supporting our vibrant community and sporting sector, providing millions of dollars in grants to support programs and pay for facility upgrades including at Toombul District Cricket Club, Norths Rugby League Club, Zillmere PCYC, Hendra Pony Club and many other local clubs.

Time does not allow me to continue, but these are just some of the achievements that I have had the great pleasure to support and work alongside my community to achieve. While much has been achieved, there is much still to be achieved, and I will continue to work on behalf of my local community, as will this Palaszczuk government, each and every day to see real improvements delivered for our community.

### Whitsunday Electorate

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (12.01 am): Tonight I would like to reflect on some of the great events in my community across the electorate of Whitsunday, particularly in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Debbie. There is no doubt that a lot of communities in the electorate of Whitsunday are doing it tough. We have seen many volunteers and community minded people showing great resilience, particularly those people behind the Whitsunday Reef Festival.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** That is despite the fact, as I take the interjections from various members of the government, that the mean-spirited Palaszczuk Labor government could not give the organising committee a red cent for this year's festival in the wake of Cyclone Debbie.

The festival was a great success, albeit an abbreviated program this year. Some of the highlights included the Fireworks on the Foreshore, the Telstra Family Fun Day and of course the Rotary Club of Airlie Beach street parade. Again, I was delighted to be one of the judges this year, alongside my good friend and local government colleague Councillor Jan Clifford, who proudly represents Airlie Beach, and also my fellow Cowboys tragic Rotary Club stalwart and the district assistant governor, Chris Harvey. It was a great day. It was tremendous to see so many schools and community groups taking part in the street parade. I also want to recognise Margie Murphy, Rebecca Ross, Stacey Harvey, Ellen Kerr, Lisa Stockow, Heather Batrick, Steve McDonald, Lisa Mulvihill and Merewyn Wright, who were among the many people in pink shirts who made sure that this year's festival went ahead.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the volunteers who made this year's Airlie Beach Race Week a roaring success—the 28th annual Airlie Beach Race Week. It has come a long way since the early days. It was set up by Don Algie of Hog's Breath Cafe fame many moons ago.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Don was not immune to Cyclone Debbie, with his home taking a hammering on top of the hill and so too where the legend began—the original Hog's Breath Cafe store in downtown Airlie Beach. It was a tremendous regatta.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I know you can speak over the top of anyone else, member for Whitsunday. Member for Pine Rivers, I can hear you loudly. I urge you to consider your interjections. It appears to me that you are trying to talk over the top of the member for Whitsunday, but you are not having much success. I know it is late—no more, member for Pine Rivers.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** The Airlie Beach Race Week regatta volunteers did tremendous work. It was very humbling for me to get up at the awards night last Thursday and acknowledge those volunteers in the company of the race director, Denis Thompson, but also the marketing director, Adrian Bram. It was a great honour also to sound the horn for the start of the regatta on the opening day this year out on the waters of Pioneer Bay. Well done also to Stu Harris, the Commodore of the Whitsunday Sailing Club, and all his members and the sponsors and, of course, many of the salties across the Whitsunday Passage for the start of Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. I am sure that is going to be a great success again this year.

It is of course Seniors Week. It would be remiss of me not to touch on that. Tomorrow an amazing lady in my electorate turns 100. Happy birthday—100 years of age tomorrow—to Thelma Porter. It was great to catch up with her recently at the Anglican Church fete. I am sure that her party in Proserpine on Sunday will be a hoot.


**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Pine Rivers, I urge you to take a walk if you do not want to be quiet.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** She went on and on and on.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I know you have led her astray with some of your interjections, too, member for Whitsunday. We will move on.

### Yeerongpilly Electorate

 **Mr BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (12.05 am): It has been a very productive year in the Yeerongpilly electorate, soon to be renamed the Miller electorate—in fact, across the whole of my first term as the state MP for the area. We are seeing the Ipswich Motorway upgrade from four lanes to six lanes. There is joint funding for this \$400 million project from Granard Road to the Oxley roundabout, which will start very soon—something that has been sorely needed for quite some time.

We are seeing the Graceville station upgrade with full disability access. That is a \$20 million upgrade under the Palaszczuk government, opening up the public transport system to people with mobility issues. They have put the bridge in place for the Veloway connection from Buranda to Tarragindi and Greenslopes only this week. It is a fantastic project which will see a bicycle freeway all the way into the CBD.

We have seen very strong support for schools in my electorate. Wellers Hill State School hall got about \$180,000 in the first year of the Palaszczuk government. Yeronga State School has had a lot of support for building upgrades there. Yeronga State School on Park Road has had flashing school zone lights installed in their 40 kilometre an hour zone for the safety of school kids and the same on Cracknell Road for St Elizabeth's Catholic Primary School in Tarragindi.

We have seen the upgrade of buildings at the Mary Immaculate Primary School for their centenary. That has been very welcomed for the little school that can. We are working at getting the Yeronga State High School's second oval back for them. They are getting a lot of growth there, and we are working closely with them.


We are looking for a permanent home for the Yeronga Community Centre. We are actively working with them to make sure that they have a permanent place in our community. I have certainly been supportive of the campaign for justice for Yeronga State High School graduate Mojgan Shamsalipoor. There is still more to come, and I will be speaking about that on another occasion. The Yeronga State High School remains absolutely united in seeking justice for Mojgan.

We are also seeing the 'Taylor 2' campaign by me for a second Walter Taylor Bridge—something sorely needed in Graceville, Chelmer, Sherwood and Tennyson, after inaction by the LNP council and by the current LNP member there for far too long.

I am also advocating for train station upgrades. That is an important one. We are seeing the Cross River Rail fully funded by the Palaszczuk government. We are also seeing other significant achievements this term. The transition to renewable energy is absolutely critical for action on climate change and also to augment our power system with more supply. There are 20 large-scale projects coming and committed in Queensland—mainly solar. There are some big wind projects, including the largest wind farm in Australia at Coopers Gap. We are also restoring front-line services and keeping our assets in public hands. Of course, the M1 upgrades are really critical for getting to the Gold Coast. We are getting them cracking after three years of inaction by the previous government.

*(Time expired)*

### Companion Card


 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.09 am): I am man enough to admit that after nearly 20 years of marriage to my wonderful wife, Taryn, I have learned that I do not know everything—just do not tell her I said that. It was on that basis that I was quite surprised several weeks ago when a constituent by the name of Ruth Drynan from Maleny came in to talk to me about companion cards. I must admit I had never actually heard of companion cards. I road-tested it with the member for Mansfield just before and neither had he.

It is rather fitting, as the member for Whitsunday said, that in Seniors Week and as we head into National Stroke Week in a couple of weeks and then into National Carers Week from 15 to 21 October, that I assist Ruth by sharing the word a bit more about what a Companion Card is. If you have a disability and a lifelong need—and I stress that it does need to be a lifelong need—for someone to attend you and provide care and support so that you can participate in community activities and attend venues, the Companion Card can help you with the costs of getting out and about with the support of that companion. If you hold a Companion Card, that companion receives a second ticket at no charge at participating venues and on public transport, and that ticket is also exempt from booking fees. I will stress that, whilst organisations can choose not to participate in this scheme, they do need to be careful as the Anti-Discrimination Commission would likely not look favourably upon an organisation that does this.

The card is issued in the name of the person with the disability and is valid for five years. A companion who accompanies the cardholder is therefore the one who receives the free tickets. Eligibility for one of these companion cards is not income tested or asset tested. You must simply be a lawful Australian resident living in Queensland; have a disability; be unable to participate at most community venues or activities without attendant care support because of the impact of the disability; and need, or be likely to need, lifelong attendant care support.

If you have one of these cards, you are encouraged to ask about the Companion Card program when booking a ticket or look for the logo when buying a ticket at a venue or activity. As I said, some businesses may not be Companion Card affiliates but may still accept the card when informed about the program. As Ruth has been doing around Maleny and as my electorate office and I are now encouraging across the Glass House electorate, we want more people to be aware of what the Companion Card offers. It also offers services on TransLink, qconnect and Queensland travel train holidays. It is recognised Australia-wide. People who are in the electorate of Glass House can pop along to my office where there will be more information available on the Companion Card.

### Federal Member for Capricornia

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (12.12 am): I rise to call out the Sergeant Schultz of Central Queensland politics, the federal member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, who has made a career out of saying, 'I know nothing,' and every time she opens her mouth, she proves it. Recently, she continued to display her total ignorance with her attacks on the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland strategy. This has been reflected on today already by members from this side of the House from Central Queensland. Can anyone believe that a National Party regional member in the federal arena is doing things to spear a buy local program designed to support jobs in regional and rural Queensland and small business?

What makes it more incredible is that her principal concerns are about free trade agreements. It is a complete and utter lie that this prejudices such things. It is reckless misinformation. In fact, it is a complete nonsense. What would she know about free trade agreements anyway? This is coming from a protectionist, agrarian, socialist National Party member who backed the Liberal National Party sugar marketing reregulation—which the Commonwealth Productivity Commission described as elevating sovereign risk and a detriment to foreign investment, to agriculture and generally more—and it threatens the Singapore free trade agreement.

What an irony that she is in Singapore today. Tonight, as I am speaking, she is in Singapore talking about free trade. What does she know about it? It is an irony because I bet she has not dropped in on Wilmar Sugar while she is in Singapore. It is the Shoalwater Bay issues coming from that free trade agreement that led to the greatest fiasco that she has been associated with. No-one in Rockhampton or Central Queensland will forget her shambolic performance over the expansion of the military training area in Shoalwater. That is what established her as the Sergeant Shultz for Central Queensland. She claims she knew nothing about the essence of the free trade component, she knew nothing about the military expansion, she knew nothing about compulsory cattle property acquisitions—all from this great defender of free trade. To back it in, she claimed she knew nothing of Singaporean intentions but she campaigned on it fearlessly during the federal election—a completely shameful and dishonest deception for the people of Central Queensland.

To top it all off, Cyclone Marcia comes to Central Queensland and she does not back category D assistance. That money comes from the state government. The Deputy Premier was good enough to put that money on. Then we get it with Cyclone Debbie and the member for Whitsunday's nonsense before about these things. He has done nothing to hold the federal government to account for the \$110 million they owe Queensland. They have done nothing and it is about time Michelle Landry got in and did something useful for her community.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.15 am (Wednesday).

## ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams