



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## TUESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 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.

### ASSENT TO BILLS



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from His Excellency the Governor letters in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letters will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letters for the information of members.

The Honourable P.W. Wellington MP  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of Assent: 25 August 2017

A Bill for An authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial years starting 1 July 2017 and 1 July 2018

A Bill for An Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2017 and 1 July 2018

A Bill for An Act to amend the Corrective Services Act 2006 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to provide for the accreditation of non-State schools, and deciding the eligibility of non-State schools' governing bodies for government funding for the schools, to repeal the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001 and to amend this Act, the Building Act 1975, the Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999, the Child Protection Act 1999, the Education and Care Services Act 2013, the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland) Act 2011, the Education (Capital Assistance) Act 1993, the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, the Education (Overseas Students) Regulation 2014, the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005, the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014, the Education (Work Experience) Act 1996, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008, the Grammar Schools Act 2016, the Planning Act 2016, the Public Guardian Act 2014, the Public Health Act 2005, the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Regulation 2017, the Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2005, the Weapons Act 1990, the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to amend the Adult Proof of Age Card Act 2008, the Adult Proof of Age Card Regulation 2010, the Civil Partnerships Regulation 2012, the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012, the Liquor Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Rail Safety National Law (Queensland) Act 2017, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998, the Tow Truck Regulation 2009, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, the Transport Infrastructure (Dangerous Goods by Rail) Regulation 2008, the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Regulation 2016, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2005, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Accreditation and Other Provisions) Regulation 2015, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Dangerous Goods) Regulation 2008, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) Regulation 2010, the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994, the Transport Security (Counter-Terrorism) Act 2008 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2011 for particular purposes and to repeal the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Transitional Regulation 2016

The Bill is hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

25 August 2017

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 25 August 2017, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker, advising of assent to certain bills on 25 August 2017 [[1540](#)].

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The Honourable P.W. Wellington MP  
 Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
 Parliament House  
 George Street  
 BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 31 August 2017

A Bill for An Act to amend the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to amend the Electrical Safety Act 2002, the Industrial Relations Act 2016, the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Act 2003, the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Regulation 2014, the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to provide for matters that will benefit residents of communities in the vicinity of large resource projects during their operation, and to amend this Act, the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 and the Mineral Resources Act 1989 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to amend the Building Act 1975, the Pest Management Act 2001, the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 and the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 for particular purposes

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

Yours sincerely


Governor

31 August 2017

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 31 August 2017, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker, advising of assent to certain bills on 31 August 2017 [[1541](#)].

## PRIVILEGE

### Alleged Intimidation of a Member, Apology

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (9.31 am): On 10 August in the House I approached the member for Broadwater and reminded her of a committee meeting that was scheduled earlier that day. The member took offence at my actions and felt that I impeded her duty to remain in the chamber. I had no intention to contravene any standing orders. If the member for Broadwater felt that I was in any way intimidating or harassing her, I assure her that was not my intention and I sincerely apologise.

### Speaker's Ruling, False or Misleading Account of Proceedings before the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 15 August 2017 the member for Glass House wrote to me alleging that the members for South Brisbane, Mackay and Keppel on 10 August 2017 and the member for Ipswich West on 11 August 2017 published a false or misleading account of proceedings in the House in either a media release or a Facebook post in relation to the vote of the House on the member for South Brisbane's motion on 10 August 2017.

Each of the members has apologised to the House and the relevant Facebook posts have been deleted. Accordingly, I have decided that the matters do not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matters. I table the correspondence in relation to these matters.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence from the member for Glass House, Mr Andrew Powell MP, the member for Ipswich West, Mr Jim Madden MP, the member for Keppel, Ms Brittany Lauga MP, the member for Mackay, Ms Julieanne Gilbert MP and the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Jackie Trad, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding a matter of privilege [[1542](#)].

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

Leave granted.

**SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED PUBLISHING OF A FALSE OR MISLEADING ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE HOUSE OR A COMMITTEE**

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members,

On 15 August 2017, the Member for Glass House wrote to me alleging that the members for South Brisbane, Mackay, Keppel on 10 August 2017, and the Member for Ipswich West on 11 August 2017, published a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House, in either a media release or Facebook post, in relation to the vote of the House on the Member for South Brisbane's motion on 10 August 2017.

The Member for South Brisbane issued a media release on 10 August 2017 titled 'LNP continues to fail Queensland on disaster recovery', in which she stated:

The Palaszczuk Government has slammed the state LNP opposition after they failed to support a motion in the State Parliament calling on the Commonwealth to support Queensland communities suffering post-Cyclone Debbie.

In the same press release, the Member for Mackay is quoted as saying:

The LNP voting down this motion today is a clear sign that they don't care about my community of Mackay and other communities across Queensland that were affected by Cyclone Debbie...

Also on 10 August 2017, the Member for Keppel posted on Facebook:

I'm angry that tonight the LNP has refused to vote in support of a motion in parliament calling on the Turnbull Government to fund its fair share of disaster recovery funding for communities impacted by Cyclone Debbie and the Fitzroy flood. It goes to show just out of touch the LNP us with regional Queensland.

On 11 August 2017, the Member for Ipswich West posted on Facebook:

Yesterday in Parliament the LNP failed to support a motion calling on the Federal Government to fund their share of Cat D disaster funding for our community, matching Labor's \$110M. That is disgraceful. All words and no action. When push comes to shove they won't put our community over petty party politics.

The Member for Glass House contended that each account differed from the official record as contained in Hansard, and that each of the members has committed a contempt of the Assembly by publishing a false or misleading account of proceedings.

I sought further information from each of the members referred by the Member for Glass House about the allegations made against them, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

On 24 August 2017, the members for South Brisbane, Mackay, Keppel and Ipswich West apologised to the House, stating that they believed their statements to be correct at the time they made them, but that it has since been brought to their attention that their statements do not reflect the record of proceedings, and that it was not their intention to publish a false or misleading account of proceedings of the House. The members for Ipswich West and Keppel both advised they had deleted their posts from their Facebook accounts.

On 25 August 2017, the Member for Glass House wrote to make a further submission on the matter, contending that the Member for South Brisbane's apology should not be considered adequate, as it was heavily qualified and concluded with a further reflection on the voting of the motion, and was not an unreserved apology.

Standing Order 269(4) requires:

In considering whether the matter should be referred to the committee, the Speaker shall take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter. No matter should be referred to the ethics committee if the matter is technical or trivial and does not warrant the further attention of the House.


Each of the members has apologised to the House, and the posts on Facebook have been deleted. I note, as the Deputy Speaker did when ruling on an apology by the Member for Callide on 20 April 2016, that the Deputy Premier's apology was not the most gracious of apologies. Nonetheless an apology was tendered and find that it along with her explanation was adequate. I also find the apologies of the other members to be adequate.

Accordingly, I have decided that the matters do not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matters.


I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

## **SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS**

### **Parliament House, Beehives**

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that our parliament's native beehives are doing well. They have reached full size in terms of bee population and stored honey. Our research partners at the QUT advise that it is time to split the hives and undertake further research in the process. I advise members that tomorrow renowned apiarist Dr Tim Heard, who is also a partner in this research, and QUT lecturer Dr Tobias Smith will be opening the hives. I invite members and staff who may be interested to join us at noon tomorrow to view the process and learn more about the importance of native bees. I remind members that native bees are stingless. I understand that the member for Indooroopilly was a winner at the Brookfield show for his native bee exercise.

## International Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that September is International Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in Queensland men, with around 3,900 new cases diagnosed in Queensland every year. Although the risk increases markedly in men over 50 years of age, prostate cancer can affect both older and younger men. Members are invited to wear 'ManUp!' pins on their lapels today and red socks tomorrow to raise awareness of the importance of early detection and annual testing for prostate cancer.

## PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the Clerk—

### Strathpine Station Upgrade Project

From 52 petitioners, requesting the House to include additional car, motorbike and secure bicycle parking spaces as part of the Strathpine Station Upgrade Project [\[1543\]](#).

### Department of Child Safety, Review of Complaints Process

From 167 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a complete and exhaustive review of the Queensland Department of Children's Safety complaints process [\[1544\]](#).

### Lindeman Island National Park

From 378 petitioners, requesting the House to reject revocation of any part of Lindeman Island National Park and that it is properly managed to protect its exceptional values [\[1545\]](#).

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—

28 August 2017—

[1476](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 52, 55th Parliament—Oversight of the Family Responsibilities Commission

29 August 2017—

[1477](#) Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee: Report No. 2, 55th Parliament—Black lung white lies: Inquiry into the re-identification of Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis in Queensland—interim government response

30 August 2017—

[1478](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Queensland Treasury Corporation, Trade and Investment Queensland and Financial Relations and Investment Opportunities visit to Hong Kong and Singapore by the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment (Hon. Curtis Pitt), 23-26 July 2017

[1479](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 42, 55th Parliament—Consideration of the Auditor-General's Report 12: 2016-17—Biosecurity Queensland's management of agricultural pests and diseases

31 August 2017—

[1480](#) National Environment Protection Council—Annual Report 2015-16

[1481](#) Public Interest Monitor Report—Section 24(1) of the Telecommunications Interception Act 2009—Reporting period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

1 September 2017—

[1482](#) Queensland Integrity Commissioner—Annual Report 2016-17

[1483](#) Australian Government Code of Practice on the humane treatment of wild and farmed Australian crocodiles: Endorsed by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council 2009

[1484](#) Australian Government Code of Practice on the humane treatment of wild and farmed Australian crocodiles (Australian crocodile code): Endorsed by the Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council 2009, explanatory notes

[1485](#) Department of Environment and Heritage Protection: Code of Practice for the harvest and use of protected plants

[1486](#) Department of Environment and Heritage Protection Code of Practice for the harvest and use of protected plants (Protected plants code), explanatory notes

[1487](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Trade and Investment Mission to Canada by the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham), 22 July to 31 July 2017

[1488](#) Labour Hire Licensing Bill 2017, resupplied explanatory notes

[1489](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 46, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 10 May 2017 and 13 June 2017: Erratum

4 September 2017—

[1490](#) Final response from Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman) to an ePetition (2706-17) sponsored by the Member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Bates, from 1,200 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce laws that provide greater certainty and safety for abused children, similar to laws introduced in New South Wales and Victoria that offer permanency and stability for abused children

[1491](#) Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017: Erratum to explanatory notes

[1492](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 64, 55th Parliament—Honourable Angelo Vasta (Reversal of Removal) Bill 2017

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

#### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Water Act 2000—

[1493](#) Water Plan (Burdekin Basin—Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2017, No. 159

[1494](#) Water Plan (Burdekin Basin—Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2017, No. 159, explanatory notes

Statutory Instruments Act 1992, Tow Truck Act 1973, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994—

[1495](#) Transport Planning and Coordination Regulation 2017, No. 160

[1496](#) Transport Planning and Coordination Regulation 2017, No. 160, explanatory notes

Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014—

[1497](#) Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017, No. 161

[1498](#) Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2017, No. 161, explanatory notes

Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004—

[1499](#) Petroleum and Gas (General Provisions) Regulation 2017, No. 162

[1500](#) Petroleum and Gas (General Provisions) Regulation 2017, No. 162, explanatory notes

Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004—

[1501](#) Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 163

[1502](#) Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 163, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000—

[1503](#) Water Plan (Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers) 2017, No. 164

[1504](#) Water Plan (Great Artesian Basin and Other Regional Aquifers) 2017, No. 164, explanatory notes

Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999—

[1505](#) Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2017, No. 165

[1506](#) Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2017, No. 165, explanatory notes

Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999—

[1507](#) Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Regulation 2017, No. 166

[1508](#) Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Regulation 2017, No. 166, explanatory notes

Jury Act 1995—

[1509](#) Jury Regulation 2017, No. 167

[1510](#) Jury Regulation 2017, No. 167, explanatory notes

Liquor Act 1992—

[1511](#) Liquor Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 168

[1512](#) Liquor Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 168, explanatory notes

Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[1513](#) Transport Infrastructure (State-controlled Roads) Regulation 2017, No. 169

[1514](#) Transport Infrastructure (State-controlled Roads) Regulation 2017, No. 169, explanatory notes



State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

[1515](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 170

[1516](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 170, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994—

[1517](#) Transport Operations (Marine Safety—Queensland Regulated Ships Miscellaneous Equipment) Standard 2017, No. 171

[1518](#) Transport Operations (Marine Safety—Queensland Regulated Ships Miscellaneous Equipment) Standard 2017, No. 171, explanatory notes

Housing (Freeholding of Land) Act 1957—

[1519](#) Housing (Freeholding of Land) Regulation 2017, No. 172

[1520](#) Housing (Freeholding of Land) Regulation 2017, No. 172, explanatory notes

Professional Standards Act 2004—

[1521](#) Professional Standards (RICS Valuers Ltd Scheme) Notice 2017, No. 173

[1522](#) Professional Standards (RICS Valuers Ltd Scheme) Notice 2017, No. 173, explanatory notes

[1523](#) Instrument amending the RICS Valuers Limited Scheme—Professional Standards Act 1994 (NSW) [Refer Subordinate Legislation No. 173]

Legal Profession Act 2007—

[1524](#) Legal Profession Regulation 2017, No. 174

[1525](#) Legal Profession Regulation 2017, No. 174, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

[1526](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) (Certificate of Inspection Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 175

[1527](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) (Certificate of Inspection Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 175, explanatory notes

Corrective Services Act 2006—

[1528](#) Corrective Services Regulation 2017, No. 176

[1529](#) Corrective Services Regulation 2017, No. 176, explanatory notes

Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990—

[1530](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Regulation 2017, No. 177

[1531](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Regulation 2017, No. 177, explanatory notes

Electricity Act 1994—

[1532](#) Electricity (Regional Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 178

[1533](#) Electricity (Regional Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 178, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[1534](#) Nature Conservation Legislation (Estuarine Crocodiles and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 179

[1535](#) Nature Conservation Legislation (Estuarine Crocodiles and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 179, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[1536](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2017, No. 180

[1537](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2017, No. 180, explanatory notes

Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003—

[1538](#) Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Regulation 2017, No. 181

[1539](#) Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Regulation 2017, No. 181, explanatory notes

#### MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad)—

[1546](#) Response to a paper petition (2792-17) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) and an e-Petition (2745-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 176 and 1185 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to require the Queens Wharf development to ensure that the entire section of the Bicentennial Bikeway that runs within the development envelope is upgraded to a segregated facility equivalent in standard to the Herschel St to Toowong section

Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Hon. Dr Miles)—

[1547](#) Response to an e-Petition (2767-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 672 petitioners, requesting the House to bring about a speedy and humane resolution to the plight of the “death row” dingoes on Pelorus Island

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan)—

[1548](#) Queensland Police Service—Annual Report for Assumed Identity Authorisation and Use—2016-2017

#### MEMBER'S PAPERS

The following member's papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Cairns (Mr Pyne)—

[1549](#) Bundle of photographs and media articles regarding Queensland Police

[1550](#) Letters (with redactions), dated 30 August 2017 and 25 August 2017 in relation to Mayor Tom Tate

[1551](#) Bundle of documents (with redactions), dated September 2017, titled 'Tablelands Regional Council & Lockyer Valley Regional Council'

[1552](#) Bundle of documents (with redactions), dated September 2017, titled 'Tablelands Regional Council (TRC)'

#### REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[1553](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any Bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by His Excellency the Governor, viz—

##### **Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Bill 2016**

Amendments made to Bill

##### **Short title and consequential references to short title—**

*Omit—*


'Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2016'

*Insert—*

'Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017'.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Natural Disasters, Recovery Assistance


 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.35 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House—

1. notes the failure of the opposition leader and the Queensland LNP to unequivocally stand up to Canberra in support of the Palaszczuk government's category D economic recovery package;
2. notes with disappointment the Turnbull government's pitiful increase to reconstruction assistance funding announced on 27 August 2017 to just \$48.1 million—still less than half of what is needed—yet at the same time is spending \$122 million in the marriage law postal survey; and
3. calls on the federal government to invest the full amount of NDRRA economic recovery funding originally requested to support the crucial recovery and resilience projects of the Rockhampton levee, Whitsunday Airport and the Mackay Bluewater trail and Queens Park redevelopment, which will aid the recovery of our cyclone ravaged communities ahead of the fast-approaching storm season.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Infrastructure


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.36 am): My government keeps its commitments to Queenslanders. What we said before the last election is what we have worked to deliver every day since the election. Across this state there are major infrastructure projects underway supporting jobs for Queenslanders, because my government honours its commitments.

I was in Townsville last week and had the opportunity to drive past the construction site for the new \$250 million Townsville stadium, where work is underway. The Townsville stadium typifies my government's approach to building major infrastructure projects: firstly, it involves all three levels of government working together; and, secondly, it sees local firms getting their fair share of work. This

process has now been formalised through my government's Buy Queensland policy. Major contractor Watpac is committed to ensuring that at least 80 per cent of the hours spent building the stadium will be done by locals, and at least 80 per cent of the project's value will be spent on local subcontractors and suppliers.

At the other end of Queensland, more than six months out from the start of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games we see stage 2 of the Gold Coast Light Rail entering a crucial phase for its completion. Last weekend physical works and testing and commissioning activities were undertaken to connect overhead power to stage 2 and integrate the overhead powerlines of stage 1 with stage 2 of the Gold Coast University Station. The successful completion of this work means that the first tram should be able to slowly make its way along stage 2 of Gold Coast Light Rail soon. Again, this \$425 million seven-kilometre extension is being delivered because all three levels of government are working together. I look forward to similar cooperation from the federal government as we work towards stage 3 of Gold Coast Light Rail.

### Cross River Rail


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): My government is getting on with the job of delivering Cross River Rail. It is Queensland's No. 1 infrastructure project and we are acting now to keep the south-east moving. South-East Queensland's population will increase by 1.9 million people over the next two decades, and more than four in five—83 per cent—will live outside the Brisbane local government area, but in the next 10 years almost half of all new jobs created in the south-east will be in the Queensland local government area. This will put pressure on our rail and bus services and our road networks. Train passenger numbers alone will more than triple. Our current rail network will be unable to cope with the demand.

We have seen 10 years of talk and negotiations and still no funding from the Turnbull government. Frankly, we are fed up with waiting. It is essential we get on and start building this vital piece of infrastructure without further delay. My government is ready to fully fund Cross River Rail and it is this government that is making it a reality.

Today marks an important milestone in getting this transformative project happening. Registrations of interest for the first major packages of work for the project—the tunnel, stations and development—have opened today. An invitation for expressions of interest will commence in the middle of September, after the registration process. While we are prepared to fully fund this project, we are open to public-private partnerships, and the tunnel, stations and development package will be open to EOIs for a PPP. We want to work together with the private sector to ensure such a major transformative infrastructure project realises its full potential.

Finally, I remind all those in the private sector who want to help us build Cross River Rail that our Buy Queensland procurement policy is now in place.


### Powering North Queensland

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): Last week I had the opportunity to address my government's Powering North Queensland Summit, held in Townsville. My government is committed to our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. We are also committed to working with industry to develop new projects. That means more jobs, more energy production and more downward pressure on electricity bills.

On its own figures, the Australian Solar Council and battery storage council estimates that Queensland has a \$5 billion pipeline of projects able to create more than 5,000 megawatts of electricity, supporting 3,200 jobs. From the five-megawatt Scouler Energy Solar Farm near Normanton to the 180-megawatt Mount Emerald Wind Farm and the 250-megawatt Genex Kidston Pumped Storage Hydro Project, these projects represent an extraordinary amount of investment in an industry that barely existed 2½ years ago. They also represent an extraordinary vote of confidence in my government's policies.

It was a great pleasure to meet in Townsville with some of the team from Ratch, the company behind Mount Emerald. They showed me the preparation work that has been done for the arrival of the massive turbines that will power that wind farm. My government's \$386 million Powering North Queensland Plan will reinvest \$150 million in dividends from our electricity assets, which we own, to build the transmission infrastructure necessary to connect these renewable projects to the grid.

### Royal Baby


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.42 am): Queenslanders are welcoming news overnight that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Will and Kate, are expecting a third child. Prince George, the heir to the throne after his grandfather and father, is now four and Princess Charlotte is two. With only 30 weeks until the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, the Premier has the call.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is good news. With only 30 weeks until the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Queenslanders and other members of the Commonwealth might have a further reason to celebrate by the time of the opening ceremony: the arrival of a new prince or princess. I join all Queenslanders in congratulating the royal couple on their happy news.

### Cross River Rail

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.43 am): I rise to update the House on the progress of Cross River Rail. Cross River Rail will mean turn-up-and-go rail services across the South-East Queensland network. Cross River Rail will mean more jobs and apprentices. Cross River Rail will mean faster travel times to the CBD. Cross River Rail will help relieve bus congestion by taking up to 18,500 car trips off the road by 2036—the equivalent of more than 300 full buses a day.

As the Premier has outlined, construction has now started at the Woolloongabba Goprint site. Fencing is now up—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, you are warned under standing order 253A. It is not appropriate. The Deputy Premier has the call.

**Ms TRAD:** As the Premier has outlined, construction has now started at the Woolloongabba Goprint site. Fencing is now up, and local businesses are on site to deal with vegetation and hazardous material. Local fencing company Advanced Temporary Fencing, based in Yatala, won the tender to secure the site of the future Woolloongabba train station and local arborists Arbor Operations at Zillmere, a South-East Queensland business with more than 30 years experience, is managing vegetation on the site.

The tender for the demolition of the Goprint building closed on 31 August 2017 and the results from that tender will soon be finalised. This paves the way for demolition to proceed. Last week more than 500 industry leaders attended a briefing to learn more about the procurement and delivery strategy.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you are now warned under standing order 253A. You have had a good go and we are only up to the second minister.

**Ms TRAD:** Industry travelled from all over the country to attend the briefing and more than 170 people registered to watch the live stream. At this briefing I announced that the tunnel, stations and development package would go to the market as a public-private partnership. This approach has been used in Australia and on other similar sized infrastructure projects internationally. Here in Queensland this includes projects like Gold Coast Light Rail, the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Airportlink and the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. A PPP will encourage innovation and world-leading practice on Cross River Rail while minimising the government's risk and taxpayers' risk. The industry response to the briefing was incredibly positive. As the Premier has said, from today businesses can register for the formal expression of interest process for this PPP.

Cross River Rail is also the first major project that will go to the market under the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland policy. I want to make sure that as many local businesses as possible get involved. At the industry briefing Steve Abson from Infrastructure Australia Queensland said—

I think there's a collective sigh of relief that the state has had the courage to fund this project in full.


He went on further to say—

After eight years and three different incarnations of this project we're entitled to now call on the LNP to get fully behind it and provide industry with improved certainty.

Industry understands that we cannot afford to wait, and our window for action is closing fast. Cross River Rail will take seven years to build. Even though we are starting now, it will not be up and running until 2024. If we wait, one in three commuters will be standing on their train journeys, including on long trips from places like the Gold Coast.

For too long governments have waited to build infrastructure until there is a crisis. Only the Palaszczuk government will deliver Cross River Rail for South-East Queensland before there is a crisis. Commuters and road users need the extra capacity that this project will deliver to our transport system. The choice for Queenslanders is clear: Labor builds; the LNP sells.

### Princess Alexandra Hospital, Cladding

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (9.46 am): As I have previously advised the House, the nonconforming building products audit task force, established on 30 June 2017, has been engaged in a process of identifying and assessing buildings within a targeted scope in order to eliminate risks to the safety of Queenslanders. One of the first buildings under the scrutiny of the audit task force has been the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

I wish to inform the House that I have been advised by officers of my department regarding the preliminary results of further testing of the PA Hospital external cladding. The facade testing of the cladding from the PA Hospital confirms the preliminary findings of the audit task force. In accordance with the procedures established by the task force, the facade test was arranged and observed by task force representatives including Queensland Fire and Emergency Services personnel and an independent fire engineer. It is clear from the facade test that the cladding on the PA Hospital should be removed. The process of removal will commence in coming days.

I have previously advised the public of our interim safety measures deployed at the hospital. These current additional measures, including around-the-clock monitoring and an elevated QFES response to any incident at the hospital, were put in place in preparation for this outcome. The hospital will continue to operate safely and provide vital healthcare services for the people of Queensland.

This building is safe and we will continue to make it safer. I wish to advise the House that work has commenced to procure a suitably qualified builder to remove the cladding. It is anticipated that this work on site will commence within four weeks. Further, I wish to advise Queenslanders that we will commence the removal of the cladding and the subsequent replacement with a suitable material, one that does not pose a risk to safety.


Given that this process will involve removing cladding the equivalent of 2½ times the size of the playing field of Lang Park, it cannot be done within a week or within a month. We will begin removing cladding from the building as a priority ahead of the replacement process. I am advised that the total time for the entire process of removal and replacement is forecast to take up to 18 months.

This means that a new material may not appear on the building until later in 2018. For an amount of time the hospital will not have external cladding. I can confirm, however, that our approach will ensure that the operational performance of the hospital is maintained throughout the entirety of the process. We have been very clear that our No. 1 priority is the safety of all Queenslanders and that at all stages we will be guided by the key principle that people are our first priority.

During the period that the cladding is being removed the additional measures put in place by the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Princess Alexandra Hospital will remain in place. The hospital has more than 13,000 fire sprinklers as well as 6,000 fire detectors, which are tested regularly, as well as well-practised fire response procedures.

It is clear to me that the scenario that we are faced with is emblematic of a systemic failure in Australia's building regulation system. I have made this a priority of regulators at a state, territory and Commonwealth level, and Queensland will make sure there is comprehensive reform to the Building Code system, including the Australian Building Codes Board, the National Construction Code and building standards. It is also important for the House to note that the laws we passed during the last sitting to combat the threat of these nonconforming building products are leading the nation, giving our regulator the powers necessary to deal with investigation and remediation. We will continue our work to ensure that our built environment in Queensland remains safe, and we will continue to show national leadership on these important issues.

### Hielscher, Lady Mary; Electricity Prices

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.50 am): At the outset I want to note on the record of the House the passing of Lady Mary Hielscher, beloved wife of Sir Leo Hielscher—a former long-serving under treasurer and inaugural chair of Queensland Treasury Corporation. I am sure all members will join me in expressing our thoughts and sympathies to Sir Leo and his family after this sad loss.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr PITT:** When it comes to energy, Queensland is the envy of the nation thanks to the Palaszczuk government's commitment to retaining ownership of our state's electricity assets. We are using our public ownership to place downward pressure on power prices and we are laying the groundwork for a clean energy future. I have already proudly updated this House on the movement in terms of which renewables have reached financial close or those that are underway. We are talking about 20 projects and around \$3.6 billion worth of investment supporting around 2,800 jobs.

We are all about making sure that we keep these assets in public hands—unlike the previous government, which simply wanted to sell them. Because we have kept our energy infrastructure in public hands we have been able to use dividends to directly contribute to the funding of initiatives to stabilise prices. Our \$1.16 billion Powering Queensland Plan, announced in June, is a comprehensive strategy to deliver an affordable, secure and sustainable energy supply now and in the future. As part of our plan we are investing \$770 million to more than halve recommended power price rises. That means a 3.3 per cent rise for regional households, not 7.1 per cent. We have shielded Queenslanders from increases of up to 20 per cent, seen in other states. The annual electricity bill for a typical household in Queensland is \$1,575—lower than the other NEM states of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. Prices in those states are \$1,746, \$1,664 and \$2,078 respectively.


Through our Powering Queensland Plan we have reinvested dividends to fund infrastructure projects supporting resilient energy and water supply in Queensland. This includes \$150 million for a clean energy hub in North Queensland—that is, strategic transmission infrastructure with the potential to unlock around 2,000 megawatts of high-quality solar, wind and hydro resources in the northern hinterland region. The transmission infrastructure itself is projected to generate 1,000 construction jobs, while the renewable generation projects it supports could deliver 3,600 more jobs in regional communities.

We are investing \$100 million from Stanwell's dividends to support development of a 50-megawatt hydro-electric power station on the Burdekin Falls Dam—the state's largest—which is expected to create at least 200 jobs. In addition, we will provide \$100 million towards ensuring that the Burdekin Falls Dam continues to meet design standards and can support the new hydrogeneration plant. These improvement works will support an estimated 250 jobs.

Another benefit of our continued ownership of our energy infrastructure is our ability to put downward pressure on wholesale electricity prices and ensure we continue to have enough energy to meet the needs of Queenslanders during peak demand periods. In June we directed Stanwell to alter its bidding strategies in the National Electricity Market—a positive move which the Turnbull government has even tried to claim. We have already seen the benefits of those directions, with forward wholesale prices in Queensland dropping by 13 per cent immediately after the government announced this action.

For the 2018 calendar year, the wholesale electricity price had reduced 19 per cent in July. This follows our direction to Energy Queensland not to appeal the regulator's decision which potentially saved Queenslanders billions. We also directed Stanwell to return its Swanbank E 385-megawatt gas-fired power station to service. This will help reduce future price volatility and reinforce the state's energy security. We will continue working hard to deliver price stability following the 43 per cent increases under the previous term of government. The Palaszczuk government has a clear plan and is committed to retaining Queensland's assets to continue benefiting Queenslanders.

### Sunshine Coast University Hospital

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.55 am): The Palaszczuk government understands the transformative benefits that government investment in infrastructure can bring to a community. A shining example of that transformative value is the benefits we are now seeing in the provision of health care to the economy and to the sense of pride residents of the Sunshine Coast are now experiencing due to the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital. This is a hospital that was conceived by a Labor government, funded by a Labor government and was safely commissioned and opened by a Labor government. I am very grateful to Queensland


Health staff and clinicians who worked so hard to make this hospital a reality, including the Clinical Readiness Advisory Group, whose final recommendation to the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service Board gave our government the confidence that the hospital was ready to safely open for business.

This world-class hospital continues to bring benefits to Sunshine Coast residents, including a forecast reduction of up to 10,000 patient journeys to Brisbane each year once fully operational. Last week I was pleased to see that, two years after the Palaszczuk Labor government began advocating for the establishment of a medical school on the Sunshine Coast, the federal health minister announced that the medical school would finally become a reality. I first wrote to the federal health and education ministers in late 2015 calling for the allocation of an additional 15 places to establish the medical school. One local politician on the Sunshine Coast has always supported this proposal: the Mayor of the Sunshine Coast, Councillor Mark Jamieson. Unlike the Leader of the Opposition and all of the Sunshine Coast state LNP MPs who did nothing to deliver these places—nothing—Mayor Jamieson does not take the Sunshine Coast for granted.

The Palaszczuk Labor government never gave up on the fight to establish a medical school for the Sunshine Coast to give young people in that community the opportunity to study on the Sunshine Coast, but the federal government wanted to pump up the numbers on the Sunshine Coast with full-fee-paying international students. That was never our plan. Our goal was to see the medical school open in time for the 2018 academic year. While the Commonwealth's decision to allocate the additional 15 places is welcomed, delays and reviews by the Abbott and Turnbull governments mean the medical school will now not commence until 2019.

As the Story Bridge transformed Brisbane, so the Sunshine Coast University Hospital will transform the Sunshine Coast community—both Labor projects, both creating jobs and opportunity for the future. The Palaszczuk Labor government has a proven track record of delivering the critical infrastructure vital to the development of our state. We see infrastructure as an asset to build our state—unlike the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP, who see every government asset with a 'for sale' sign on it.

### Education, Infrastructure

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (9.58 am): We are delivering the greatest reform to future schooling in more than a generation. We are investing \$500 million over five years to address rapid enrolment growth in inner Brisbane and growth areas across Queensland. On the north side we will build a new high school on the former Fortitude Valley State School site in partnership with QUT. We made a commitment to keep this site for education after the former LNP government tried to sell it off. We are also building a new high school in the inner south in partnership with UQ to take enrolment pressure off Brisbane State High School. We have appointed a community reference group to oversee consultation for each school and consider design requirements. I have asked Education Queensland metropolitan regional director Mark Campling to chair the reference groups and drive this significant investment in our city's future.

The community reference groups include representatives from P&Cs as well as the schools and the community and chancellors of the partnering universities. One need only look at the cranes on Brisbane's skyline and the number of new apartments under construction to see the need for these new schools. We know there will be at least 3,000 additional students over the next five years needing state education in inner-city Brisbane. The Palaszczuk government builds new schools; the member for Clayfield wants to sell them off.

While on my feet I also take this opportunity to congratulate Bob East on his appointment to chair of Tourism Australia. I wish him the very best of luck in the new role and thank him for his contribution to growing tourism during the past two years as chair of the board of Tourism Events Queensland. It is clear that the federal government has looked to the success of Queensland's tourism and events board as the best in Australia. I understand why they want Queensland's best to be Australia's best. Congratulations, Bob.

### Domestic Gas Supply

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (10.01 am): The Palaszczuk government is taking action to increase domestic gas supply. Today I can confirm that Queensland construction on Jemena's northern gas pipeline will commence next week with a sod-turning event in Mount Isa.


Twelve Mount Isa companies have already been awarded contracts for work on the project and 600 construction jobs will be generated across Queensland and the Northern Territory. This pipeline will deliver supply for the manufacturing and other industries that are dependent on gas's feedstock in Mount Isa and across our state. We know that gas supply is growing as a critical factor when businesses make decisions about when and where they invest, expand and create jobs. That is why this government has taken action.

In January, I announced a pilot to tender 58 square kilometres of land in the Surat Basin for gas production for domestic consumption only. This pilot was the first time a Queensland government has used these powers to ensure gas is supplied only to the Australian market and is not exported. I am pleased to advise the House that the domestic gas pilot received a very positive response from industry.

Today, I am delighted to announce that Queensland company Senex has been selected as preferred tenderer. Around 150 jobs are expected to be created. Senex expects to invest more than \$200 million and drill around 100 wells over the project's life. Senex must now negotiate land access agreements and fulfil all existing environmental and native title requirements before the petroleum lease is granted and work can begin.

We are committed to opening up the gas market to new entrants. I am pleased to see a local emerging producer securing the rights to supply these resources only to the Australian market. It is expected that gas from this project will become available within two years, providing additional supplies into the domestic market and helping put downward pressure on prices. Following the success of this pilot, I shortly will announce details of two more parcels of land in the Surat Basin with the same Australian-only supply provisions.

### Queensland Courts, Infrastructure

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.05 am): The Palaszczuk government is ensuring our courts are equipped, up to date and have the resources they need to continue their vital work in administering justice in Queensland. In this financial year we will be investing \$90.7 million in capital projects across Queensland in our courts. This includes \$20.1 million to upgrade courthouses at Rockhampton, Beenleigh, Townsville and Kingaroy. Our courts do vital work in delivering day-to-day administration of justice. The Palaszczuk government also recognises that specialist courts have a role to play to cater for particular areas of the justice system. That is why we have re-established various specialist courts in Queensland after they were scrapped by the former government. We are re-establishing the drug court, which will be based in Brisbane, and court referral and support services will also be operating from Brisbane, Ipswich, Southport and Cairns and delivers on our commitment to implement specialist criminal justice responses to tackle drug and alcohol substance misuse.

The Palaszczuk government has also delivered on the commitment to reintroduce court diversionary processes and programs, including establishing the Queensland integrated court referrals program in five locations across Queensland. We also have rolled out the Murri Court to 14 locations. The Palaszczuk government has also committed \$69.5 million to make permanent the specialist domestic and family violence court at Southport and to roll it out to Beenleigh and Townsville, with circuits to Mount Isa and Palm Island. Of the \$69.5 million we are investing in this rollout, \$20 million will be for capital works projects. With construction comes jobs; this means jobs for Queenslanders. On top of this we have also invested an additional \$2.7 million to renovate the Southport Court House to establish dedicated spaces and services for court users who attend for domestic and family violence matters.

The Palaszczuk government recognises that, in order to reduce the number of cases that come before our courts, and in turn build safer communities, we need to look at evidence based approaches that help tackle criminal issues at root cause, and that is why we are investing in specialist approaches such as the drug court, Murri Court, court ordered youth justice conferencing and domestic and family violence specialist courts, which are so important. On top of this, we are also ensuring our regular courthouses are up to date and equipped to do their important work. At Rockhampton, the government is investing \$4.5 million to refurbish the courthouse including redesigning and replacing the roof structure, replacing the accessibility ramp for people with disability and upgrading the existing air-conditioning system. In Kingaroy, we are spending \$5.4 million to refurbish the courthouse. This work will include—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.



**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection from the member for Nanango who has publicly welcomed this but said it was fully funded under the LNP, except they funded \$2.15 million—not \$5.4 million. They were not getting an extra courtroom.


**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. The Attorney-General has the call.

**Mrs D'ATH:** The member for Nanango can say 'Thank you' to the Palaszczuk government for delivering on an improved courthouse which will mean an extra courtroom.

This will include constructing a ramp and lift to assist people with disability, refurbishing the existing courtroom and constructing a second court to meet demand and constructing a new conference room, holding cells and meeting rooms. These are just some of the examples of how the Palaszczuk government is investing in court infrastructure across Queensland and we will continue doing this into the future.

### Transport and Road Infrastructure


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government is investing in infrastructure, delivering local jobs and ensuring economic growth. That is clear from our record Queensland Transport and Investment Program which outlines a four-year pipeline of transport and road infrastructure investment worth approximately \$21 billion. That \$21 billion will deliver 16,950 direct jobs over the next four years, which is good news for Queenslanders, good news for our regions and good news for our economy.

A record investment means we have committed to more projects, we are creating more jobs and we are building better, safer roads across the state. As part of this record investment, \$400 million will rebuild roads damaged by Cyclone Debbie and associated flooding. We have also committed to delivering huge infrastructure projects across the state. We are upgrading the Gateway Motorway North, which is already over halfway completed. We are sealing the Peninsula Development Road in the far north, supporting regional jobs including Indigenous apprentices. We are expanding the Bill Fulton Bridge and building the Smithfield Bypass in Cairns. We are upgrading Riverway Drive in Townsville. We are also building the Mackay Ring Road, the Walkerston Bypass and replacing the Vines Creek Bridge in Mackay. In Toowoomba we are constructing the second range crossing and in Brisbane we are upgrading the Ipswich Motorway from Darra to Rocklea. We are fixing the M1 at the Gateway merge and between Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes. We also are a proud partner in the \$8.5 billion, 10-year Bruce Highway upgrade program, upgrading the Bruce right up the east coast from Brisbane to Cairns.

On roads, our record is clear. This year's QTRIP is a record investment for the second year in a row. Unfortunately for the member for Clayfield, his record is also clear. Compare our transport and roads investment to when the member for Clayfield was treasurer of this state and one will find our commitment is billions of dollars more than the LNP delivered while in government, despite their record majority. The LNP neglected regional roads, slashing funding by at least \$600 million during their three years; they cut funding to local government under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme by 37 per cent—a \$23 million cut to funding each financial year during their term; and they wasted more than \$30 million of roads, transport and ports funding preparing for privatisation and outsourcing—the \$30 million was diverted from the roads and transport budget to bankroll the Newman government's bid to sell Queensland's assets and outsource services, a decision made by the member for Clayfield himself as treasurer.

Our policy is to buy Queensland; the LNP's policy is to sell Queensland. Our policy is to build roads; their policy is to cut roads.

### Go Local; Telecommunications Infrastructure

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.10 am): It gives me pleasure to update the House on the Palaszczuk government's Go Local campaign highlighting the important role small businesses play in supporting Queensland jobs and the economy. Unlike those opposite, we know supporting local businesses pays off in more ways than one. Go Local is creating awareness of the benefits of spending money locally. Where you choose to spend your money can have a direct impact on economic growth. Even better, it creates jobs for people in your local area. The Go Local campaign, and the Go Local, Grow Local


campaign, featuring newspaper ads and a social media campaign are part of the Palaszczuk government's \$4 million disaster recovery package. The Premier and I announced the package in the wake of Cyclone Debbie and the subsequent weather event in March. Our Go Local campaign also complements the recently released Buy Queensland policy.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting jobs for Queenslanders right across the state. We are also committed to improving the lives of Queenslanders by putting in place necessary infrastructure connecting our regions, communities and businesses to the digital economy. The Palaszczuk government is working with all levels of government as well as telecommunications providers, local communities and industry to deliver major infrastructure outcomes that make a real difference to communities across the state. For instance, as ministerial champion for the Wujal Wujal community in Far North Queensland, I was pleased to announce the council being awarded \$1.1 million in funding through our successful Works for Queensland program, which is administered by the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning under the guidance of the Deputy Premier.

A significant portion of this funding will be used to create a high-speed wireless network and digital forum, supporting more than 14 jobs and enabling reliable communications for a community that has struggled with an inadequate telecommunications service. I was also pleased to recently announce that the government, through the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation, is providing an additional \$274,000 to boost digital connectivity for Wujal Wujal and the neighbouring community of Ayton. On a larger scale, DSITI has also sourced and committed just under \$24 million across two rounds of the Commonwealth funded Mobile Black Spot Program to date. This commitment is delivering 144 new and improved mobile base stations to communities across 54 different councils. All towers will be rolled out by the end of next year as per our agreement with telecommunications providers.

Today I have only mentioned a few examples of investment the Palaszczuk government has made in digital infrastructure, but we remain determined to continue building on this so we can position Queensland to meet its future digital needs in creating jobs and growing the economy.


### Department of Child Safety

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.13 am): I rise today to make a ministerial statement on a very serious matter. In relation to reports today, I can confirm that confidential information was sent in error by the department of child safety to a domestic violence perpetrator about the whereabouts of a family. It is totally unacceptable and I expect much, much better. I am very sorry that this has happened and I have personally spoken to and apologised to the family. My director-general has also apologised on behalf of the department. This is a serious issue for the family involved and should never have happened. This matter was immediately referred to the Ethical Standards Unit for investigation. We continue to work closely with the family to ensure their ongoing safety.

## LAND ACCESS OMBUDSMAN BILL

### GASFIELDS COMMISSION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

#### Cognate Debate

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, in accordance with standing order 172, the Land Access Ombudsman Bill and the GasFields Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, as follows:


- (a) second reading debate, with separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
- (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
- (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE


### Report

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.15 am): I lay upon the table of the House, the Agriculture and Environment Committee's report No. 43, *Subordinate legislation tabled between 10 May and 13 June 2017*.

*Tabled paper:* Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 43—55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled 10 May–13 June 2017 [[1554](#)].

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee, Report


 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (10.15 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House—

1. notes the importance of the recommendations by the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee in its report No. 2 *Black lung white lies: inquiry into the re-identification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis in Queensland* to all former and current coal workers being considered as quickly as practicable; and
2. orders the Premier and Minister for the Arts to produce to the House by noon, Friday 8 September 2017 a full government response to the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee's report No. 2 *Black lung white lies: inquiry into the re-identification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis in Queensland*.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Department of Child Safety


 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (10.16 am): How many more times must Queenslanders endure another Child Safety failure under this incompetent Labor minister? How many more times will child safety officers be thrown under the bus and the minister keep her job? Today we learn of yet another failure of Child Safety under this bumbling minister. In a total breach of trust and confidence we learn Child Safety has wrongly revealed secret information about a domestic violence victim and her children to the alleged perpetrator. Sadly, even the victims fear it is an overworked and struggling system that has failed her, a child safety system that has lurched from crisis to crisis under Annastacia Palaszczuk and her embattled minister. This was a minister who, only on Sunday, was crowing that Child Safety had embraced information sharing. Clearly this did not extend to the domestic violence unit in the police who would have said there was an active order in place.

As the minister also responsible for the prevention of domestic and family violence it is she who must accept responsibility for this complete system failure. It is unacceptable that a child safety officer should be thrown under the bus to once again save the minister from falling on her own sword. This is not the first time our hardworking child safety officers have been used as scapegoats for a failing system and an incompetent minister who has lost control of her government. Victims, children and child safety officers deserve better than this minister and this Labor government. Domestic violence victims need to have confidence in the system and children at risk need to know they will not be put at further risk of harm.

Today's revelations have further traumatised this family and caused untold hurt and harm to those children and their mother. My greatest concern now is how many other victims have been exposed in similar circumstances and put at risk. Given in this case we saw a rushed temporary order pushed through, it is clear the system failed. Even the victim in this case has said she is worried others are being put in harm's way by overworked staff. This is an unbelievable statement when one thinks of the constant claims by the minister of all the extra staff she has put on. Clearly this is not working.

As we reflect on Child Protection Week, we need to ensure the Premier holds her minister accountable for the litany of failures and makes sure our kids and victims are put ahead of covering up for the failures of her incompetent minister. Premier, sack this minister today.

### Electricity Prices

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.19 am): Unlike those opposite, the Palaszczuk government has a plan that is about putting downward pressure on electricity prices, and it is working. Under this term of our government, a typical household has seen

prices stabilise to a 1.9 per cent average price increase each year compared to the Nicholls legacy of a 43 per cent price rise in the last term of the LNP government. The LNP did not have a plan. When it comes to getting some kind of coherent policy out of the LNP, state or federal, the lights are on but nobody is home. You could line up all the state and federal LNP members of parliament, end to end, and still they could not agree or reach a conclusion. At the end of the day, Tim Nicholls and Malcolm Turnbull do not have a plan. They have a few light-bulb moments but, believe me, they are very dim, just as he is very lazy.

For some time we have been waiting to see some leadership from the federal government on energy policy and Queensland is doing the heavy lifting. Members will remember when Tim Nicholls promised that he would save Queenslanders \$120 a year each year on their power bills, but prices went up \$436. We are making a real difference by cutting the QCA recommendation in half—in fact, by more than half for residential—saving \$56 compared to the QCA recommendation. We took action on directing Stanwell to alter its bidding strategies and, of course, we reignited Swanbank E, which had been mothballed by the LNP. Our actions are leading to real outcomes. We know that our decision not to appeal the Australian Energy Regulator's revenue determination has potentially saved Queensland billions.


Our plan is working. Forward wholesale prices in Queensland dropped by 13 per cent immediately after our Powering Queensland Plan was announced and for the year to July they are down 19 per cent. As a state government, we are pulling all the levers that we can through the ownership of public assets. That is exactly the opposite of what the member for Clayfield did when he was treasurer, which was to let the power companies run rampant. It was all about fattening them up for sale.

When it comes to the LNP, the right hand does not know what the left hand is doing. Last week, Malcolm Turnbull said his government had no plans to build a coal-fired power station and Scott Morrison has dismissed new coal-fired generation as a bit of a myth. The LNP in Queensland has been abandoned by the LNP in Canberra. They have even been abandoned by other federal members of parliament, including Bob Katter. Bob Katter has said, 'How could any government conceive of the stupidity like another base load coal-fired power station in North Queensland?'

Climate change deniers is what they are. They do not believe in renewables. I suppose their flat-earth strategy should actually be seen as a bit okay, because it is a lot better than the scorched-earth policy that they used to run when they were economic and fiscal deniers and dunderheads. Therefore, this is a refreshing change. Will they actually get on the front foot and tell Canberra to do something about leadership? Will they abandon their policy for a coal-fired power station in North Queensland? We have eight; we do not need a ninth.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I urge the Treasurer to remember the proper terminology by which to refer to the Leader of the Opposition.

### **Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services**

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.22 am): Four ministers have been sacked, resigned or stood aside from this Labor frontbench, yet still we see failure after failure from the ministers in this government, who clearly cannot get the basics right to protect vulnerable Queenslanders. The No. 1 job of the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Mark Ryan, is to keep Queenslanders safe and stand up for victims of crime and their families. Since late last year he has been on training wheels, but the wheels are quickly coming off and Queensland families are paying the price.


Today we see media reports of more domestic violence parole failures on the Gold Coast. In March this year, tougher laws were introduced by the LNP and passed by this parliament. All Labor had to do was implement those laws, but they cannot even get that right. Today the minister should put himself in the shoes of the Gold Coast domestic violence victim. How would he or anyone feel if they learnt, via social media, that their abusive ex-partner was released early from jail, despite a proper system now in place? That system was designed to protect that vulnerable victim, but the minister has let her down. It is simply not good enough.

However, there is one thing worse than that incompetence and it is the deceit that we saw on the day the minister used Gary and Leanne Pullen as political pawns for a press conference. Those were the words used by the family themselves. It was deceit against an innocent family who just wanted to say goodbye to their son Tim and give him the proper dignity of a funeral.

This minister is treating victims like third-class citizens. It is further proof that Labor puts the rights of criminals ahead of the welfare of victims. Instead of taking responsibility for his failings, he continually blames someone else. Instead of trying to help the family, Labor decided to target the whistleblower who lifted the lid on that shameful exploitation of a grieving family.

The minister narrowly survived a no-confidence motion in this place by the casting vote of the Speaker. No-one from his own Left faction would stand up to defend him. Sometimes, it is hard to defend the indefensible. It is time the minister did the right thing by victims of crime and their families and resigned his commission. Queenslanders deserve better than this.

### Hyperloop

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.25 am): Queenslanders certainly deserve much better than that and they knew it in 2015. No other Queensland government has done more in the area of family violence, domestic violence and victims of crime than this government. Those comments are absolutely offensive.

Today I wish to talk about a very, very, very fanciful new concept, that is, a very, very, very fast train. The idea of the very, very, very fast train or hyperloop comes straight out of the *Simpsons'* playbook. It reminded me of an episode of the *Simpsons*. The LNP's very, very, very fast train concept looks very much the same as this. I table a copy for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Document depicting picture of cartoon monorail [1555].

*Tabled paper:* Document depicting picture of a very fast train [1556].

Queenslanders need to know that the LNP's costings on the business case for the very, very, very fast train are also ridiculous. The LNP announced \$2.5 million for a business case into the very, very, very fast train to connect the South-East Queensland corner and bust congestion over the next 20 to 30 years. The hyperloop salesman saw Tim Nicholls coming and rubbed his hands with glee. A sum of \$2.5 million is a drop in the ocean. It would not pay for a detailed business case and they know it. We all know their track record when it comes to business cases: members need only look at the No. 1 William Street business case.


**A government member:** It's not there.

**Ms TRAD:** That is right: it is not there. Let us get serious about this: South-East Queensland needs a congestion-busting project and it needs serious work. That is what we will deliver through Cross River Rail.

Let us look at the business cases for some other detailed public transport projects: Parramatta Light Rail cost \$19 million, WestConnex in Sydney cost \$55 million and even the LNP's own BaT tunnel was \$30 million for a business case, yet they are putting just \$2.5 million on the table. If members think that that is ridiculous, a 2010 study by the former federal government found that the connection between Brisbane and the Gold Coast would cost \$11 billion. We have a solution on the table. We have Cross River Rail to bust congestion. It is time that those opposite came on board, listened to industry and the RACQ and got on with supporting Cross River Rail to deliver the solutions that Queensland needs for public transport into the future.

*(Time expired)*

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.28 am): This is a government for which success is a stranger, but failure is frequent and the failure of all failures—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, Premier and ministers! I invite the Leader of the Opposition to start again.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** This is a government for which success is a stranger, but failure is a frequent companion and the failure—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. Pause the clock.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The failure of all failures is the failure of this Premier to lead; the repeated failure of this Premier to take action against one incompetent minister after another. We have the Minister for Corrective Services who pulled a heartless, duplicitous PR stunt on Gary and Leanne Pullen over the pending release of one of the convicted killers of their son—a minister who sought glamour while a

family grieved; the same minister whom we discover has struck terror into a Gold Coast woman because she has learnt, only through her violent ex-partner's Facebook page, that he has been released early from jail on parole.

It was the LNP that acted to protect domestic violence victims and their children with a suite of significant laws that passed this parliament in March. That is part of our action to provide safe and livable communities for Queenslanders. One of these reforms was a DV alert system to notify victims and families when a domestic violence perpetrator was being considered for parole. The Minister for Corrective Services, in failing to give effect to the law that this parliament passed, can surely not be anything but an ineffective and incompetent minister. Yet the stakes could not be higher.

It is clear from further reports today that the ongoing and shocking lapses in oversight from both the Minister for Corrective Services and the Minister for Child Safety are placing Queenslanders' lives at risk. Families everywhere fleeing domestic violence have woken up today with their fear redoubled because this is a government that, through its inaction and incompetence, puts violent offenders in front of vulnerable victims.


This is a Premier who is standing by these two inept ministers and once again fails the test of leadership. When the Premier did stand aside the member for Yeerongpilly, it was not in a timely fashion and not because it had always been the right thing to do. The Premier stood the member for Yeerongpilly aside only when cornered and only when the CCC released a reasonable suspicion of conduct finding against him. Let us not forget the member for Bundaberg's efforts as the agriculture minister nor the member for Pumicestone.

This Premier's pivotal promise was a government of honesty, openness and transparency, but the return on that promise has been a series of withheld, redacted or diluted government ordered reports and reviews, while presiding over Queensland's worst rail fail, soaring powering prices and diving business investment and letting incompetent ministers run free. It is time to end the cons, costs and crises of this government.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will end at 11.32 am. Before I call the Leader of the Opposition for his first question, I am informed that we have students and teachers from One Tribe New Australians from the electorate of Waterford visiting our parliament. Welcome.

### Domestic and Family Violence

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (10.32 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. Media reports today and the front page of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*—and I table a copy of that front page—claim that a domestic violence victim was not notified that her abuser had been granted parole, despite a DV order being in place and despite multiple threats to her from his prison cell.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 5 September 2017, titled 'DV Alert Failure' [[1557](#)].

Why did the Minister for Corrective Services leave this victim of domestic violence to find out on Facebook that her abuser had been given parole, leaving her with no information and no protection?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. From the outset I can say that of course we do not want to see issues like this happen. We know how important it is to tackle all forms of domestic and family violence in this state. That is why my government is investing over \$300 million to ensure that victims of domestic and family violence can get the support they need. That is why we are setting up new specialist domestic violence courts. We are making sure that funding is going to the organisations that need it. What we are seeing not just at a state level but also at a national level is the level of awareness of domestic and family violence raised to unprecedented levels. This is a good thing because it means that victims are seeking the help that they need and that they are going to these services.

Not a week goes by when personally I do not hear of someone who has been impacted by domestic and family violence. Magistrates working in the courts are telling me that they are seeing unprecedented levels of demand for apprehended violence orders. In some magistrates courts over 50 per cent of their workload is dedicated to dealing with domestic and family violence.

We realise that these issues impact families across the state. They have long-lasting and severe impacts. Children can be traumatised by seeing the impacts of this violence. My government will do everything we can to make sure that families, including children, are protected. That is why we are putting in unprecedented amounts of funding.

As I have said in this House before, I honestly believe that domestic and family violence should not be a political issue. It should be something that we all work on together to address, not just as a government but as a community. I will strive my hardest to work with organisations and communities to address these issues right across the state. Unfortunately, there are times when people fall through the cracks. We need to do everything we can to help rebuild their lives. That is exactly what we are intending to do.

I urge those opposite to continue to work with us in a spirit of bipartisanship and in a spirit of cooperation to put those families front and centre. That is what my government is doing. We are funding community organisations to strengthen those organisations that help victims in their hour of need.

### **Domestic and Family Violence**

**Mr NICHOLLS:** My second question without notice is also to the Premier. I again refer to today's reports of Labor leaving another domestic violence victim in harm's way. How much longer will the Premier support the Minister for Corrective Services given his incompetence in enforcing laws designed to protect victims of domestic violence?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. We need to do everything we can to alert victims to their rights. That means encouraging more and more victims to put themselves forward on the register. I have had a conversation with the minister this morning. We are going to be working towards making sure that people know that they can put their names on this register. That is the right thing to do.

Once again we see why the opposition are not fit to govern.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, this is a very serious issue.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Stop being so rude.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Thank you one and all.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** My government is putting money where it is needed the most. We understand that there is an issue and we talk to families, listen to families and work with families to empower them.

I contrast my leadership with the leadership of the former treasurer of this state, the now Leader of the Opposition. It is five years ago almost to the month that the first Nicholls-Newman budget was handed down. In that budget there were massive cuts. There were cuts across the state to organisations—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I think you might have answered the question. Do you have anything further that is relevant?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I would like to address this issue. Let us be very clear about the cuts that were made.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I know you might want to talk about that—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I will allow it as long as it is relevant to the question that has been asked.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is. It is about domestic and family violence. My government is putting money into rebuilding capacity; they cut. From the Torres Strait through to the Gold Coast, more than \$230,000 was cut from shelters—\$230,000.

**Mr SPEAKER:** One moment, Premier. My understanding is that the question was about the current minister. I find that you may be debating the issue.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am happy to come back to it.

### **Sheep Industry**

**Mr PEARCE:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the House on the government's partnership with graziers and local councils to erect fences to protect sheep from the wild dog menace?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Mirani for this very important question because 2½ years ago Western Queensland was in dire straits when it came almost to the end of the sheep industry as we know it. I went out there and I sat down with the families and the graziers and spoke to them about what the government can do to work with families to address the issue of wild dogs and the destruction that they were causing to the sheep industry. In 2½ years there have been some amazing results. Let me say the sheep industry is back in Queensland thanks to a Labor government. The sheep and wool industry is bouncing back.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I can hear you, member for Hinchinbrook.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I know the member for Gregory is very happy with what I have been doing out in Western Queensland. He is smiling. There is \$31.2 million in loans and grants for up to 7,500 kilometres of fencing. Just think about that—7,500 kilometres of fencing. We anticipate that it will boost sheep numbers to 500,000, and lambing rates, I am told, have increased in some areas from 20 per cent to 100 per cent because of what we are doing as a Labor government in Western Queensland. Longreach council estimates an extra 130 jobs and a population boost of 500 over five years. Once again I see the member for Gregory smiling. We are also delivering on the upgrades of roads.

Let us contrast this with the member for Nanango because she does not really support this approach. What did she say on 11 January last year? She said—

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is clearly not interested in the impact wild dogs have on our grazing industries. Labor seems to believe the wild dog menace will be solved by shiny new fences being erected in cluster models promoted by individuals and some local shires.

Well I am out there speaking to the graziers and they are telling me that our plan is working. In 2½ years we have brought back the sheep and wool industry in this state—a mighty achievement for the Labor government. Unfortunately, the contrast is very clear: we build and we employ; on that side they sack people and they sell assets.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There is no clearer difference to show that we are a government for all of Queensland no matter where you live in our great state.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am pleased to inform members that we have students and teachers from the Nambour Christian College in the electorate of Nicklin observing our proceedings. Welcome.

### Parole System

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My question without notice is to the Premier. One of the over 200 reviews by the Palaszczuk government was into the parole system. Despite that, week after week we still hear of failures in our parole system under this incompetent and inexperienced Minister for Corrective Services. When will the Premier put the victims of crime first and sack Minister Ryan for his dangerous incompetence?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Nanango for her question. Once again I am looking forward to going to her electorate in the very, very near future. I might take a few ministers out there with me as well.

**Mr Dick:** Hear, hear!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are doing so much out there in the electorate of Nanango.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes. I am going to take the Minister for Health and the Minister for Education with me.

**Mr Dick:** Road trip.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It will be a road trip. We are looking forward to it.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. We will wait.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Members may remember that I commissioned Walter Sofronoff to do a review into parole in this state. It brought about a transformation of parole. Over \$200 million has been put into that and the minister is conscientiously implementing that reform. That is probably the most significant reform to parole in a hundred years and those reforms are not going to happen overnight.



I will tell you one thing, Mr Speaker. My government put the money into this to ensure that we tackle the issues of parole. This minister is implementing the reforms of the Walter Sofronoff report, and that is exactly what I have commissioned him to do. I have also made sure that in relation to Corrective Services he gets on with the job in terms of the construction work happening at the new Capricorn facility—another \$200 million investment. I can advise the House that early works began last week, and the Minister for Agriculture and the member for Keppel were there for the preliminary turning of the sod.

Those reforms were groundbreaking. Walter Sofronoff laid out a very clear blueprint in terms of what is needed. We are going to progressively implement the reforms—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Everton, I find the minister's answer is relevant to the question. You are warned under standing order 253A. I find that you are trying to disrupt the minister in answering the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—and key recommendations including establishing a full-time, fully independent, professional Parole Board operating under the new parole process—and once again put in place by the minister.

These are groundbreaking reforms. I expect the minister to continue to implement them, and we have given him the money to do that. Over \$200 million has been put into that program, unlike those opposite who did absolutely nothing when it came to parole in this state. For three years they did absolutely nothing except cut and sack.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier, you have answered the question.

### Sale of Public Assets

**Mr STEWART:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to recent comments by a federal minister on privatising state electricity assets. Will the Premier rule out meeting the federal minister's demand to sell Queensland assets?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Townsville very much for that question because we know very clearly that a federal minister is once again touting the asset recycling scheme and once again talking about the sale of Queensland's electricity assets. Let me make it very clear to everybody in this House and once again to the people of Queensland that our electricity assets are not for sale. We know on that side of the House—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, you do not like it, but what you wanted to do—

**Mr Cramp** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I counsel the member for Gaven. You may join the list if you persist.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We know that when the Leader of the Opposition was the treasurer of this state it was his plan to sell our electricity assets. He actually put in place the Commission of Audit—once again led by an old LNP mate Peter Costello—to set up outsourcing, to set up to sell our assets in this state. Queenslanders spoke very loud and clear at the last election: they do not want their electricity assets sold.

I have honoured our commitment in government and I will continue to honour that commitment, but those opposite cannot be trusted. We cannot trust them not to go down the same path again. What is very interesting is that the minister—Paul Fletcher—was once again talking about asset recycling. On 19 June the member for Clayfield and the member for Nanango met with Mr Fletcher. What were they discussing? We know that the Leader of the Opposition wanted to sell the port of Townsville, the Gladstone port and the Mount Isa line. Queenslanders cannot trust this Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I am having difficulty hearing the Premier.

**Mr Rickuss** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I think that is the member for Lockyer.

**Mr Rickuss:** Yes, it is.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do not know who your sparring partner is.

**Mr Rickuss:** The member for Pumicestone.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You will both join the list. You are both warned under standing order 253A. The Premier has 37 seconds on the clock.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will stand on my record not to sell our electricity assets—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Those on that side of the House cannot be trusted. They will try to sell assets again. They will try to sneak into office and sell assets. We will remind Queenslanders each and every day about the record of those opposite.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The members for Hinchinbrook and Redlands have joined the list. You are both warned under standing order 253A. If you have sparring partners on the other side, they will join as well.

### **Child Safety, Information Management**

**Ms BATES:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the case reported in the media today of a family who has had to move a second time to get away from her ex-partner because the department wrongly disclosed where they were living and the name of the kids' school. Will the Premier now conduct an urgent audit of all similar cases to ensure other families have not been put at risk in the Palaszczuk government's child safety crisis?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question because it is a very important question. I have spoken to the Minister for Child Safety today. I have also spoken to my director-general. There is going to be an investigation into how this came about. I am very concerned about it. Members of the House have the right to be concerned about it. It is completely unacceptable. That is why the matter has been referred to the Ethical Standards Unit for a complete and thorough investigation.

My utmost concern is for the safety and wellbeing of the woman and her family. As the minister indicated, the minister has spoken with the lady involved and I can advise the House that I have also spoken with the lady involved. My primary concern is to ensure that she is safe and that her children are safe. We will be following up on that issue. Let me also advise the House that we are continuing to enhance our child protection system in this state in dealing with issues of domestic and family violence by making sure that we have the staff and the capacity to look after families who are going through these types of incidents.

As I said previously, many people in this House know of someone personally or know of people in their lives who have gone through this issue. It destroys lives and it destroys families. It is our job to ensure that families are as safe as possible. That is why the matter will be thoroughly investigated. I also want to ensure that we have the capacity in our regions. When we talk about building capacity, unfortunately that capacity was hurt severely under the former government when they cut staff. That is the fact of the situation. They cut staff. They put more and more pressure on people who are dealing with these issues. My government is building the capacity—

**Ms BATES:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. My question to the Premier was: will she conduct an urgent audit of all other similar cases? I am not just talking about the one that is in the paper today. I am talking about all other families who may be caught up in this same instance.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As the member would know, these families who come to the attention of the department are dealt with by case officers. As I said, this matter will be investigated, and the director-general will also be speaking with the regional directors in relation to the capacity that is available in each of the regions. Let me be very clear: unfortunately that capacity has lessened because of the cuts that were made when you were a minister in the government.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is the reality.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members! There is no point of order.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I was saying earlier, the statewide support and referral service DVConnect was cut by more than \$40,000. The Gold Coast Domestic Violence Prevention Centre was cut by more than \$150,000. The Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service was cut by more than \$30,000.

*(Time expired)*

### Cross River Rail

**Mr KING:** My question today is for the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier update the House on how Cross River Rail will help tackle congestion and improve public transport for residents in my electorate and any alternative approaches?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Kallangur for the question. I note his commitment and enthusiasm for this project because he knows that for the people of his electorate it means more time at home with their families at the end of the day. It means that there will be turn-up-and-go services. For many people in his electorate it means that they might even find a job building Cross River Rail. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government is all about. We are about building the infrastructure that our communities need for the future.

It is absolutely clear that the benefits of this project speak for themselves. It is absolutely clear that industry and the business community just want us to get on and build it, which is what we are doing. More than that, they want those opposite to make clear where they stand on this issue. They want the certainty and the confidence that comes with bipartisanship around key infrastructure projects that our economies and our people need for their future.

Unfortunately, I do think those opposite are genetically predisposed to not supporting it—to opposing it—because we know that cutting, sacking and selling is in their DNA. We know that is in the LNP's DNA. As the Premier has already detailed for the benefit of the House, when Paul Fletcher, a federal senior minister of the Turnbull government, came up to Brisbane last week and lectured us about why we were not getting a fair share of Commonwealth infrastructure funds it was because we did not sell our assets. Federal minister Paul Fletcher laid out for the Infrastructure Association of Queensland the fact that we were not getting as much—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth, you are warned under standing order 253A for that unbecoming language. If you persist I will take the appropriate action.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You were clearly on your feet, Mr Speaker, seeking order from the House and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition called out across the chamber very clearly in defiance of your authority so I ask you to rule.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Leader of the House.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. I know it is the first day back. I think I have been here a little while now and am able to make a call, so thank you. I think I will be right. It is not like the first day I was in the chair.

**Ms TRAD:** Again, for the benefit of the House, federal minister Paul Fletcher came to Queensland and lectured us about why we do not get as much as New South Wales and that is because New South Wales sold their assets. We are not going to sell our assets.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Thank you, Deputy Premier. Thank you, members.

**Ms TRAD:** We are not going to sell our assets to fund the infrastructure we need. Last October the federal minister made a big announcement about giving us \$10 million to further the planning work for Cross River Rail. Unfortunately, I have to advise the House that that \$10 million has not materialised. I have also taken the liberty of writing to Minister Paul Fletcher detailing the fact that we will not be selling our assets to pay for infrastructure.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 5 September 2017, from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Jackie Trad, to the Federal Minister for Urban Infrastructure, Hon. Paul Fletcher, regarding Cross River Rail [1558].

We will not be lectured to by the Turnbull government about selling our assets. Do honourable members know what? They can keep their \$10 million.

### Child Safety, Information Management

**Ms DAVIS:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to her previous answer, and I ask: how can the Premier guarantee that this is an isolated case of wrongful disclosure of sensitive information if the Premier refuses to call an urgent, robust audit and relies only on the public randomly uncovering the Palaszczuk government's dangerous incompetence?

**A government member:** You want reviews now?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. I thank the member for the question. As I said, the matter will be investigated. We will look at the results of that investigation. I have asked the director-general to speak to the regional directors to ensure that they have the capacity they need at each regional level when it comes to dealing with these increasingly complex areas of families with domestic and family violence.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection from the minister. Those opposite continue to attack us for having reviews and audits, but all of a sudden it is okay. We will have this matter—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Thank you.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me make it very clear: we will have this matter thoroughly and independently investigated. We will look at the results of that and we will then take appropriate action.

Let me say again very clearly it is my government that is putting in the money to improve the capacity of families seeking to flee domestic and family violence throughout the state, with more than \$320 million for initiatives. Let me go through some of those. We are going to build seven new shelters. We are going to make sure that we continue to expand the specialist domestic and family violence courts. As I said during the last sitting, I was with the Minister for Disability Services and minister assisting me in North Queensland where we announced the rollout of the expansion of the circuit court to Palm Island and also to Mount Isa. I know that the member for Townsville was recently on Palm Island. I am quite sure that they would be very happy to know that that service is coming to them as well.

Of course, it was Queensland that hosted the first national summit on tackling domestic and family violence, something that I personally pushed for very strongly at COAG to ensure that that was held here. I understand that COAG is looking very actively at having a second one, which could be held either later this year or early next year, either in Victoria or the Northern Territory.

We also know that domestic and family violence is everybody's business. We need to make sure that we are teaching respectful relationships in schools, and that is exactly what we are doing. We are also going to be making sure that our DV sector has the funds that they need. That is why we have increased funding to the DV Hotline—very important. That is why we will continue to implement Quentin Bryce's landmark report, *Not now, not ever*, to ensure that domestic and family violence is everybody's issue.

*(Time expired)*

### **Domestic and Family Violence Shelters, Funding**

**Mrs LAUGA:** My question is of the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Can the minister please provide the House with an update on funding to domestic and family violence shelters?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** The 2017-18 budget allocates more than \$27.3 million for shelters to accommodate women and children escaping violence in their homes. Currently, 49 women's shelters deliver more than 106,000 places of accommodation annually across Queensland. Of course, under the previous LNP government of which the member for Clayfield was the then treasurer not even domestic and family violence shelters were safe from the cuts in the name of fiscal repair. From Lena Passi shelter in the Torres Strait to Sera's shelter in Townsville through to Macleod on the Gold Coast, more than \$230,000 was cut from women's refuges already under strain. The member for Clayfield, the then treasurer, was the architect of these cuts. What sort of cruel government takes money from people providing shelter in extremely difficult circumstances while at the same time—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Thank you. I can hear you, member for Glass House.

**Ms FENTIMAN:**—spends \$70 million to promote their asset sales agenda? They had the hide to call it strong choices.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, thank you. Thank you, Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I can hear you. I can also hear you, member for Mudgeeraba. The minister has the call and her answer is relevant.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I am very glad that Queenslanders saw this for what it was: heartless choices—not strong choices but heartless choices where they sack and sell. These cuts to shelters alone represent almost a quarter of a million dollars of the funding available each year to women and children escaping violence. Add to that the impact of the cuts to the support services that refer women to shelters and assist women to access them. I have spoken before in this House of cuts to DVConnect, the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Prevention Centre and centres in Cairns, Mackay and Ipswich—hundreds of thousands of dollars slashed across the state. These cuts cost jobs as well as impact the services that support women and children.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** This government was the first government in 20 years to build new shelters. This government builds.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I do not like naming members on a leadership team, but if you persist you will be named. Member for Mudgeeraba, you have joined the list.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** This is the first government in 20 years to build new shelters. This is a government that builds and invests in front-line services. They were a government that sold and cut. What sort of government makes cuts to domestic and family violence refuges? A heartless government that cuts!

*(Time expired)*

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Ministers**

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Premier. In light of the reports today of the two families suffering at the hands of the inexperienced Palaszczuk government, will the Premier apologise to these families for the way that they have been treated by Minister Fentiman and Minister Ryan?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member very much for the question. As I conveyed earlier, Minister Fentiman and I have actually spoken to the lady impacted.

### **Mental Health**

**Mr BROWN:** My question is of the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. With reference to the Palaszczuk government's record investment in mental health infrastructure, could the minister advise of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Capalaba for his strong support of public health services and in particular public mental health services. As honourable members would know, no Queensland government in recent memory has committed more to investing in the infrastructure supporting mental health, particularly infrastructure to support youth mental health services, than the Palaszczuk Labor government.

In our most recent budget \$168.2 million was allocated to mental health infrastructure. New projects are underway in Mackay, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Cairns, Brisbane and the south-east. That will benefit the member for Capalaba and the constituents in his electorate. Our approach to infrastructure and mental health infrastructure is simple: we build for the future. This is in stark contrast to the Leader of the Opposition. I had a look at some of the policies being promoted by the Leader of the Opposition. One of them is cutting the Safe Schools program—a very, very fast train by a very, very mediocre opposition led by a very, very mediocre opposition leader—and of course his cuts which impacted infrastructure for youth mental health were the worst. When we look at his record, no wonder he has little to say about mental health. There is not one policy.

The single biggest cut to mental health funding ever made by any state or territory government occurred when he was the Treasurer. When the Leader of the Opposition was the Treasurer, he reduced spending to the lowest level of any state or territory government on a per capita basis. He

reduced staffing in mental health to the worst of any state or territory. In mental health infrastructure he did his worst by cutting funding which, as the commission of inquiry found, resulted in \$100 million coming out of the health system in three months. That had a catastrophic effect when the Barrett Adolescent Centre was closed without a replacement facility.

If the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the member for Everton want to climb into the high castle of moral superiority and sanctimony, they should come with clean hands. If they want to cloak themselves with moral outrage with regard to the impact on victims of government decision-making, they should look at their own conduct first. The argument of the Leader of the Opposition may have some validity if he were to hold himself to the same standard he expects of others, but it is a rank double standard. He has never apologised to the Barrett families, the patients who were impacted or the staff who live with a great burden because of what happened. Some of the Barrett families will live with sorrow for the remainder of their lives. Until he apologises the attacks on the government are nothing more than hollow political rhetoric, which is all Queenslanders have come to expect from the member for Clayfield.

### **Minister for Corrective Services**

**Mr EMERSON:** My question is to the Minister for Corrective Services, and I ask: given his disgraceful use of the Pullen family, will the minister now apologise—

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order in relation to the member for Indooroopilly's question and the inference contained within it. I ask that you give him some direction and guidance with regard to potentially rewording his question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** First I am going to warn the Minister for Health for his interjection. You are warned under standing order 253A. The member had not finished his question so that I could consider ruling on it. Member for Indooroopilly, will you repeat your question or rephrase your question? I call the member for Indooroopilly.

**Mr EMERSON:** My question is to the Minister for Corrective Services and I ask: given his use of the Pullen family, will the minister now apologise to the latest victim of his incompetence?

**Mr RYAN:** As members of this House would know, I have apologised personally to the Pullen family and also publicly. I am happy to re-state my apology to them for the chain of events that occurred recently.

In respect of the matter reported in today's media regarding the operation of the Victims Register, it is important to have a bit of context around that. As members of this House would know, there was legislation passed in March of this year. Those changes to the legislation expanded the category of persons who are eligible to register on the Victims Register to include victims of domestic and family violence where the prisoner has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment. Since March this year there have been 99 new registrations on the Victims Register for victims of domestic and family violence where the prisoner has been sentenced to a period of imprisonment.

Prior to those legislative changes, as members opposite would know—it was their bill—victims of domestic violence could only register on the Victims Register if a person was sentenced to prison for a violent or sexual offence. The Queensland Corrective Services Victims Register provides registered victims with information concerning important events in the sentences of those prisoners who have offended against them. In addition, Queensland Corrective Services provides registered persons with information, including a prisoner's eligibility or actual date for discharge or release.

I have sought assurances from the Acting Commissioner of Queensland Corrective Services, and she has advised me that Queensland Corrective Services are acting in accordance with the new legislation that was passed by this House in March 2017. In addition, she has advised me that the Victims Register is performing in accordance with that act. She has also confirmed to me that those people who are registered on the Victims Register are notified in accordance with the act. I have spoken with the Acting Commissioner of Queensland Corrective Services about how we can better promote the Victims Register to ensure that more people know their rights under the new legislation—

**Mr EMERSON:** I rise to a point of order. The question was very clear. Will the minister apologise to this woman for his incompetence?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I rule that the minister's answer is relevant.

**Mr RYAN:** Mr Speaker, as I said from the outset, it is important to have some context around this. I have spoken with the Acting Commissioner for Corrective Services about how we can better promote the Victims Register and how more people can be aware of their rights under the act which was passed by this House to ensure that those people who are registered on the Victims Register receive very important information about their circumstances. Since the legislation was passed Queensland Corrective Services have been working closely with stakeholder groups and providing promotional material in courthouses—that is about to be rolled out to probation and parole officers—and police stations to provide additional information so that victims know their rights in relation to being registered on the Victims Register.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am informed that we have another group of students from the Nambour Christian College in the electorate of Nicklin. Welcome! I call the member for Mackay for the next question.

### Jobs

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. I refer to the allocation in the state budget for infrastructure spending and I ask: can the Treasurer outline the benefits of this spending, especially in terms of job creation?

**Mr PITT:** I thank the member for the question, because the honourable member for Mackay knows that on this side of the House we recognise the role that infrastructure plays in creating jobs. That is why we have allocated \$42.75 billion over four years in the most recent budget, and \$10.2 billion of that is estimated to directly support approximately 29,000 jobs. Almost half of that \$10.2 billion is in regional communities outside South-East Queensland. In fact, two-thirds of it is outside the Brisbane, Ipswich and Logan local government areas.

More job-creating programs have been funded in our three state budgets. We have implemented direct employer support funding through our Back to Work program. In addition, there are programs such as: Works for Queensland; Building our Regions; \$130 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund; and the \$40 million Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund. We have eight market-led proposals now at stage 2 or final approval worth more than \$1 billion and generating more than 1,800 construction jobs. The Business Development Fund has \$14.9 million invested in 13 firms matched by private sector co-investment. Through our economic plan we are committed to boosting local economic activity and creating secure jobs.

In particular, we made sure that regional communities get their fair share of infrastructure spending. We heard the Deputy Premier speak earlier about getting the 'Fletcher lecture' last week. According to Mr Fletcher, we are not getting our fair share because we did not sell our income-generating assets. Newsflash, Mr Fletcher: Strong Choices were the wrong choices, and that is exactly what Queenslanders said. Where Labor builds, the LNP cuts. In the 2013-14 budget, infrastructure spending for regional communities under the former treasurer—now Leader of the Opposition—was earmarked to be \$7.1 billion. When it came to the 2014-15 budget, the last under the LNP, regional communities were allocated \$5.5 billion. That is \$1.6 billion less in just one year. That is the LNP putting the 'cuts' into cut, sack and sell. They cut front-line services and they cut infrastructure, and when it came to regional areas that was particularly so. They sacked 14,000 workers in their first budget. They wanted to sell assets, but first they wanted to waste \$100 million on a highly political Strong Choices campaign. Our policy is to buy Queensland; the LNP's policy is to sell Queensland.

When it comes to the Leader of the Opposition, 'sorry' clearly is the hardest word. When will the member for Clayfield apologise to Queenslanders for his failed plan of cutting, sacking and selling? He should say sorry for cutting front-line services. He should say sorry for sacking workers. He should say sorry for wasting taxpayers' funds on asset sales campaigns that no-one ever actually wanted. 'Sorry is the hardest word' is clearly the case for the member for Clayfield. He must apologise to Queenslanders for his dismal track record.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Cook, I am informed that we have student leaders from Boronia Heights State School and Pallara State School in the electorate of Algeester observing our proceedings. Welcome.

### Tinaroo Dam, Water Supply

**Mr GORDON:** My question without notice is for the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. Can you outline for the benefit of the House what your department and the government are doing to support drought-affected farmers and graziers in the Mareeba district when it comes to water resource management from Tinaroo Dam?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the minister, I urge members to replace the word 'you' with 'the minister' if they have a similar question.

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for Cook for his question. In general terms, 70 per cent of the state is currently drought declared. The Minister for Agriculture and I support our rural sector with a package of \$4.2 million in drought assistance. For graziers in your area this will see water licence fees waived, and rent rebates will also be of vast benefit for graziers throughout Queensland and indeed your area.

You asked specifically about Tinaroo Dam. As at August Tinaroo Dam was at 49.2 per cent capacity, which is low. Some 240 megalitres are released daily to reach targets for irrigators. Because there has not been any recharge—there has been very poor rainfall in your area, as you will realise—low-flow events will likely occur and there will be restrictions as part of the water plan.

You must also realise that water plans are designed to protect areas and to have as much sharing of the water that is available, not only to protect irrigators in the area but also to protect downstream users. With Tinaroo, some of these downstream users are quite significant. We are looking at the protection of the security of Mareeba's town water supply and Kuranda's town water supply. Farmers and other users downstream on the Barron River also must be protected.

I know that the Mareeba Dimbulah irrigators advisory committee has been working with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines since November 2016 on a proposal to review storage classifications in Tinaroo Dam to improve water security. The department has modelled the effect of the proposed amendments on reliability of water supply. Modelling of these amendments has now been finalised, and I understand that the department is working with the Mareeba Dimbulah irrigators association to discuss the results, which indicate that further work or ideas are required to deliver any noticeable improvements to water security during low-flow events. I have asked the regional director to directly engage with the irrigators to further discuss this modelling.

Of significance, the Queensland government is also awaiting the outcomes of the Building Queensland feasibility study for Nullinga Dam due later this year, which will assist the government in understanding water demand, supply and operations in the Barron River catchment, which includes Tinaroo Dam. There is work to be done. We are working hard. We understand the concerns of irrigators in your area. I have met with them and with you and we continue to work in cooperation with the irrigators on these low-recharge events.

### State Schools

**Ms FARMER:** My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games. Could the minister please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's investment in new schools throughout Queensland?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for her question and her passionate advocacy on behalf of schools in her local community. I know that the member for Bulimba is working really hard to grow schools in her local community because we are seeing significant growth in student numbers in that area. This stands in stark contrast to what we saw when the LNP was in government. In the Bulimba electorate it wanted to carve up and sell off the oval of Balmoral State High School. That was the member for Clayfield's solution to inner-city school growth: carve up and sell off the high school at Balmoral. In stark contrast, because of the advocacy of the member for Bulimba, we are making improvements to classrooms and building a new hall—around \$5 million in investment in an inner-city school. We are a government that thinks about long-term planning and the long-term growth of Brisbane. I commend the member for Bulimba for her advocacy.

It is not only here in Brisbane that we are seeing significant growth. We are also seeing growth in state schools across Queensland. Unlike the LNP, which cuts, we are a government that builds. We are building new schools in Townsville, on the Sunshine Coast, in Yarrabilba and on the Gold Coast. We are building new high schools in Townsville and North Lakes. We are even building a new high school in Calliope after those opposite shut it down. They promised to shut it down. They were going to sell off the land. They wanted to put a 'for sale' sign on that land. The honourable member for Clayfield



did not want to build schools; he wanted to cut schools and sell them off. Because of the advocacy of the member for Gladstone, we are now building a new high school there that is well overdue for the people of Calliope.

Education is yet another example of the difference between an LNP government and Tim Nicholls, who want to cut, sell and sack, and a Labor government that builds and employs. In fact, we have a clear understanding of what they want to do in education. The member for Clayfield has promoted the member for Aspley to the education shadow portfolio. We know what she did when she was child safety minister. The member for Aspley sacked 225 child safety officers. The member for Aspley has form. For those opposite to walk in here and lecture us about child safety when the member for Aspley cut 225 officers—front-line workers in Child Safety! Give me a break.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** They can crow all they like, but their record speaks for itself. Some 225 child safety officers were on the chopping block under Tim Nicholls. Those opposite should not come in here and lecture me.

### **Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply**

**Mr POWELL:** My question without notice is to the Premier. It has been 52 days since Minister Bailey was stood down under a reasonable suspicion of corruption and his responsibilities filled by temporary ministers who have their own important matters to look after. When will the Premier appoint a permanent replacement to the important portfolios of energy and main roads, or are record high electricity bills and crippling congestion not important to the Premier?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Glass House for that question. We know that under the former government electricity bills went up 43 per cent. That is its legacy: record prices. On top of that, those opposite wanted to sell the electricity assets. In every other state we see massive increases in household electricity prices because they do not own their assets.

As the House is aware, the CCC is undertaking an investigation. I have every confidence in the Treasurer and the other responsible minister to look after those portfolios until the matter is finalised. Our ministers are capable of doing a large number of things. They are also capable of going out and meeting with stakeholders, talking to stakeholders, listening to stakeholders and implementing. If there is one common thing that the public say to me about my ministers it is that we are a government that listens to and understands Queenslanders—that we understand Queenslanders and we are prepared to take the time to listen. That is in fact the view from the business community as well—great access—

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right: and they back Cross River Rail. They see that as the No. 1 infrastructure project. It is going to change the south-east and ease congestion. I am more than happy for the ministers to fill in in their capacity and I would put any of my ministers against any former ministers opposite any day of the week.

### **Regional Queensland, Infrastructure**

**Ms DONALDSON:** My question without notice is to the Minister for State Development. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is delivering infrastructure for regional Queensland?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Two minutes, Minister.

**Dr LYNHAM:** I know how much the people of Bundaberg fear any repeat of the LNP's 'roting the regions' that those opposite brought in. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering vital infrastructure, jobs and economic opportunities for regional Queensland with our \$375 million Building our Regions program. All the way from Eromanga to Horn Island, this process is very effective.

Cherbourg shire council is just one of 62 local government areas benefiting from Building our Regions. I attended Cherbourg shire council and saw its material waste recovery facility, which has received over \$1½ million worth of funding from Building our Regions. This week excavators are due on site to commence earthworks and to start construction. I know just how important this facility is to the people of Cherbourg. I have seen the plant in operation; I have seen the local workers being


employed there. The waste output capacity of the plant will increase from 250 tonnes of waste per year to 3,500 tonnes of waste per year. This is exactly equivalent to the 3,500 tonnes of drivel that we have heard from those opposite this morning.

This project is one of the many we have funded through the Building our Regions program. This is a \$353.5 million investment and that means that for every dollar we spend on our program we have leveraged \$1.56. For every dollar those opposite spent on their program they only got 99 cents back—174 projects from 62 councils compared to 79 projects from only 45 councils. In every aspect Building our Regions is superior to their 'orting our regions', and God help regional Queensland if those opposite ever brought that back!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time has expired.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Electricity Prices

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.32 am): Under those opposite, power bills are soaring and Queensland families are doing it tougher. They are getting higher and higher and higher under this government and there is little to no action from this Palaszczuk Labor government. Queenslanders are experiencing record high power prices even though we have an abundance of natural resources. Why is that? It is because the Palaszczuk Labor government is adding a secret tax to every Queensland power bill—a secret tax that it is adding to families and to businesses large and small throughout the state, a tax to underwrite this incompetent Treasurer's failure to properly manage the state's finances. Loading up the generators and power companies with Labor's debt has meant that it is passed on to consumers through higher power prices.

The LNP team has been out talking to Queensland businesses the length and breadth of this state. We have been talking to families about the rising and spiralling cost of power under Labor, and it is one harrowing story after another. The fact is you cannot create jobs while the economy is weighed down by Labor's 70 per cent increase in the wholesale price of power.

Only last week I was with the member for Mansfield at Mount Gravatt talking to a small business person, Matt Raymond, who runs his own business. He employs 15 people on two premises. Do members know what? He would love to employ some more young Queenslanders. He reckons he could put another two on if he had not suffered a 15 per cent increase in his power bill since the beginning of the year. He would be able to invest in the equipment that he needs in order to expand his business. He is using a 15-year-old Westinghouse gas stove that he would dearly love to be able to replace but he cannot because power prices are going up under this Labor government—a huge 70 per cent increase.

Labor's energy prices are a tax. They are a tax pure and simple and the LNP is not prepared to stand for it. While those opposite do nothing we are prepared to act, and that is why we will freeze executive bonuses at Queensland government energy businesses until electricity prices decrease because that is about giving families a fair go—a \$900,000 a year base salary and a \$100,000 bonus under this government, and those opposite do nothing about it! They preside over those particular arrangements. The message to executives is clear: lower power prices or your bonuses will be frozen.

We know it works because we did it after the Queensland Rail debacles that were experienced in 2010 and 2011. We all remember the on-time running going down below 90 per cent and then below 88 per cent and then below 86 per cent. We all remember it. While the member for Ashgrove was hiding out in the 'burbs—she resigned from her ministry and kowtowed with her tail between her legs back out to the electorate—we remember what was happening in the rail network in the south-east corner. We froze those bonuses and do members know what? On-time running was the best in the nation at 96 per cent. At the time we also halved the increases in Labor's public transport fare increases and we effectively reduced prices for the first time in Queensland's history on public transport by five per cent by eliminating that much loved feature of Labor policy—a carbon tax! Where is their commitment on a carbon tax? What do those opposite say about that? We know 'mangocube3' wants one. We know the member for Mount Coot-tha—the soon to be 'I get lost on the way there' member for Murrumba—wants one.

**An opposition member:** Miles away!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Miles and miles away. Those opposite want a carbon tax back in, but we will not stand for it. We also know the other thing they want is a 50 per cent renewable energy target. They want to take us the same way that South Australia went—the highest power prices in the Western world with unreliability.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** So unreliable, member for Brisbane Central, that BHP at its Olympic Dam site has to install its own power generating capacity because it cannot rely on the Labor government in South Australia to keep the lights on, to run industry and to support business. That is what the Labor Party in this state supports. It is saying that this crazy, headlong rush to renewables is the way to go when every experience is that it will lead to increased prices, more subsidies and less reliability.

A future LNP government will support a national renewable energy target of 23 per cent, not the 50 per cent that those opposite are proposing. How many times over the last two weeks have we heard the part-time Minister for Energy—the part-time Treasurer—say that the failure is in relation to a consistent policy? There is an opportunity for a consistent policy, and that is to adopt a national policy that has been signed off at 23 per cent—not to go to this headlong 50 per cent renewable target that Labor is proposing. Renewables do have a part to play in our energy landscape, but it needs to be the right balance at the right time with the right affordability—not just adding costs to families and businesses and damaging the reliability of the network.

Families can no longer face the pain of skyrocketing power prices. They need relief on their power bills. They want to know that there is a government that is concerned about their power bills. They want to know that there is a government that will take action, that will stop the rorts, stop the rip-offs and actually deliver lower power prices, and that government will be an LNP government.

They also know after almost three years that the Premier and her incompetent, scandal ridden and increasingly resigning ministry are unable to deliver it to them. While those opposite concentrate on themselves, while they deal with the crises that they bring on themselves, they are not delivering for Queenslanders. They are not delivering a coherent policy. They engage in a grab bag of spends and subsidies. Those opposite are failing to deliver on the outcomes that Queenslanders need. After almost three years in office their only legacy is to deliberately slug Queenslanders to pay for their financial incompetence.

Unlike those opposite, we will not just talk about these issues but our plans will actually be focussed on delivery. That is why on a number of issues we have made serious announcements about the action we will take. In August, we announced our plan to crack down on youth crime in North Queensland that has spiralled out of control under this soft-on-crime Labor government. Unlike Labor, which has done the complete opposite, the LNP will put the interests and safety of Queensland families ahead of young thugs.


In designing our policy, we listened to the community and received valuable feedback from police, prison officers, community stakeholders and community leaders. We believe that our policy strikes the correct balance in cracking down on youth crime but with an emphasis on personal responsibility. Our policy will ensure these young criminals are held to account and made to repay the community for their crimes through minimum mandatory periods of community service for offences such as unlawful entry, car theft and hooning.

Unfortunately for North Queensland residents, especially those living in Townsville, Labor's failed policies resulted in a revolving door of justice where young criminals run riot on the streets with impunity and no fear of repercussions. The LNP will introduce breach of bail as an offence for young offenders. Our hard-working police are sick of the times where they are sent out to arrest some young thug in the morning only to re-arrest them in the afternoon. We will remove the principle of detention as the last resort for repeat young offenders after their second offence and will give courts the ability to name and shame an offender. We will provide courts with the ability to restrict a young person's eligibility for a driver's licence if convicted of certain offences in dealing with motor vehicles.

The Labor government is not listening to North Queenslanders, but I can assure all regional and North Queenslanders that the LNP is listening. We believe in regional Queensland; it is in our DNA. We will always back North Queensland. The only party which can deliver better government is the LNP.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Crawford): Before calling the next speaker, I welcome to the gallery staff and students from Nambour Christian College in the electorate of Nicklin.

## Electricity Prices

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.43 am): Queenslanders all across this great state face record high electricity prices because of this incompetent Palaszczuk government. Family budgets are under strain with forever increasing electricity bills and all of Labor's policies do one thing, that is, increase electricity prices. Whether it is Labor's extreme 50 per cent renewable energy policy that will cost Queenslanders \$18 billion or Labor's zero emissions target by 2050 that will see coal-fired power stations close—

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise on a point of order. Given that we have the lowest wholesale electricity prices in the nation and the lowest increase of any mainland state, what is the member for Nanango actually talking about?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There is no point of order; the member is just debating the topic.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That is why the member is sitting up the back. He was an incompetent energy minister and he has been shelved because of allegations of corrupt conduct. The member is not interested in what this is doing to Queenslanders' power bills and he should hang his head in shame.

Let me repeat: Labor's extreme 50 per cent renewable energy policy will cost Queenslanders \$18 billion and Labor's zero emissions target by 2050 will see coal-fired power stations close, meaning the jobs of today will not be the jobs of the future. What about Labor's unfair vegetation management laws that even Ergon Energy said would increase electricity pricing? Labor is not supporting the Commonwealth government's plan to remove limited appeal rights for network businesses. What about Labor loading \$5 billion of debt on to the government energy businesses? What about the fact that Labor is raiding 100 per cent of dividends from government energy businesses? This incompetent Palaszczuk Labor government allowed Stanwell to price gouge, resulting in wholesale electricity prices increasing by 70 per cent. Labor has no plan to tackle record high electricity prices. All of Labor's policies are doing one thing: driving up electricity prices through the roof.

Labor's latest electricity con in the south-east corner is the only deal with the foreign owned Alinta Energy. First, the claimed saving is only over two years. Secondly, because the LNP took steps to deregulate the retail electricity market, only families in some sections of the south-east corner can shop around to get similar deals which are not propped up by the government deregulation. Further, Labor's deal with Alinta was not subject to an open and transparent competitive process. It was not offered to retailers based in Queensland. In the long run, it will harm competition and discourage other retailers from entering the market because they will need to compete directly with the government backed virtual 'gentailer'.

It is obvious that the LNP is the only party interested in putting downward pressure on Queensland electricity prices. So far, the LNP has announced that it will scrap Labor's extreme 50 per cent renewable energy target, saving Queenslanders \$18 billion. We will establish the agriculture, energy and water council, a forum scrapped by this incompetent Labor government. Labor does not want to work with or listen to our farmers. In fact, the disgraced energy minister blamed farmers for increased energy prices. I table an article from *Queensland Country Life*—

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting Hon. Bailey, dated 28 June 2017 [[1559](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Article from *Queensland Country Life* online, dated 28 June 2017, titled 'Why farmers are to blame for high electricity bills' [[1560](#)].

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise on a point of order, I take personal offence at the member for Nanango's comments and ask her to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango, will you withdraw?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. This article by *Queensland Country Life* which I am happy to table is headlined 'Why farmers are to blame for high electricity bills'. The incompetent, failed energy minister or then energy minister—

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise on a point of order. I am being misrepresented by the member for Nanango. That is not accurate and I ask her to withdraw.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hang on, I have not asked you to continue. I never heard the member for Yeerongpilly's point of order because of all the noise in the House, so I will hear the member for Yeerongpilly's point of order, make a ruling and then we will move on.

**Mr BAILEY:** I submit to you respectfully that the headline to which the member for Nanango refers is that of a media outlet; it was not a quote from me. I never said those words. For the member to misrepresent me again is a disgrace and she should withdraw. I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Yeerongpilly, you can write to the Speaker and state your grievances.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That article clearly articulated what this Palaszczuk government thinks of regional people, of farmers.


**Mr WATTS:** I rise on a point of order. The member for Yeerongpilly is interjecting with unparliamentarily language.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I did not hear it, member for Toowoomba North. If you want to, write to the Speaker about it. Member for Nanango, you can continue.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** The article clearly outlines the blaming of farmers for high electricity bills. That is this incompetent government.

*(Time expired)*

### **Pine Rivers Electorate, Transport Infrastructure**

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (11.49 am): It is nice to put a stop to the contribution of the member for Nanango. I think we should get *Fact Check* in on the hyperbole from the member for Nanango. She certainly needs a reminder in terms of downward pressure on energy prices. It was those opposite who increased energy prices by 43 per cent under the Newman-Nicholls government. What a disgrace!

I rise today to speak about the new transport infrastructure being delivered for our growing community in Pine Rivers. This growth presents a transport infrastructure challenge. Transport is an economic and a lifestyle issue. Every hour spent in the car sitting in traffic is an hour away from our families. That is why I have worked so hard to deliver new road upgrades, more and quicker train services, a station upgrade and bus service improvements. The proposed university at Petrie presents us with an opportunity. Our road, train and bus network must evolve to meet the changing needs of the population it services.

Congestion is an ongoing headache for people in my electorate, particularly for many who are caught in the daily migration of commuters to the city for work. Last year the Caboolture and Ferny Grove train lines replaced the Gold Coast line as South-East Queensland's busiest rail routes. Caboolture is seeing some 12,500 commuters entering into and leaving the CBD each peak hour and Ferny Grove is seeing some 8,000 commuters. Every government for 20 years has been building roads, upgrading intersections and trying to solve these problems. The reality is that until public transport becomes the cheaper and much faster option our roads will remain clogged.

The Fairer Fares package rollout is seeing a typical commuter from Pine Rivers saving around \$900 a year, along with simpler and easier to understand zones. Only the Palaszczuk government is committed to Cross River Rail. This project will save eight minutes of travel time on the Caboolture line, provide an additional 5,400 seats for Moreton Bay and see trains departing every six minutes. It will take 18,500 cars off the road. In stark contrast, the LNP will not back this congestion-busting, capacity-building project. They have already killed it off once before for the BaT Tunnel and now the LNP want to put the project into review and think about congestion. The people have had thousands of hours sitting in traffic to think about congestion and they want action and that is exactly what we are doing.

I have worked hard to secure significant rail infrastructure upgrades for tracks and bridges—some propped up over eight decades and groaning under current use: replacement works for North Pine, South Pine and Tributary Creek rail bridges to make rail travel faster, safer and more reliable. As a candidate I called for an accessible Strathpine station. This \$15.2 million upgrade will provide independent accessibility and early works will commence in November this year. Over recent months I have been out in our community with Queensland Rail asking commuters for feedback on the proposed upgrades and there has been much positive and constructive feedback. The installation of lifts, a new overpass footbridge, drop-off points, amenities and general improvement will ensure that locals can get about the station easier, faster and in a safer manner.


There is plenty of good news in my community in the roads space. The ongoing works on the Gateway Upgrade North south of Nudgee—widening that section to six lanes—is an investment that is much welcomed and very long overdue. That section is a choke point in peak time traffic and a key artery that many in my community rely on every day. I have been working hard with TMR to fine-tune

the design that will see the removal of two sets of traffic lights and a roundabout at the Gympie Road-Dixon Street intersection, replacing them with one signalised intersection. This will remove a significant choke point and will ensure smooth flow of traffic for the future growth of the Strathpine business district. Further down the road in the neighbouring electorate of Kallangur, we are also seeing the upgrade of the Petrie roundabout. Named by the RACQ seven years ago as one of the worst congestion spots in Pine Rivers, it is the Palaszczuk government that has stepped up to invest in fixing this bottleneck, a very timely fix when considering the university campus will come online by 2020.

Much community consultation was conducted with local business as I set about delivering the upgraded intersection at Kremzow and South Pine roads, Brendale. I would like to thank those owners at the Brendale Business Park for sharing their views and being prepared to work together to get the balance right at the intersection. There is so much more that I have delivered. I have delivered major upgrades on the Eatons Crossing Road intersection with a dedicated turning lane for Bunya Road and the intersection of Eatons Crossing and Samford-Dayboro roads has been resurfaced. So many people have been pleased with the upgrade of the bus interchange at Strathpine.

I have launched a transport survey. It is an ongoing way for me to hear the views and opinions of people in my electorate to focus my discussions with TMR, TransLink, council and our ministers for transport and main roads. I have been so surprised with the hundreds of people expressing their views. I thank them for their input and encourage people to go to my website and Facebook page to continue to let me know what is important to them.

### Minister for Education, Performance

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (11.54 am): The education of our children should always be a priority of government and it should be the singular focus of a minister. Our children, our teachers, our principals and our parents deserve that. The LNP understands the importance of education. We want our students to have an education that is agile to a changing world but has a strong focus on fundamentals like reading, writing, numeracy and science. It is vitally important for the minister to be focused on what we can do to prepare for the future and improve areas of need today. We need a framework that gives our students the skills to participate in an ever changing world so that when they leave school and enter the workforce they will be ready. That is why the LNP has identified education as one of our six key economic drivers.

What do we know about the commitment of the Minister for Education to her portfolio area? We know that in the first quarter of the year the minister's diary revealed that she preferred to spend her time at Justin Bieber concerts and eating yum cha than focusing on the 560,000 state school students in Queensland and their journey of learning and educational outcomes. The minister was not too pleased about her diary being scrutinised because it exposed the fact that a lowly 20 per cent of her ministerial time was committed to our kids. I will continue to examine the minister's diary because the Premier seems to be looking the other way. Worse still, the Premier has allowed this trend to continue into the second and beginning third quarters of this year. That is not leadership, it is the actions of a do-nothing Premier.

A quick look at the latest instalment of the education minister's diary confirms she is still on casual rates. The minister's April to July diaries reveal around 240 appointments across her portfolio areas which also encompass Tourism and the Commonwealth Games. Only a paltry 48 appointments related to stakeholders in the Education space. What this clearly shows is that the minister continues to spend only a fifth of her time on her Education portfolio. It confirms that Queensland has a part-time Minister for Education. Queensland has 'Casual Kate'. We know 'Casual Kate'. As part of her portfolio responsibilities she does not mind going to the footy as often as she can.

**Mr POWER:** I rise to a point of order. This pointless speech should use correct titles.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Aspley, you know the rules in relation to correct titles.


**Ms DAVIS:** As I said, the minister likes an NRL double header and she was there front and centre with her VIP ticket at Origin III. One could be excused for thinking the member for Ashgrove is actually the minister for sport and fun times. At a time when our NAPLAN results are not where we want them to be, at a time when we need proper planning for future schools, at a time when the number of kids with extended unexplained absences is on the rise we have a part-time education minister. At a time when teachers are having to deal with increasing behavioural issues in the classroom, when teacher assaults are dismissed by this government as a mere percentage victory and at a time when illicit substances are infiltrating our primary and high schools across the state we have a part-time education minister.

As a state we must ensure our children get the best education to help them reach their potential and to ensure their future economic prosperity. Queensland's education system needs the attention of a minister who is present, one who ensures the system keeps up with change, particularly if we are to remain competitive in a global market. We need a minister who sets standards and ensures we have the right education settings in place for reading, writing and numeracy through both the curriculum and teaching to ensure our children are best placed for the future.

Students deserve more than a part-time minister. They deserve a minister who gives more than one-fifth of her time to their educational outcomes. They do not need a part-time minister who has her eye off the ball and allows for absurd policy development such as stopping kids from exchanging Christmas cards with their friends at school.

What do we see from this do-nothing casual approach to education in Queensland? We see that there are problems and that those problems will continue under a part-time minister. We need solutions to address important issues in education, but under this minister they go on the backburner and they stay there. If only the minister put as much effort into our kids as she seems to be putting into getting the Logies to Brisbane. Only the LNP will build a better Queensland and deliver better education outcomes.

### Queensland Rail

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.59 am): As the one-year anniversary of this Labor government's catastrophic rail fail fast approaches, one thing is abundantly clear to South-East Queensland commuters: it ain't going away anytime soon. In fact, it is fair to say that Anastacia Palaszczuk has about as much chance of fixing this rail fail as New South Wales does of winning 10 State of Origin series in a row. For the benefit of the House, I will recap. What began with the aborted attempt to open the new Redcliffe Peninsular line turned into a commuter nightmare when it was revealed that Labor had forgotten to recruit and train enough drivers for the new timetable. Even when Labor cut 1,800 services a month, they could not ensure that the trains turned up on time.

At Christmas 2016, two-thirds of what was already a reduced schedule was cancelled with no notice given to commuters. As a result, we had the Strachan commission of inquiry, a lame duck minister resigned and another lame duck minister failed to stand up to the unions and implement key recommendations. I remind the House that there was zero external recruitment, despite saying that they would initiate it immediately, and an inability to get the new generation rollingstock onto our lines. Now we are being told by Deutsche Bahn that we will need 18 new trains in time for the Commonwealth Games or that, to use the words of the member for Maryborough, there will be a debacle. The Palaszczuk Labor government's legacy on public transport is cuts, confusion, buck passing and packed trains and it ain't going to get any better, because it simply is not getting any better.

Three weeks ago, we had the debacle on the Ferny Grove line. I refer to reports from that event. Distressed passengers were trapped on a train for almost three hours in a horror trip that left scared children bawling to be let off and forced some travellers to urinate in open carriages. They sat in total darkness for about one-third of the three-hour ordeal. Eighteen-year-old Christian Berndt of Ferny Hills described it as follows—

We were told we were going to be evacuated, which was meant to happen after an hour-and-a-half. This never ended up happening.

They decided on a few other plans, which didn't work. The announcements were horrible. We'd go an hour without hearing anything.

In the time it took to fix the train and get going again, we all could have got safely, and reached a road to take a taxi, bus, Uber—literally anything would have been better than how it was handled.


My compensation for my three hours in the one spot was my \$1.95 fare refund and a verbal apology. I'm obviously not too impressed with that.

How did Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk respond? She got furious and we know what happens when she gets furious: absolutely nothing! Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk is calling for Queensland Rail to apologise to every passenger left trapped on the train for almost three hours, but stops short of calling for heads to roll because she knows that the only head that needs to roll is that of the Deputy Premier.

Nearly two weeks ago, we had the crazy episode when carriage doors remained open on a train travelling at speeds of up to 100 kilometres an hour on the Gold Coast line, horrifying passengers on their peak-hour trip to work. That occurred on the northbound train leaving Nerang for Helensvale station at about 7.45 am. Despite efforts to push the emergency assistance button for a Queensland Rail staffer to turn off the power to the doors, they opened again at the Nerang station. What was the minister's response? The Deputy Premier's response was that it is an extremely concerning incident. Again, zero responsibility, zero apology and zero effort to fix the rail fail.

Last week, the 5.59 am Caboolture to Roma Street service was stuck for more than an hour, south of Narangba station. To cap it all off, the Fair Work Commission has had to do what Annastacia Palaszczuk and Jackie Trad could not do, that is, stand up to the unions and put them in their place. Finally, 217 days after the Strachan report was handed down, we have advertisements calling externally for new drivers. As I said, at this rate Annastacia Palaszczuk has about as much chance of fixing this rail fail as New South Wales has of winning 10 State of Origin series in a row.

### Ipswich Electorate, Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (12.05 pm): I would like to highlight the success of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program in my electorate of Ipswich and how proud I am to be part of a government that creates opportunities for Queenslanders, unlike the Nicholls LNP government that squandered every opportunity that came their way. In Ipswich, the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program has not only given disadvantaged and unemployed people a pathway to skills and employment; it has greatly benefitted the broader community.

For example, last week I had the pleasure of attending the graduation of 10 women who had completed their certificate III in early childhood education at PCYC Ipswich through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work Community Work Skills Project. Some of those women had faced major barriers and hardships in their lives. All of them worked incredibly hard to get their certificate III qualification. All 10 have now secured ongoing employment and are going on to do a diploma in the same area. That is a fantastic result for my community. Those women are all now qualified employees, earning a wage and making friends among colleagues and clients. One of the graduates, a mother of three, said that the program had improved her confidence, given her the initiative to look for work, given her real encouragement and taught her how to persevere and be resilient. The story of how her life has changed due to the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is a familiar one that shows how the program is making a real difference in people's lives.

This government is proud to have supported the Community Work Skills Project through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. In the latest funding round, PCYC Ipswich received \$81,200 for their Get Set for Work childcare project. That means another 30 disadvantaged jobseekers in Ipswich will have the chance to work towards their certificate III qualification and see themselves on the pathway to meaningful employment. Throughout the Ipswich region, in the latest funding round \$1.7 million has been allocated to local Ipswich organisations to help them run training programs for unemployed jobseekers. So far, more than 580 people from the Ipswich region have got jobs as a result of Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to getting people into jobs. In fact, 94,500 jobs have been created since Labor came into power in 2015. That is why we reinstated the initiative after it was scrapped by the former LNP Nicholls government. In the Ipswich region, our government is funding another nine projects to help get more locals into secure employment. Had the LNP still been in government, those 10 women graduates whom I met last week at the PCYC Ipswich not only would not have participated in Skilling Queenslanders for Work but also would have had no opportunity of getting back into the workforce.

When the former LNP government, under Newman and Nicholls, scrapped the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program in 2012, it showed that they were not serious about helping Queenslanders get the skills and training they need. It showed that they were not committed to helping people find work. It showed appalling economic management, as well. During an independent analysis of the program by Deloitte Access Economics, we learned that for every \$1 of government expenditure, or in this case investment, there was an \$8 return. It is hard to fathom how Tim Nicholls, as treasurer of Queensland at the time, could not see that for himself before he made the extremely poor decision to cut funding to the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.




Since the Palaszczuk government reinstated Skilling Queenslanders for Work, 9,000 Queenslanders have found work. Those people were long-term unemployed, disengaged youth, mature age jobseekers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people with disabilities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. Those 9,000 Queenslanders are now employed, earning a wage and contributing to the Queensland economy. All the evidence shows that the program is working and helping Queenslanders find jobs. This government employs Queenslanders; Nicholls and the LNP cut jobs.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work is vitally important in my electorate of Ipswich, with unemployment higher than the state average and with the recent devastating news of large numbers of job losses in the community. There is a tremendous need in Ipswich for programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work and the Back to Work program.

Programs like these make a real difference. The Back to Work program was wildly successful in the regions and this Labor government has extended it to the south-east corner—something I know has been very well received in my electorate. The programs form partnerships with community organisations and local employers to determine local skills and entry level industry and labour needs.

I am very proud to be part of a government that has created opportunities for people in Ipswich and for Queenslanders in general. These are vitally important programs for the future of Queensland. I commend the government for them.

### Racing Industry

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (12.10 pm): The incompetence of this government in dealing with the racing industry goes on and on. The list of failures is damning, and this government has destroyed confidence in the racing industry in this state, across all codes and all parts of Queensland. It started in 2015 when the government used the live baiting issues in the greyhound code as an excuse for the political sacking of the entire board of Racing Queensland and each of the code boards as well.

That was nothing short of a political witch-hunt, and confidence in racing was sent spiralling as a result of the political malice shown towards the board of the time. The minister at the time, the member for Rockhampton, showed little interest in a portfolio that contributes so much to Queensland's economy, especially in rural and regional areas. Now we have the minister, the member for Brisbane Central, running around the state presenting trophies at race meets and yet failing dismally to inspire confidence in racing.

As the *Courier-Mail* recently pointed out, the arrogance of the minister is not helping racing in this state. This article from the *Courier-Mail* on 14 August 2017 titled 'Arrogance isn't helping racing'—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Crawford): Member for Beaudesert, we do not use props. Are you tabling that article?

**Mr KRAUSE:** I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier Mail*, dated 14 August 2017, titled 'Arrogance isn't helping racing' [[1561](#)].

This comes on the back of the minister being quoted as saying—

I reckon I am probably one of the best racing ministers they (the racing industry) have ever seen in recent times.

That is not what I hear as I move around the state talking to race clubs, trainers, owners and breeders. They bemoan the fact that the government has devastated confidence in their industry, appointed an administration that is struggling to find its feet and failed to deliver an infrastructure plan despite promising to do so a couple of years ago. We on this side delivered infrastructure in spades for our racing industry and set the industry on course for a brighter future, with increased prize money and confidence for growth.

Now, that has been shattered by a government that cannot help itself but to politicise racing. Now we have a minister who calls herself the greatest. I have some news for the minister. She is certainly not the greatest, although she may well say, 'I am the greatest,' just like Muhammad Ali said that he was the greatest all those years ago. 'I am the greatest,' is what the Minister for Racing says. I table that photograph.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph, annotated, depicting boxer Muhammad Ali [[1562](#)].

Perhaps it is a bit more like this photograph which has another quote from the greatest, Muhammad Ali, who said, 'I am the greatest. I said that even before I knew I was.' I table that photograph.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph, annotated, depicting boxer Muhammad Ali [[1563](#)].

I think that is what the Minister for Racing is saying as well. She knew she was the greatest before she even said she was. That is not what the racing industry says. This government and this minister are hopeless in governing the racing industry for this state.

I have news for the minister. The industry disagrees—she is not the greatest and she is certainly not one of the best racing ministers they have seen in recent times. They have seen the mishaps she has overseen in putting in place QRIC and allowing the appointment of the very person who oversaw live baiting in the greyhound industry as the chief integrity officer. They have overseen how the minister oversaw the commissioner of QRIC, Mr Barnett, go through nine months of investigating this person before he was finally sacked last month, apparently after he was never formally appointed, despite the glowing press release that QRIC put out late last year about the appointment of Mr Dart to that role.

The industry has seen time after time race clubs done over by the actions of RQ in managing their insurance, where premiums are through the roof, threatening the viability of many clubs. There is underinsurance of assets and underinsurance of business interruption matters. RQ could not even send them the insurance policies that they are meant to be covered by under the umbrella policy being managed by RQ. This has all happened on this government's watch and this minister's watch. It is a debacle.

The industry has seen QR bungle the tendering of repairs to the Townsville Turf Club, where mysteriously contractors not awarded the tender showed up on course before the tender was closed and dumped tonnes of sand there, apparently thinking they were getting the job. Apparently someone was sacked at RQ for allowing this to happen, but the question remains—what type of system is in place that allows these things to happen?

We have the Albion Park sale fiasco. Yes, the minister endorsed RQ's plans to sell off Albion Park. So much for no asset sales under this government! Nearly \$1 million has been—


**Ms GRACE:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member is clearly misleading the House. I take offence and I ask that he withdraw that statement which is incorrect. I take offence and I ask that he withdraw the statement that I have endorsed the sale of Albion Park. That is misleading the House and I take offence. I ask that he withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister, we are not debating the issue. Member for Beaudesert, the minister has said that she takes offence. Will you withdraw?

**Mr KRAUSE:** I withdraw. Nearly \$1 million has been squandered on the Albion Park sale process—money that could have been invested in country racing by this government and by RQ. We need to see a stop to this saga. I call on the minister to pull RQ into line, stop the asset sale of Albion Park, consult with all codes using Albion Park—both the greyhounds and the trots—and come up with a long-term plan that is in the interests of the whole community, both inside and outside of racing.

We have seen country clubs put through the wringer of increasing paperwork and bureaucratic compliance. This minister and this government have destroyed confidence in racing in Queensland and they cannot wait for them to be replaced.

### Townsville Stadium

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.15 pm): On Friday, 18 August at 9 am a very special event occurred in Townsville. Townsville community members gathered together on the site of the North Queensland stadium. Officially, a vision of days past that our proud Labor government could, and indeed would, deliver a new stadium for the city of Townsville became a reality. This will be a stadium built for North Queensland by North Queenslanders. Thanks to local jobs being a priority for us and for Watpac, our Buy Local policy compliments this investment. People from across our local community, the state and the country came together to mark what was indeed a very special occasion—the sod turn of dirt where the home of the North Queensland stadium will sit and entertain thousands for many years to come.

Our great Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, must be commended for her vision in 2014 and for her commitment of \$140 million to deliver this massive \$250 million piece of public infrastructure, which has become jobs generating. Some 750 jobs have already been created. Unlike those on the other side, who cut, sack and sell, we create jobs. We have already seen investment from businesses. CQ University has invested in a \$40 million campus in the PDA. There has been the recent Sealink Queensland announcement of their MLP reaching stage 2. This will see another \$56 million invested in the area, with a new ferry terminal being constructed that will connect to the stadium site. The Hilton hotel group are wanting to invest in our priority development area. Today's *Townsville Bulletin* reports

that Honeycombe has purchased the old Aurizon 19-hectare rail site—we will not have ‘hectators’ but plenty of spectators. There will be more construction in our PDA, more investment and more jobs. It will be a commercial mecca. Well done, Peter Honeycombe.

For the sod turning, Minister Anthony Lynham joined fellow state and federal MPs, Mayor Jenny Hill, councillors, Cowboy’s CEO, Greg Tonner, former North Queensland Cowboys players Matty Bowen and Brent Tate and legend Kerry Boustead—who was a driving force behind the original stadium. Also present at the sod turning was ARL chairman, John Grant, Watpac CEO and multiple media representatives—including someone who should be commended; that is *Townsville Bulletin* editor, Ben English. Through our local newspaper he helped deliver the stadium by pushing for Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull—‘Malcolm in the middle’; we do not know where he is at the moment—to join our Premier’s and government’s commitment to commit funding for the North Queensland stadium, home of the mighty North Queensland Cowboys. We texted each other after that event. He was correct when he said, ‘This is a demonstration of what we can do when we all pull together.’ History will show that indeed the federal government will come to the party, albeit at the eleventh hour—and 59 minutes—to commit funding through the nation’s first ever city deal to help deliver the stadium.


The person who started the call needs to be thanked and acknowledged. That person is Cowboys’ co-captain Johnathan Thurston. His call will never be forgotten. After the famous 2015 NRL grand final—who can forget it—which saw the Cowboys become premierships winners, he said, ‘Townsville deserves a new stadium.’ Thank you, JT. Who knows what will happen after the weekend? The Cowboys are back in the finals! Thank you, Bulldogs. I have never backed the Bulldogs in my life, but I did on Sunday.

Indigenous elders from the Wulgurukaba and Bindal people performed a special smoking ceremony before the sod turning. I believe that the Indigenous spirits of elders past will help lift our team spirits when they are playing or challenged on this special piece of land. Like the mighty All Blacks in New Zealand, especially in Dunedin, the home of Rugby champions, we will make this our home where other teams will fear to play as they face the greatness of the North Queensland fighting spirit, drenched in mateship.

It is indeed an endearing quality that we have in North Queensland, where we stand shoulder to shoulder to help a mate or neighbour when they are down. We see it in times of devastating natural disasters like Cyclone Larry, Yasi or Debbie and in industrial disasters like the QNI collapse. We stand together to overcome these challenges.

This stadium will become the home of future games. Of course, we have already called for, and hopefully we will get, a State of Origin match to be played in Townsville. I note the handing in of our homework by the LNP who also called for it but we had already asked for it. We also want more—like an NRL Indigenous All Stars game, concerts and many other events. Best of all will be a future NRL grand final when once again the North Queensland Cowboys will prevail. They will snatch victory from the jaws of defeat—at the last minute—to once again raise the NRL premierships trophy in Townsville, where the NRL grand final trophy will once again be held.

### **Tully-Millstream Hydro-Electric Project**

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (12.20 pm): The Tully-Millstream hydro-electric project was approved in 1988. This would have provided 600 megawatts of power generation—clean, green energy. It would have saved hundreds of millions of dollars of transmission losses from the southern generators. Politicians did not have the gumption to continue with this project. A massive clean, green energy scheme was put on hold as politicians did not have the willpower to continue with this project.

I am very pleased that the House won the support for the construction of the Tully-Millstream hydro-electric scheme. The last thing we want is five years of more studies. We do not need a long, drawn-out study like the previous feasibility study which took five years. We need construction. We now have majority support of the House for the construction of this scheme. The KAP is very keen to establish a construction authority—similar to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority—for the construction of this hydro scheme.

The federal government also needs to commit to funding projects, not just studies into them. No federal money has been provided through the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund. There has also been no funding provided by the federal government to any projects in the north. We are seeing a high number of feasibility studies into dams and water infrastructure projects right throughout

the north but not one single project has been approved. They are talking about these projects, so there is a perception that they are doing something—that they are building these projects—but we are seeing no projects constructed. I will read the Electricity Commission's report back in 1988 with regard to the approval of the construction of the Tully-Millstream hydro scheme. The then minister for mines, energy and northern development, Martin Tenni, said—

In terms of environmental safeguards, the Tully-Millstream hydro-electric scheme will be one of the most responsible power generation projects yet undertaken in Australia.

Six years will have been spent in planning the project by the time construction starts next year. Already, the plans have been revised in several important ways to respond to the findings of a comprehensive feasibility study.

In their formal form, the plans contain changes designed to minimise the environmental impact. Now, only about 135 hectares of the 660,000 hectares of rainforest in the Wet Tropics will be affected by construction.

The scheme will proceed because it is soundly-based and represents the most practical and cost-effective way of meeting the ever-growing power needs of Queenslanders, with the least impact on the environment.

**The report states—**

The State Government's November 1988 decision to approve the \$550 million project reflects the long lead time needed to build a scheme of this magnitude.

Construction is planned to start next year (1990), with the power station coming online by 1996. The actual timing of various segments of the programme will be under constant review so it can respond to electricity demand growth.

**The report states—**

The Queensland Government's decision to proceed with the Tully-Millstream project was aided by detailed engineering and environmental reports prepared as part of a \$5 million, two-year feasibility study into the scheme.


The study included:

- surveying;
- geological exploration;
- materials testing;
- hydrological analysis;
- engineering studies;
- environmental investigations of—
- flora, fauna and streams;

A two-year feasibility study has already been done for this project. Six years of work has gone into this project. What is being pushed? A feasibility study. We support the construction of this project. It needs to start now.

*(Time expired)*

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements**

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.25 pm): I am proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk government, a government that responds to the needs of Queenslanders, creating jobs—over 94,000 in fact— attracting investment and building important infrastructure. The Palaszczuk government has listened and responded to the needs of baysiders—the young, the elderly, the unemployed, the disadvantaged, the business community and industry. However, under the Nicholls-Newman government baysiders suffered—we were punished. We lost many front-line services so important to a community because the LNP cut them: the child safety office—closed; the department of housing office—closed; the Bayside Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Service—closed; the Caravan and Manufactured Home Residents Association—closed; 24-hour primary care—gone; and a huge reduction or relocation of health services out of the bayside. Let us not forget the axing of the successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.

Perhaps the most hurtful was the closure of the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. This was a functional, accredited aged-care facility that was closed by the previous LNP government—a policy orchestrated by their current leader. I know that I have spoken many times about this shameful action, an action that meant 85 elderly and infirm residents lost their home. I will continue to remind Queenslanders of the actions of the previous LNP government. Sadly, those attacks were on the some of the most marginalised in my community—the elderly, families, young people, unemployed and renters. The architect of those cuts sits in this House and is none other than the current Leader of the Opposition, the member for Clayfield.

The previous LNP government picked on what they thought were easy targets. However, we baysiders are not easy targets and we sent a strong message in 2015. We made it clear that we would not stand for the disgraceful axing of our local services and the total lack of regard for our community. The great news for baysiders is that the Palaszczuk government is delivering for the bayside and for all of Queensland. Our government—the Palaszczuk government—is committed to creating jobs, building important infrastructure and returning important local front-line services, unlike those opposite's mantra of cut, sack, sell. Gundu Pa, our new community health centre, which is due to open soon, will restore 24-hour primary care services on the bayside and deliver new and upgraded health services. This will meet the growing needs of our community providing a centralised, modern, public health precinct.

Those opposite sacked people. They closed the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit and cut services where they were needed the most. That is the clear difference between those opposite and the Palaszczuk government. We build front-line services; the LNP cut them. The Palaszczuk government is all about employing Queenslanders and creating opportunities; the LNP want to cut them. In the bayside, Skilling Queenslanders for Work—which I remind the House was another program axed under the previous LNP government—has, since its reintroduction, supported 340 local young people, and 154 are now employed and 66 are undertaking study or have returned to school.


B'Leigh is one of those 340. She is a 20-year-old woman. Growing up, she was subjected to physical and emotional abuse. In year 12 she was kicked out of home and was living in and out of youth shelters. She suffered depression, was self-harming and attempted suicide. She moved in with a friend and was subjected to mental and sexual abuse, bringing B'Leigh close to breaking point. In her words, she 'hit rock bottom'. Through Get Set for Work she discovered a group of people she could feel safe with and, importantly, she discovered a future. She completed certificates II and III in hospitality and now wants to undertake a community service certificate so she can help other young people in the community who are going through rough times and connect them with the services and caring people who can help them through their struggles.

The Palaszczuk government is investing in education, with funding delivered for new facilities at Wynnum West and Darling Point state schools and Brisbane Bayside State College as well as more teachers and a teacher aide in every prep classroom. Public transport fares have been slashed which means baysiders can save up to \$600 a year, and work is underway on Cross River Rail, which will be a great congestion buster. There are so many things that the Palaszczuk government has done. I could go on and on but I am running out of time. What I want to stress is that this is what good government does. We are about creating opportunities for people in our community, not cutting them.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Crawford): Order! The time for matters of public interest is over.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.31 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency recommends the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2). The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (No. 2) 2017

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I. PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial year starting 1 July 2016

GOVERNOR

Date: 5 September 2017

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 5 September 2017, from his Excellency the Governor recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2017 [[1564](#)].

## Introduction

**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.31 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial year starting 1 July 2016. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2017 [[1565](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2017, explanatory notes [[1566](#)].

The Appropriation Bill (Parliament) (No. 2) 2017 provides supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service in 2016-17 of \$2.411 million. The unforeseen expenditure primarily relates to additional funding for the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee, increases in salaries for members of parliament following the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal's determination in August 2016, increased funding to upgrade lifts in the Parliamentary Annexe and to upgrade parliamentary IT systems including the broadcast of proceedings and members' video on demand. Together with the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2017, which will be introduced today, the total supplementary appropriation for 2016-17 is \$2.273 billion.

## First Reading

**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.32 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:** Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.

## MINISTERIAL PAPER

### Consolidated Fund

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.32 pm): The Consolidated Fund Financial Report is tabled in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Accountability Act 2009. The CFFR provides a statement containing particulars of transactions of the consolidated fund and details of the appropriation paid to each department during that financial year.


The CFFR outlines by department total appropriation from the consolidated fund for the financial year. It includes unforeseen expenditure—that is, expenditure from the consolidated fund above the amount approved by the annual appropriation on an individual department basis—and provides explanations for variations in the approved annual appropriation amount.

The CFFR also contains a number of other disclosures, including a statement of receipts and payments, opening and closing balances of the consolidated fund bank account and investment accounts and collections by department paid to the consolidated fund. I table the Consolidated Fund Financial Report.

*Tabled paper:* Consolidated Fund Financial Report 2016-17 [[1567](#)].

## APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.33 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Crawford): The message from His Excellency recommends the Appropriation Bill (No. 2). The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2) 2017

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2016

GOVERNOR

Date: 5 September 2017

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 5 September 2017, from his Excellency the Governor recommending the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2017 [[1568](#)].

### Introduction

**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.34 pm): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2016. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2017 [[1569](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2017, explanatory notes [[1570](#)].

Today I tabled the 2016-17 Consolidated Fund Financial Report, or CFFR, which outlines, by department, total appropriation from the consolidated fund for the financial year. The CFFR includes any unforeseen expenditure and provides explanations on a department basis for variations from the approved annual appropriation amount. The introduction of the bill into parliament for supplementary appropriation on the same day as the tabling of the CFFR supports parliamentary scrutiny of unforeseen expenditure.

The Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2017 provides for supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by five departments in 2016-17 of \$2.270 billion. Unforeseen expenditure is the term used to describe payments from the consolidated fund above the amount approved by annual appropriation on an individual department basis. Although called 'expenditure', unforeseen expenditure can also relate to the additional appropriation provided to Treasury for repayment of debt. Of the total amount of \$2.270 billion, \$1.068 billion—or almost half of it—was incurred by Queensland Treasury. Treasury repaid \$1.032 billion of general government debt. While not foreseen at the time of the 2016-17 budget, this level of debt repayment was largely consistent with the estimated actual \$1.114 billion debt repayment for 2016-17 identified in the 2017-18 budget.

Unforeseen expenditure incurred by other departments related to a range of key Palaszczuk government initiatives including expenditure for the Powering Queensland Plan, the Works for Queensland program, and the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority. The Powering Queensland Plan is the government's \$1.16 billion strategy to stabilise electricity costs, deliver jobs and investment, and lead the transition to a clean energy sector. The surplus recorded in June's budget for 2016-17 was \$2.8 billion, the biggest in a decade. That surplus may have been \$770 million higher; however, to provide immediate electricity bill relief, the government has chosen to invest \$770 million to cover the cost of the Solar Bonus Scheme for the next three years.

The effect of this measure was to halve the expected QCA price rise for a typical small business from 8.2 per cent to 4.1 per cent for a saving of \$99. For a typical household, the expected price rise more than halved from 7.1 per cent to 3.3 per cent—a saving of \$56. We also put downward pressure on wholesale prices by directing Stanwell to return Swanbank E to service and alter its bidding strategies. These measures will have positive outcomes for Queenslanders.

We are also committed to investing in our regions. The Works for Queensland program is another example of how this government is prioritising the regions and encouraging economic growth in those areas. The first stage of Works for Queensland prioritises regional areas outside South-East Queensland which are experiencing higher unemployment rates. The program is supporting local

governments outside SEQ to undertake job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works. Alongside our Back to Work initiative, this is just another way that the Palaszczuk government is creating more jobs for Queenslanders.

We are also committed to improving the health conditions for Indigenous communities in Queensland. The budget handed down an investment of \$120 million over four years to improve water, wastewater and solid waste infrastructure for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote parts of Queensland. This initiative provides funding that will be tailored to each community and will help to close the gap on Indigenous disadvantage.

The Palaszczuk government is also delivering the No. 1 infrastructure project for Queensland. This government is fully committed to the delivery of Cross River Rail. We have made the long-term funding commitment necessary to ensure that this project—so long promised—can be delivered with certainty. The budget provided an additional \$1.952 billion of capital funding over the forward estimates period. With previous allocations of \$850 million in the State Infrastructure Fund and what was a \$10 million commitment from the Australian government until the announcement by the Deputy Premier today, the forward estimates contain a total of \$2.812 billion to 2020-21. Future years, budgets will provide additional funding of \$2.597 billion over 2021-22 to 2023-24 to complete construction. This funding commitment to the full \$5.4 billion capital cost ensures that the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority can move forward with certainty to begin early works and market engagement for procurement of major contractors. We have publicly released the Cross River Rail business case to facilitate awareness of the case for Cross River Rail. We are disappointed that the Australian government has not yet made a project funding commitment and that Infrastructure Australia has made errors in its assessment of the project business case.

Cross River Rail is fundamental to ensuring that the transport system in South-East Queensland can grow to accommodate projected increases in population. We also recognise the significant potential of this infrastructure to add value to commercial and residential development sites across the region. I think that is one of the key parts of this investment. Besides the capital investment itself, it will spur on other investment in our state's capital. Recognising the significant potential of this infrastructure to add value to commercial and residential development sites across the region is the very point of that other investment.

We are committed to maximising the benefits available through integrated transport and land use development. The Cross River Rail Delivery Authority has a clear commercial mandate to explore the potential to leverage development to help fund the project. Due to our government's responsible fiscal approach, as I said earlier, we have been able to fund additional capital projects across the forward estimates. Unlike those who had a plan to sell off our state's assets, this government has focused on reducing general government debt simply through better balance sheet management. We have achieved this without selling off Queensland's income-generating assets, without increasing taxes on Queenslanders and without reducing services.

Together with the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) 2017, which was also introduced today, the total supplementary appropriation for the 2016-17 year is \$2.273 billion. This bill continues Labor's record of responsible fiscal management which has delivered lower debt, higher growth and more jobs. I am proud to have delivered three surplus budgets, and this bill continues our strong record of economic and fiscal management.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.40 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 Crawford): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.



## GUARDIANSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (12.40 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Integrity Act 2009, the Powers of Attorney Act 1998, the Public Guardian Act 2014 and the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 [[1571](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [[1572](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. This bill will amend Queensland's guardianship legislation—that is, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 and the Public Guardian Act 2014.

The guardianship legislation will have relevance for most of us at some point in our lives. Many of us have an older parent or relative who can no longer make their own decisions because they have a cognitive impairment such as dementia. Sometimes an adult's capacity to make decisions may be impaired due to an acquired brain injury, intellectual disability or mental illness. Queensland's guardianship legislation establishes a scheme for substitute decision-making for adults with impaired decision-making capacity. The legislation provides for the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal to appoint a guardian or an administrator to make personal and financial decisions on behalf of an adult with impaired capacity.

Under Queensland's guardianship legislation, a person is also able to plan for a time when they no longer have decision-making capacity. They can execute an enduring power of attorney to authorise another person to make personal and/or financial decisions, or they can sign an advance health directive to provide directions about their future health care.

Under the Public Guardian Act 2014 the Public Guardian also plays an important role, protecting the rights and interests of adults with impaired capacity by: investigating allegations of neglect, exploitation or abuse; acting as a guardian; and providing the Community Visitor Program. Overall, Queensland's guardianship legislation is working well. These amendments will make the law clearer and more user friendly; strengthen the safeguards for adults with impaired capacity; and better align the law with contemporary practice and human rights.

The amendments in the bill progress and support a number of actions in the *Queensland: an age-friendly community: action plan* launched by the Hon. Coralee O'Rourke MP. In particular, it strengthens safeguards and remedies for adults who have appointed attorneys under enduring documents to reduce the risk of financial abuse and exploitation. The amendments also implement a number of recommendations from the Queensland Law Reform Commission's report *A review of Queensland's guardianship laws*, tabled in parliament in 2010. The bill implements QLRC recommendations that strengthen the focus on contemporary practice and human rights for adults with impaired capacity; enhance safeguards for adults with impaired capacity; and improve the efficiency and clarity of Queensland's guardianship system.

The government has had strong support from a broad range of stakeholders from legal, medical and disability advocacy organisations on the amendments to guardianship legislation in this bill. I thank these organisations for their feedback, which has helped ensure that the amendments achieve their purpose.

One of the significant amendments included in this bill is the introduction of a statutory exception to ademption. Ademption occurs where the gift of a specific item of property in a will fails because prior to the testator's death, the property is sold or otherwise disposed of. A common example is where a person leaves their house as a specific testamentary gift in their will but then sells the house to fund their own aged care and the person does not update their will to reflect the changed circumstances. Upon the person's death, the gift is adeemed because it no longer forms part of the testator's estate. Any remaining proceeds from the sale fall into the residue of the estate and go to the residuary beneficiaries, potentially leaving the intended beneficiary of the specific gift of the house with no interest

under the will. As such, the rule of ademption may significantly distort the testator's intention and/or result in unjust outcomes. This is especially the case if the testator is an adult with impaired capacity and it is an attorney or administrator who deals with the adult's property.

The bill will amend the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 and the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 to create a statutory exception to ademption so that when an attorney under an enduring power of attorney or an administrator deals with the testator's property that is a gift under a will, the beneficiary is entitled to the same interest in any surplus money or other property arising from the sale or other dealing with the property. This will give effect to the testator's intentions before he or she lost capacity.

The bill will also create a limited missing person's jurisdiction for QCAT. When a person goes missing it may be some time before they are presumed to be dead at law or a coroner makes a finding that the person has died. The bill will provide that when a person is missing and there is a pressing need to preserve the adult's assets and property, QCAT will be specifically empowered to appoint an administrator to exercise financial decision-making powers on behalf of the adult. The bill will also make it clear that QCAT can order a current or former attorney or administrator to compensate a person for loss caused by the attorney or administrator's failure to comply with their duties under the guardianship legislation.

Previously, it was not clear if QCAT could exercise this jurisdiction in relation to former attorneys and administrators—for example, after the appointment had ended, the enduring power of attorney had been revoked or the adult had died. This amendment will enhance the availability of financial compensation for people subject to financial elder abuse. This is an action in the *Queensland: an age-friendly community: action plan*. The reforms will also require QCAT, when carrying out its functions or powers under the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, to seek and take into account the views, wishes and preferences of the adult and their support network to the greatest extent practicable. The reforms also strengthen the eligibility requirements for an enduring power of attorney so that an attorney must have capacity for a matter and must not have been a paid carer for the adult in the previous three years.

This bill clarifies the capacity needed for an adult to execute an advance health directive or an enduring power of attorney. It strengthens the prohibition on attorneys and administrators entering into transactions where their interests are in conflict with the adult for whom they are making financial decisions. The reforms provide that both a court and QCAT can order a current or former attorney, administrator or guardian to account for any profits they have accrued as a result of their failure to comply with their duties. The bill also broadens the protection available to whistleblowers who disclose confidential information when making a disclosure about conduct they believe could involve abuse, neglect or exploitation of an adult with impaired capacity.

To ensure Queensland's guardianship legislation is more consistent with contemporary practice and human rights, the bill also redrafts the general principles and the healthcare principle to be more consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also relocates the new general principles and healthcare principles to the beginning of both the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 and the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 to highlight the new principled approach and encourage the exercise of functions and powers under the acts in a way that is more consistent with human rights and contemporary practice. The bill provides that the minister is to prepare guidelines to assist persons required to make assessments about an adult's capacity.

Finally, to improve the efficiency and clarity of Queensland's guardianship legislation the bill also clarifies how the presumption of capacity is to be applied in certain circumstances; simplifies the certification process required for proving copies of enduring documents; and clarifies that an advance health directive or an enduring power of attorney made under the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 by an adult residing interstate is effective in Queensland. The bill also includes other non-guardianship related amendments that implement recommendations from two parliamentary committee reports.

The bill includes amendments to the Integrity Act 2009 to implement recommendations 1 and 2 of the Finance and Administration Committee report No. 19, *Inquiry into the report on the strategic review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner*. These amendments streamline the process for senior executives and senior officers obtaining advice from the Integrity Commissioner by removing the requirement for managerial consent and allow former designated persons—that is, former members of the Legislative Assembly, statutory office holders, statutory executives, senior executives or officers and staff members employed in the office of a minister or assistant minister—to seek access to the advice services of the Integrity Commissioner for a period of two years after leaving office.

The bill also implements recommendation 13 of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97 *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission* by making amendments to the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993 and the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010. These amendments will resolve conflicting statutory obligations in state and Commonwealth legislation to ensure that an officer or employee of a government owned corporation who discloses information in accordance with the requirements of the Crime and Corruption Act 2000 is afforded whistleblower protection.

An effective guardianship system is vital for upholding the rights and interests of adults with impaired capacity. This bill makes important and practical changes that will make meaningful improvements to the lives of some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (12.51 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


### Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

## COUNTER-TERRORISM AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 14 June (see p. 1609).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.52 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee has examined the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. The committee tabled their report on the bill on 11 August 2017. The report of the committee makes a single recommendation; that is, that the bill be passed by this House. I take the opportunity to thank the committee for their examination of the bill. I also want to express my gratitude for the work done by the committee secretariat in support of the committee. An erratum to the explanatory notes for the bill was tabled on 20 July 2017. That erratum simply corrects an error in the collection of statistical data associated with calls for service for the Explosive Ordnance Response Team.

The debate on this bill occurs against the background of recent events in Sydney, where one of the most significant counterterrorism disruption operations ever undertaken in this country resulted in the charging of two men with terrorism offences. Unfortunately, those events are not without precedent. Within the last three years there have been five terrorist attacks in Australia and 13 major counterterrorism disruption operations undertaken in response to planned terrorist attacks. Seventy-four people have been charged as a consequence of 31 counterterrorism operations undertaken by Australian law enforcement and intelligence agencies. This serves as a stark and sobering reminder that the threat of terrorism to our country and community is very real.


Since this bill was introduced in June internationally there have been a number of terrorist attacks on western societies, including: a vehicle attack on worshippers outside the Finsbury Park Mosque in London, which resulted in one person being killed and another 10 injured; a vehicle carrying weapons and explosives ramming into a police van in Paris; the stabbing of a police officer at Michigan airport in the United States; an attempted attack on Central Station in Brussels with a suitcase bomb; a knife attack in Hamburg, Germany where one person was stabbed and six other persons wounded; a knife

attack in Finland which resulted in two persons killed and another eight injured; an attempted attack on police near Buckingham Palace; and two vehicle attacks in Spain resulting in 16 people killed and more than 120 injured. Tragically, this included the death of a seven-year-old boy, Julian Cadman. I know that I speak for all members of this House in expressing our thoughts and prayers to Julian's family and friends.

Domestic and international experience demonstrates that the threat of terrorism is constantly evolving. Irrespective of whether the threat comes from radicalised individuals or from networks of people engaged in sophisticated and highly planned plots, our legislation must be adapted to reflect the reality that we face. As I indicated in my introductory speech, no government can completely extinguish the threat of terrorism, however, complacency will not curtail the carnage. What we can and must do is ensure that our police have the legislative powers they need to respond to the threat of terrorism and other threats to the community in a manner that ensures the threat is mitigated to the greatest extent possible.

Notwithstanding that reality, we should never lose sight of the fact that Queensland is an harmonious and multicultural society where there is a fundamental respect for the rights and liberties of all individuals. Those values and our adherence to them is in many ways our greatest defence against terrorism. For that reason, legislation such as this must always strike the right balance between the protection of the community and individual rights. To achieve that balance, the new powers contained in this bill are constrained by appropriate and measured safeguards.

This bill is the third instalment in the Palaszczuk government's substantive reforms of counterterrorism and emergency management powers here in Queensland. This bill and those which have preceded it serve to underscore our government's commitment to ensure that we have the legislative powers required to prevent, disrupt and effectively respond to the real threat of terrorism and other situations that pose a significant threat to the safety of our community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (12.56 pm): I rise to address the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill before the House which was introduced by the Minister for Police and Corrective Services. I want to begin by thanking the brave men and women of the Queensland Police Service for the work they do day in, day out in keeping Queenslanders safe and protecting them from harm. Unfortunately, we live in a world where we face ongoing attacks on the freedoms we all enjoy, and sometimes we take this for granted. Australia is facing the most significant ongoing threat from terrorism in our nation's history. The advice of the Prime Minister at the recent LNP conference in July was that since September 2014, law enforcement agencies have disrupted 12 planned terrorist attacks on home soil.

The extent of recent international attacks and foiled attacks on home soil here in Australia means that we must remain as vigilant as we can against possible threats to our way of life. In doing so, we need to listen to the trained law enforcement experts—the Queensland Police Service, the Australian Federal Police, the Crime and Corruption Commission and intelligence agencies—to ensure that our laws enable a swift response that either defuses an attack or, heaven help us, responds to one in a manner that prevents loss of life and catches the perpetrators. We all hope that the powers being implemented in this legislation are never needed in Queensland, but we should also be realistic.

These are extensive powers which are needed at this time, but we must also ensure that they have the appropriate judicial oversight and that the monitoring of these powers will ensure they are used effectively and appropriately; however, we trust the advice of the Queensland Police Service that these additional powers are justified. They will be reviewed in future to ensure they are relevant and appropriately applied. This is a time when we need to do what we can to preserve community safety.

As outlined in the explanatory notes to the bill, from September 2014 nationally there has been an escalation of terrorist related activity with four terrorist attacks having been committed, three resulting in fatalities. A further 12 imminent planned attacks have been disrupted. As a result of 27 separate counterterrorism operations, 62 persons have been charged. This increased threat is expected to endure for the foreseeable future. Not only is the threat of terrorism increasing but it is becoming more difficult for law enforcement and intelligence agencies to detect and disrupt. The advice of police is that contemporary terrorism methodology has seen a shift from hierarchical cells making detailed plans for mass casualties and infrastructure attacks to low-tech lone-actor terrorist attacks.


Debate, on motion of Mr Mander, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

## COUNTER-TERRORISM AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.30 pm), continuing: Low-tech attacks perpetrated by an individual or a small group are exponentially harder to detect and disrupt. There may be no visibility of planning, little or no direct communication between the terrorist group and the attackers, and limited time delay between intent and action. These low-tech attacks are often inspired by the terrorist group's public calls for such acts, with the perpetrators having tactical freedom to self-initiate and self-identify their targets based on their capability, size and resources. This is further exacerbated through their use of encryption and anonymising tools to make their use of the internet and social media invisible to intelligence and law enforcement agencies.

As outlined in the explanatory notes, the most likely scenario for a terrorist attack in Australia is a low-tech attack perpetrated by an individual or a small group. This would involve the use of readily available weapons such as knives, vehicles, firearms or improvised explosive devices, otherwise known as IEDs. We have seen similar such attacks overseas in Spain, the United Kingdom, Germany and France. It is a similar pattern of modern and increasingly sophisticated criminal behaviour that we need to be aware of and prepare for.

This bill amends the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 and repeals the Queensland Police Welfare Club Act 1970 to enhance public and police officer safety and to ensure police are able to respond rapidly and effectively to terrorist attacks and other critical incidents which pose a serious risk to life. Further objectives of the bill are to enhance the operational effectiveness of surveillance device powers under the PPRA and amend the PSPA and the PPRA to provide power for police to destroy explosives.


I thank the members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee who reviewed the bill. The committee received submissions from four key stakeholders: the Crime and Corruption Commission, the Queensland Law Society, the Office of the Information Commissioner and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties. We understand and appreciate the concerns raised through that review process, particularly by the Queensland Law Society; however, given the context of these laws and the international backdrop, we trust in the advice of the Queensland Police Service that these are time-and-place laws. As I said earlier, we remain optimistic that these additional powers are never needed or used, but we also need to be realistic and ever vigilant.

The proposed amendments in the bill include: clarifying that search powers include the power to search devices such as mobile phones or tablet computers; giving police the power to require a person to provide assistance to access a person's electronic device; providing police with the power to take and use a person's biometric information to establish or confirm the identity of a person; devolving the ability to declare an emergency situation to approved senior sergeants, from commissioned officers; clarifying that an emergency situation area can surround a moving activity such as a person or vehicle; enabling a commissioned officer to authorise the use of surveillance devices within the declared area or in a stated place for a declared emergency without a warrant; and providing an emergency commander in an emergency situation with the power to dispose of explosives and authorise damage that may result in the disposal process.

In July the LNP released its policy to safeguard Queenslanders against the terrorism threat. In response to the national terrorism threat and the increased frequency of international terrorism incidents, the LNP has a wideranging strategy to safeguard against the terrorism threat levels and keep Queenslanders safe. A Tim Nicholls led LNP government will introduce stronger laws to protect the community and targeted prevention to redouble our efforts in the fight against terrorism.

Our plan involves updating the Queensland government counterterrorism strategy, which was last updated by the LNP in 2013, as well as (1) strengthening bail laws to include a presumption against bail for someone charged with a terrorism related offence or known to have terrorism links; (2) strengthening parole to remove the presumption for parole for an offender charged with a terrorist offence, convicted of a terrorist offence or subject to a terrorist notification; (3) giving police more powers to prevent an attack by increasing the maximum time allowed under a preventative detention order from 14 days to 28 days; and (4) greater leadership by appointing a dedicated minister for counterterrorism to focus on policy development and updating the state's strategy. Our plan focuses on providing targeted prevention, with more powers for police and stronger laws to keep Queenslanders safe.

It is disappointing that Labor has not used this opportunity to update bail and parole laws, which they agreed to do as part of a COAG agreement on 9 June this year. Other jurisdictions have already moved to implement these stronger laws to protect the community. I would encourage the government to bring forward those laws as a matter of priority. We cannot take for granted the freedoms we enjoy. As such, we will not be opposing these changes. The first responsibility of every government is to protect its citizens.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.36 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate of the counterterrorism bill. First I thank my colleagues on the legal affairs committee and the secretariat.

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Mr BROWN:** I take the interjection from the member for Currumbin. We did work cooperatively on this one.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr BROWN:** Only this one! I reiterate the comments made by the member for Everton in thanking the hardworking men and women of the Queensland Police Service.

These laws are brought into focus by the recent incidents in Spain, in particular Barcelona. Not too many years ago I was at Las Ramblas on a summer holiday. I can remember how much fun Barcelona was, particularly that street. The horrific scenes of a car careening down a street that is full of fun all the time were terrible to see. My heart goes out to the family of Julian Cadman, the young Australian who died in that incident. As a new father, I can imagine how horrific it would have been for Julian's father to sit on a plane and not know that his wife was in hospital and not know the whereabouts or wellbeing of his young son. It must have been a harrowing time. My thoughts go out to the family.

I will now talk about the changes to the emergency powers. The amendments to the terrorist emergency powers contained in part 2A of the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986 will ensure police have the legislative tools they need to respond in a rapid and effective way to threats and acts of terrorism. Clause 36 of the bill clarifies that the current power to search a person during a declared terrorist emergency includes the power to search electronic devices in their possession such as smart phones. This proposed amendment recognises that electronic communications, images and video that are stored on an electronic device may be of significant importance to identifying offenders and obtaining timely and important intelligence or other information of tactical relevance.


Associated with this amendment is a new power inserted by clause 37 of the bill to enable police to require a person to provide access information, such as passwords, to facilitate the examination of information on these devices or accessible from the device. Persons who, without a reasonable excuse, fail to comply with the access requirement commit an offence with a maximum penalty of 40 penalty units or 12 months imprisonment. Self-incrimination is specifically excluded as a reasonable excuse for noncompliance. In circumstances where a person fails to comply with access requirements, police will be able to seize the device for forensic examination. However, during questioning at the public briefings as to whether these laws also had the ability for officers to look at encrypted apps that are found on phones in this day and age, it falls short. As technology has moved forward and encryption messaging has occurred, that is something that our police officers will have to face and deal with.

Clause 40 of the bill imposes safeguards associated with the use of evidence obtained from an electronic device following compliance with access requirements. The amendment restricts the use of information obtained as evidence in criminal proceedings not related to a declared emergency to indictable offences with a maximum penalty of at least seven years imprisonment or for an offence against section 218B—grooming of a child under the age of 16—of the Criminal Code. The bill also provides a power for police dealing with a terrorist emergency to take and use a person's biometric information to establish or confirm their identity. This power enables digital photographs of the person to be taken and used in relation to the reception and identification of persons.

In circumstances where a person has been required to provide evidence of their identity and the person fails to comply or if the officer reasonably suspects that the evidence is false, the amendment enables the use of photographs in biometric identification systems and the taking of the person's fingerprints electronically to enable a real-time search of the fingerprints on a national database. This new power is balanced by safeguards requiring the destruction of biometric information as soon as reasonably practicable when it is no longer required.

I note the earlier comments from the member for Everton about the 12 foiled terrorist attacks that have occurred in Australia. It is my understanding that 11 of those were tip-offs from the community and in particular the same Muslim community. It was disheartening to see Pauline Hanson and the stunt that occurred with regard to the burqa in federal parliament. We need to ensure that we have stronger

ties with the Muslim community, not push them away. Stunts like that will only do a disservice to the importance of having a cooperative relationship with our Muslim community in ensuring that we have strong ties so that that community is able to tip-off our security services so that they continue to foil these plots into the future. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.43 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and report No. 62 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. As has already been pointed out, the primary objective of the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 is to amend the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 to enhance public and police officer safety and to ensure police are able to respond rapidly and effectively to terrorist attacks and other critical incidents which pose a serious risk to life. Further objectives of the bill are to enhance the operational effectiveness of surveillance device powers under the PPRa and amend the PSPA and the PPRa to provide power for police to destroy explosives. The final objective of the bill is to repeal the Queensland Police Welfare Club Act 1970.

Putting things into context, Australia is facing the most significant ongoing threat from terrorism in our nation's history. We have seen an escalation of terrorist related activity with four terrorist attacks having been committed, with three resulting in fatalities, and a dozen or more imminent planned attacks having been disrupted. Not only is the threat of terrorism increasing; it is becoming harder for law enforcement intelligence agencies to detect and disrupt. A worrying aspect of what is happening in this area is the low-tech attacks that we have heard about so many times around the world perpetrated by individuals or small groups that seem to be exponentially harder to detect and disrupt. Indeed, often it is an individual—a lone individual, a lone wolf as they are referred to—that takes these activities on. There is no visibility or planning often, little or no direct communication between terrorist groups and the attackers and limited time delay between intent and action. They just get it into their head, they see an opportunity, they wait for the right volume of pedestrian traffic to be where they intend to go and then they perpetrate one of these horrendous acts.

The purpose of amendments to the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986 clarify that police search powers include the power to search devices such as mobile phones or tablet computers in a declared emergency situation or declared terrorist emergency, give police the power to require a person to provide assistance to access a person's electronic device in a declared emergency situation or declared terrorist emergency, and provide police with the power to take and use a person's biometric information to establish or confirm the identity of a person in a declared emergency situation or declared terrorist emergency. There is also the insertion of division 4 relating to extraordinary emergency powers into part 2 relating to emergency situations of the PSPA to provide police with the power to control movement of persons; search a person without a warrant; require a person's name, address and date of birth; collect and use biometric information; and require access information to enable a search to be conducted on an electronic device, among other changes being introduced in that act.

With regard to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the bill will amend this act in a number of ways, including clarifying that a surveillance device, warrant or emergency authorisation can authorise the use of an existing device as a surveillance device—that is, any type of device. In fact, there were questions around the use of mobile phones and we received information from the police that you can use these types of devices unbeknown to the individuals. We see it on TV all of the time, but it is actually one of the things that is a reality—that is, a device that can be just sitting there looking quite innocuous is in fact listening to everything that you say. Indeed, I recall reading yesterday or today about some concerns around a device that is being manufactured in China that is available to public servants, shall we say, and there are now concerns as to whether or not those devices are able to download information to a foreign power. This is yet another angle on that type of thing.


There are amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act enabling a commissioned officer to authorise the installation and use of a tracking device to assist in taking persons into lawful custody in certain circumstances and omitting restrictions applying to communicating certain information to the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, so once again that is important. In the time that I have been looking at issues around recidivism and prison reform I have often been told about the difficulties in providing information to other organisations—in other words, difficulties in providing information from prisons to police to the judiciary or vice versa. Those sorts of common-sense changes are there to protect the community—to protect all of us against those people who look to perpetrate these horrendous crimes against us as a community.

The Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 proposed an amendment that replaced the 'imminent' test for the issue of a PDO with a 'capability' threshold test. It concerned reducing the threshold test for entry into the premises from 'believes on reasonable grounds' to 'suspects on reasonable grounds' that the person, the subject of the PDO, is on the premises. It also removed the restriction on entry of a dwelling, currently between 9 pm and 6 am, to take a person into custody under a PDO. It is now 24/7 that police are able to enact these raids.

The bill proposes to repeal the Queensland Police Welfare Club Act 1970. The Queensland Police Welfare Club was deregistered as an association in 1998 and was wound up by receivers in 2004-05. It is about time, I suppose, that we tidied up all of that.

Interestingly, the LNP policy was released in July. The LNP released the policy to safeguard Queenslanders against terrorism threats in response to the national terrorism threat and the increased frequency of international terrorism incidents. The LNP has a wideranging strategy to safeguard against the terrorism threat levels and keep Queensland safe. Let me just finish by saying that a Tim Nicholls-led LNP government will introduce stronger laws to protect the community with targeted prevention to redouble our efforts in the fight against terrorism.

I thank my parliamentary colleagues on both sides of the House for the bipartisan approach taken to this very sensible legislation, which is something that we on this side of the House fully support. Of course, I thank the secretariat once again for their wonderful work in terms of pulling together the reports and working through a massive amount of material from the various people who provide us with information so that we can put together a sensible report, one which is of value to the House and which we can move forward to implement the legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.51 pm): The Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 before the House was introduced on 14 June and subsequently referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to be reported on by 11 August. The committee received four submissions from the Crime and Corruption Commission, Queensland Law Society, Office of the Information Commissioner and Queensland Council for Civil Liberties. I will mention later some of the issues they raised. The committee made only one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I thank fellow committee members, the secretariat, the QPS and submitters.

This bill builds upon those that have come before it and, in particular, enhances terrorism emergency powers in part 2A of the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986. In addition, this bill makes amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 that will improve public and police officer safety and ensure police are able to respond rapidly and effectively to terrorist acts and other person made critical incidents which pose a serious risk to life. Page 3 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report No. 62 outlines the various amendments to be made to the above acts. They are too numerous to mention here.

I was grateful for the opportunity to ask questions of the Queensland Police Service and the commissioner about a topic that tears at the heart of our democracy and law-abiding culture. During the hearing I asked our police to explain what was gained by changing the words from 'belief on reasonable grounds' to 'suspects on reasonable grounds' to enable a PDO. Some of the changes are significant, others more subtle, yet still with potent consequences. The reply from the QPS was—

There is a well-established common law authority in relation to the distinction between reasonable suspicion and reasonable belief. A suspicion is a state of conjecture or surmise. It is more than idle wondering. It is a positive feeling of apprehension or mistrust, but it is a slight opinion without sufficient evidence. Facts which reasonably ground a suspicion may be quite insufficient to reasonably ground a belief. Nonetheless, to have a reasonable suspicion some factual basis for the suspicion must exist. There must be sufficient factual grounds reasonably to induce the suspicion.

I see that I have your undivided attention, Madam Deputy Speaker. It is quite an interesting premise. It goes on—

The facts must be sufficient to induce a suspicion in the mind of a reasonable person. The suspicion must be reasonable as opposed to arbitrary, irrational or prejudiced.

We need it so that our law enforcement officers can trust their legitimate suspicions without needing all of the evidence. Let us face it, terrorists planning these attacks, whether a lone wolf or with others, do not want to be caught before they carry out their murderous plans.

Further discussion took place during the hearing about difficulty in accessing terrorist messaging and the use of ghost platforms. Rarely does a week go by without news somewhere in the world of another horrific, senseless terrorist attack on innocent civilians. We have become used to seeing these



gruesome acts on our television screens, computers and mobiles on a regular basis but we have not become insensitive or indifferent to these evil acts driven by a twisted and abhorrent hatred of others. We shake our heads as the full extent of the murderous plots are played out in front of us and we realise that not only are they on our doorstep but in our homes, so to speak.

Only a week before this bill was introduced, the shocking attack by 29-year-old Yacqub Khayre in suburban Melbourne once again reminded us of the insidious creep of evil. Yacqub killed a man and took a woman hostage, which sparked a siege; however, he was not on the radar of counterterrorism police after his release from prison in December 2016. Khayre was well known to police and had an extensive criminal history for burglary, theft, assault and resisting arrest. In 2009 he was charged along with four other men with conspiring to do acts in preparation for or planning a terrorist attack in relation to a plot to attack Holsworthy Army Base in New South Wales. How did he slip through the net? Acting Inspector Bob Utz from the Queensland Police Service told us in a hearing on 18 July that terrorist activity had escalated in Australia since September 2014, with five terrorist attacks resulting in the deaths of four innocent people. Twelve planned attacks have been disrupted, 30 counterterrorism operations undertaken and 70 persons charged. We are thankful these vicious acts did not involve greater numbers but they should not detract from our revulsion and resistance to them.

Revelations in July that there were more than 100 but fewer than 150 people in South-East Queensland being monitored on our counterterrorism suspect list is a stark reminder that the ugly face of terrorism is amongst us. It is a sign of the times in our modern world and one we should do our utmost to repel. Criminal histories like those of Yacqub tell us that there are more people living amongst us who should be on the counterterrorism suspect list but who are not.

Australia's national terror threat is rated as probable, not if but when, despite the dedicated efforts to protect us all. The Islamist militant cell that used a van to kill 13 people and to injure 124 others from 34 countries in Barcelona reminded us once again of the barbaric and senseless nature of these crimes. Apparently, there was no clear or certain target. It seems that, for someone intent on undertaking these deadly missions of destruction, any old church, monument or public place will do. How on earth can one reason with people without a soul or a conscience, who in Barcelona mowed down a beautiful, innocent little Australian boy? My thoughts and prayers are with his family at this deeply distressing time.

Regardless, we should not live in fear or surrender our hard-fought freedoms and way of life to those who wish us harm. We must all be more vigilant in reporting suspicious activities and be alert when out and about. The radicalisation of youth in particular makes for a lethal cocktail that must be stopped. It is critical that we support our police and law enforcement officers, men and women on the front line of defence, with a high-tech armoury of tools to help keep us safe.

Hosting the G20 summit in 2014 required a significant and specialised training regime for our police and security officers, the likes we had never seen before. We all are very thankful there were no incidents, and the training they received has helped prepare them for the challenges we face today. Reports that over 10,000 police have received special active armed offender training which teaches skills to stop a threat rather than containing it reminds us of the changing world in which we live.

In addition, tactical trauma training is also included. Reports in early August that a major terrorist attack ordered by Islamic State was almost successful in Sydney, not once but twice, highlighted the need for tougher and more effective counterterrorism laws. Only last Friday a man tried to get onto a domestic flight in Brisbane with a fake boarding pass and threatened to bomb and run over families of police. Astoundingly, he was freed on bail. Heavy duty barriers and bollards will become common features as more and more protective steps are taken to counterterrorism in our public places and cities.

I now turn to a few of the concerns raised by submitters. The Queensland Law Society commented that they support proportionate legal responses to the threat of terrorism but said they remain 'concerned that expanding the breadth of anti-terrorism laws can shift expectations and could lead to the replication of extraordinary measures in other areas in criminal law'. The Queensland Council for Civil Liberties raised a number of concerns in its 18-page submission. These related to clause 9 relating to connection of a surveillance device, proposed part 3A, clauses 35 and 36—opposition to the abolition of privilege—and also opposition to clause 40.

The Office of the Information Commissioner advised their functions include commenting on issues relating to the administration of privacy in the Queensland public sector environment. Noting that the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 provides for a significant expansion of search and seizure powers exercisable by police and that witnesses could potentially be compelled

to provide access information to enable the conduct of a search of their electronic device, the OIC found that these powers were particularly privacy invasive. They suggested consideration be given as to whether the provisions in this bill strike the right balance between privacy and other rights.

The LNP recognises the need to strengthen and toughen our counterterrorism laws. As we have heard from the shadow minister, our plan includes the strengthening of bail laws to include a presumption against bail for someone charged with a terrorism related offence or known to have terrorism links; the strengthening of parole to remove the presumption of parole for an offender charged with a terrorist offence; giving police more powers to prevent an attack by increasing the maximum time allowed under a preventative detention order from 14 days to 28 days; and exhibiting greater leadership by appointing a dedicated minister for counterterrorism to focus on policy development and updating the state's strategy.

I will defend an individual's rights until the cows come home, but I will never shy away from legislation designed to protect the general public from harm, which is what the provisions in this bill do. Rather than criticise new approaches to stem the flow of terror related acts and to apprehend suspects thought to be involved in them, we should all be focused on dealing with the reasons behind individuals committing these atrocities on totally innocent bystanders. In making this statement let me be clear that this is not a criticism of the learned bodies who have taken the time to supply submissions. Their comments are valued and have been given the consideration that they deserve. However, public confidence is also important—very important—as is our reputation as a safe destination to visit. Together with the LNP and fellow committee members I am supporting the measures within this bill which I hope will make a difference in the fight against the scourge that is terrorism, no matter in what form it presents its ugly face to us. We cannot take for granted the freedoms we enjoy. We must all pull together to condemn these actions.


In closing, I cannot miss an opportunity to put in another plug for a school based police officer at our two local high schools, Palm Beach Currumbin State High and Elanora State High School—two great schools dedicated to achieving results for students, not only in the academic sense but also the holistic one. In another Gold Coast high school where a school based police officer has been in place it has been reported that in a relatively short space of time the following measurable benefits have been noticed: they reduced the number of students sending inappropriate digital recordings to each other; enhanced domestic violence campaigns within the school; changed aggressive adult behaviours in the school grounds; and engaged with the most at-risk students in a proactive way to improve behaviours. It reduced the incidence of shoplifting in the local area.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): I have given the member a little bit of license, but could I ask you to wind up that particular angle you are going through. I am struggling to see how it is relevant to the bill.

**Mrs STUCKEY:** Thank you. Perhaps I could remind honourable members that there was a bomb hoax at one of these schools only very recently and that is why I am introducing the information that I am. If I may complete the other issues that this would deal with: students would be in a better place to deal with situations so that they can not only be present at school but also not engage in foolish acts such as bomb hoaxes. It also targeted the elements of a drug culture within the school so that adult suppliers were exposed and prosecuted resulting in a huge decrease in the problem.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think you have made your point. Could I ask you, if you are going to continue with your speech, to please keep it relevant to the bill. I think you have made your point about the bomb hoax and we should move on.

**Mrs STUCKEY:** I will wrap up and say we are talking about counterterrorism. I am talking about trying to protect students in our schools. I am asking people to be more vigilant in their reporting of suspicious acts and I am calling on this Labor government to support our students, police and principals by granting us a dedicated school based police officer.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (3.05 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. I want to firstly thank the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services for introducing the bill to this parliament and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for their consideration of the bill. I also want to thank those who lodged written submissions on the bill and also the committee secretariat. The primary purpose of this bill is to enhance public and police officer safety and ensure police are able to respond rapidly and effectively to terrorist acts which pose a serious risk to life. This bill also enhances the operational effectiveness of surveillance device powers to provide powers for police to destroy explosives.

In the wake of terrorist attacks around the world, strengthening counterterrorism is of the utmost importance. The recent horrific terrorist attack in Barcelona reminds us that the threat is real and is continually evolving. Unfortunately, Australia is not immune from this threat. This bill is important to ensure Queensland remains steadfast in its commitment to ensure the safety of our community and also to protect our community from these senseless acts.

This bill amends the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005. The bill includes provisions for emergency powers, surveillance and tracking devices, explosives and removing the restrictions on entry of a dwelling, which all go to ensuring the safety of police and also the Queensland community. The bill contains a number of measures designed to support and enhance the capacity of police to respond rapidly and effectively to emergency situations. Clause 30(2) of the bill amends the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986 to enable an emergency situation to be declared around a moving activity. Sometimes emergency situations are not static. For example, an emergency situation may involve an armed offender who is mobile in a vehicle or on foot. The proposed amendments reflect that reality by allowing an emergency situation to be declared around a moving person or around a vehicle or vessel. Clause 29(2) amends section 3A of the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986 to enable an emergency situation declaration to extend to a moving activity prior to its arrival in Queensland. This amendment also makes it clear that an emergency situation is not extinguished simply because a moving activity that is the subject of a declaration briefly leaves the state.

The bill contains amendments to the Public Safety Preservation Act to devolve the authority for the declaration or revocation of an emergency situation to senior sergeants approved by the commissioner as having the appropriate qualifications, experience or standing. Currently only commissioned officers, police officers of the rank of inspector or higher, have the power to declare or revoke an emergency situation. Police officers of the rank of senior sergeant frequently perform the role of police forward commander at emergency situations such as sieges. Senior sergeants undertake a two-week residential course on incident command as part of the management development program which is directed at assisting them in performing this role and in the use of emergency situation declarations and incident management.

The current situation is that, if no commissioned officers are present, senior sergeants performing the role of the police forward commander at an incident must contact a commissioned officer and provide them with a briefing in relation to the incident, so that the commissioned officer can be satisfied on reasonable grounds that an emergency situation exists and make the relevant declaration. The amendments will devolve the authority to declare an emergency situation to approved senior sergeants and, in so doing, will enhance the capacity of operational police to respond rapidly and effectively to emergency situations.

The ability to rapidly acquire and use relevant intelligence obtained from surveillance devices is critical for the effective management and resolution of emergencies in circumstances where there is a significant risk to the life or safety of persons. This bill inserts new provisions into the Public Safety Preservation Act to enable a commissioned officer to authorise the use of surveillance devices during a declared emergency. The authorisation to use a surveillance device will also enable an existing device to be used as a surveillance device. The commissioned officer may authorise if they reasonably suspect that an emergency involves, may involve or may lead to a serious risk to the life, health or safety of a person and the use of a surveillance device will help to reduce the risk.


This bill also amends various provisions of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act relating to surveillance device warrants. The amendments clarify that a surveillance device warrant or emergency authorisation can authorise the use of an existing device as a surveillance device. Things that may be done to or in relation to a device include installing hardware or software on the device and connecting the device to another device using a wireless connection. The bill would omit the necessity for a surveillance device warrant to state the parts of the dwelling that the optical surveillance device can be installed. This is because police do not have control of the placement of existing devices such as security cameras and mobile devices. A judge may nevertheless place conditions on the entry or how a surveillance device may be used.

The bill further amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act surveillance device powers to provide separate definitions for 'premises' and 'vehicles' to enable a vehicle to be treated the same as an object or class of object which is currently treated by not requiring an address to be specified. This takes into account the mobility of a vehicle and removes the inefficiency associated with warrants

becoming invalidated due to a vehicle changing location. These surveillance device powers will incorporate a robust range of safeguards and require the tabling annually of a report on the use of the powers.

The bill will also amend the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to enable a commissioned officer to authorise the installation and use of a tracking device to assist in taking persons into lawful custody in high-risk or tactically dangerous situations. The ability to use a tracking device to take high-risk persons into custody reduces the risk of a hostage or siege incident occurring. The tracking device authorisation powers also incorporate a robust range of safeguards, including that the commissioned officer must be satisfied on reasonable grounds that taking the person into custody poses a serious risk and limiting the authorisation period for the use of a tracking device to 48 hours.

The bill contains a range of other key provisions that I will not go into. They are also extremely important in dealing with the potential threats that we face in Queensland. This bill enhances the safety of both police officers and the public. It is a bill that enables police to respond rapidly and effectively to terrorist acts that pose a serious risk to life. This bill is important to ensure Queensland remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the safety of our community and also to protect our community from those senseless acts. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (3.13 pm): I rise to speak on the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the primary objective of which is to amend the Public Safety Preservation Act, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act and the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act. These measures are to enhance public and police officer safety and ensure police are able to respond rapidly and effectively to terrorism acts and other critical incidents that pose serious risk to life. I also note that the explanatory notes state—

Further objectives of the Bill are to enhance the operational effectiveness of surveillance device powers ... and amend the PSPA and the PPRA to provide power for police to destroy explosives.

I note that in his explanatory speech the minister stated—

This reform ensures police are able to rapidly and effectively respond to the threats of terrorism now and into the future to mitigate or minimise the impacts upon our society.

Later in his speech the minister stated—

Police responding to critical incidents such as hostage events, armed offenders or incidents involving the use of improvised explosive devices, act on minimal information in a time critical and high-pressure environment. The fact that an incident is terrorism related may not be immediately identified.

The minister makes a very critical point. I note that the evidence in the inquest into the Lindt cafe siege in Sydney detailed that initially police were responding to what was believed to be an unarmed robbery in progress. We now know that it was, indeed, an act of terrorism. The minister stated further—

Regardless of the perpetrator's motivation, such critical incidents need to be managed and resolved in a consistent way with the ability to have a smooth transition from an emergency situation to a terrorism emergency once the incident is identified as being terrorism related.

The committee report states—

The Bill proposes to insert new powers (extraordinary emergency powers) into Part 2 of the PSPA to enable police to 'effectively manage and resolve significant emergency situations involving hostages, armed offenders and [improvised explosive devices].

The extraordinary emergency powers introduced by the bill include powers to control movement of persons; powers to search a person without a warrant; powers to require name, address and date of birth; powers to collect biometric information; and the power to require excess information.

The Queensland Council of Civil Liberties is apparently concerned about the proposed provisions that would give officers the power to require a person to provide a password to their mobile phone or other storage device. The council is of the view that the provisions abrogate the right to silence. They explain that the High Court now recognises the right to silence as a fundamental right. It is a right that exists to protect citizens from the abuse of state power. The council submitted that, once the abolition of the right occurs in relation to heinous offences, the process of abolition inevitably moves outward to other offenders and often finally to the abolition of rights for everyone, but I am not sure that I agree with their view.


In relation to compelling an offender to provide their fingerprints to open a phone or other device, it was the council's view that that should only be done by the police first obtaining a warrant. This is where it gets into the time-critical issue. We have seen incidents interstate where security agencies

have had to act immediately in efforts to stop an attack that was imminent. It would be tragic if something occurred that could have been prevented but was not because the police were in the process of obtaining a search warrant. I note that in his submission the CEO of the Crime and Corruption Commission noted—

The CCC has a direct interest in the primary and further objectives of the Bill relevant to the performance of functions such as the major crime function (including terrorism) and the operational effectiveness of surveillance device powers under the PPRA.

The CCC has a particular role in enhancing public and police officer safety and in helping ensure a rapid and effective response to terrorism acts and other critical incidents that pose a serious risk to life. Members would also be aware that the police seconded to the CCC continue to be police officers for all purposes and to have the functions and powers of a police officer without being limited to the performance of the CCC functions. The CCC supports the bill's proposed reforms to the PPRA, the PSPA and the TPDA.

We live in extraordinary times regarding those who seek to do us, our families and our community harm. Sadly, these extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures. If the measures are indeed what is needed to ensure the safety of all Queenslanders, I am comfortable with that and I support the bill. I commend the police minister and the government for bringing this bill forward. As we know, in our society today these potential outcomes can happen anywhere. I remember when I used to sit in the cabinet room and receive briefings from police superintendents from the CCC, who would say that it is not a matter of if; it is just a matter of when. I commend the government and I commend everybody in the House. If anybody votes against this bill, they need to look at their family and their community, because they are the people we are protecting. The protection of our community is above everything else in our society.

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (3.19 pm): I rise to speak on the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. Over the last few years there has been an escalation in terrorist related attacks in Australia, with four attacks having been committed and three resulting in fatalities. A further 12 imminent planned attacks have been disrupted—thank goodness—and 62 people have been charged with terrorism related offences. The prospect of homegrown terrorism has risen as a significant threat. Contemporary terrorism is constantly changing.


At the CPA conference in March this year the focus was on counterterrorism. The concerns voiced by those from a number of countries related to how there has been a shift in terrorism to more of a focus on lone wolf, low-tech, mass casualty events that are more difficult to detect and disrupt. We also heard how social media is playing a role and the fact that ISIS is using the dark net to recruit and target young people. We have already seen this lone wolf approach around the world, such as in the Canadian parliament, the attack at Westminster earlier this year and the attacks at rock concerts and festivals where our kids go. Sad events, such as those in Barcelona, seem to be a regular occurrence.

The most likely scenario for further terrorism attacks in Australia are low-tech attacks perpetrated by individuals or small groups using readily available weapons such as knives, vehicles, firearms or improvised explosive devices. These attacks can have no visibility during the planning phase, little or no direct communication between the main terrorist organisation and individuals and almost no delay between the formation of the plan and the malicious intent and action. As a result of these factors, Australia is facing the most significant ongoing threat from terrorism in our nation's history.

Given the extent of recent international attacks, the ongoing threat of attacks here at home and the evolving nature of terrorism in the 21st century, we must remain vigilant against possible threats to our security, our democracy and our way of life. I have stated before in this House that the No. 1 priority always has to be the safety of the Queensland public and our officers on the front line. In this regard, we need to listen to our law enforcement experts and agencies and give them the tools they require to prevent future terror attacks or to respond to ones in a manner that prevents a loss of life.

This bill will enhance public and police officer safety and ensure that police are able to respond rapidly and effectively to terrorist acts and other critical incidents which pose a serious threat to life. This bill will also enhance the operational effectiveness of surveillance device powers and provide the power for police to destroy explosives. We trust the advice from the Queensland Police Service that informed us of the necessity for the additional powers in this bill are justified and that they will be reviewed in the future to ensure their continued relevance to our security situation. We all hope that the powers being implemented in this legislation are never needed in Queensland, but it would be a grave mistake not to provide the necessary powers to our security agencies in light of the current climate.

It is disappointing that the Labor Party has not used this opportunity to update the bail and parole laws that they agreed to as part of the COAG agreement on 9 June this year. In July this year the LNP released its policy to safeguard Queenslanders against the threat of terrorism. The LNP has adopted, as part of our party platform, a wideranging strategy to safeguard against terrorism threat levels to keep Queenslanders safe. The LNP, like my colleagues have said, will introduce stronger laws to protect the community and have a targeted approach to bolster our efforts in the fight against terrorism. In line with the recommendations of the committee and the advice of the security agencies and as our shadow minister has said, the LNP will not oppose this bill.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.25 pm): I rise to make a very short contribution on the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. In doing so, I thank the committee members and committee staff for their support in putting the report on this bill together. It is lovely to have a bill that is recommended to be passed by both sides of the legal affairs committee.

I specifically want to talk about surveillance devices in declared emergencies and tracking devices for high-risk apprehensions. This is something that I have received questions about so I want to put some points on the record. The bill's purpose, objectives and intent have been fairly well canvassed by other speakers in the parliament today. As I said, the bill has the support of both sides of the committee.


The bill amends the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to improve the ability of police to enhance public safety during declared emergencies and the apprehension of high-risk persons. Clause 39 of the bill amends the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986 to allow commissioned officers to authorise the use of surveillance devices during a declared emergency to minimise significant risk to life, health or safety. The ability to obtain accurate and timely intelligence during an emergency situation, such as a siege or a hostage situation, is vitally important for the effective management and resolution of the emergency.

This bill balances this new power with a number of safeguards. The use of a surveillance device in this context is limited in the sense that it can only occur during a declared emergency, only within the declared area for that emergency and only if the authorising officer suspects that the life or safety of any person may be seriously endangered and that the device would mitigate that risk. The commissioned officer must revoke the authorisation when satisfied that the use of the device is no longer needed to reduce the risk to life, health or safety. This bill also requires the commissioner to keep a register and report annually on the use of this new power.

This bill also amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to enable the commissioned officer to authorise the use of a tracking device to assist in taking persons into custody where that action poses a serious risk to the safety of any person and the use of the device will assist in reducing that risk. Police are sometimes called upon to apprehend people who are considered to pose a high risk. These people may be a serious risk to the police and community by virtue of their access to weapons and because they have demonstrated a propensity for significant violence.

Taking people of that kind into custody is inherently dangerous and can represent a risk not only to the police but also to the community and the individual themselves. These amendments will assist in carrying out such high-risk apprehensions by enhancing the capacity of police to choose a time and place that mitigates those risks. This new power is balanced by safeguards which include the limitation for the initial use of the device to a period of 48 hours and imposes a requirement for the Commissioner of Police to report annually on the use and effectiveness of the tracking device authorisation.

I want to mention one more thing in closing. It is about this bill picking up a complaint by Mr Darren Hall. Being a member of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and also a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I thought that this was worth mentioning in terms of the loop that is closing here that will afford people procedural fairness into the future in terms of a commission report. I think that is a noteworthy amendment that will be coming through in this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.29 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. Before I speak in detail in relation to the bill before the House this afternoon, it is hard to believe that it has been 16 years since that infamous night—I can recall that around 10 o'clock that night I was watching *The West Wing*.

**Mr Mander:** Great show.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I take that interjection from the member for Everton. It was indeed a great show. On a serious note and tone, I remember that around halfway through that episode of *The West Wing* Jim Waley came on the news with a news-breaking item. Apparently a light plane had crashed into one of the twin towers in New York City. It went back to *The West Wing*. Then about 10 minutes later it went back to the tragic events that had unfolded in New York that particular morning. My first thoughts were in relation to the whole issue of what terrorism meant to the Western world. The next day I was working as a shopping centre manager at Albany shopping village—it is something that has stayed with me all of these years later. Literally hundreds and hundreds of customers were like the living dead. They were like zombies. Not one person was saying a word. It was indeed quite surreal. Fast forward 16 years later to 2017 and here we are, sadly, debating this bill, although it is not really a debate because I note that the LNP will not be opposing the bill. The committee has done good work on this particular piece of legislation and the bill will receive support today, as it should do. Nonetheless, I would still like to make my contribution given that background.

I note that the primary objective of the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is to amend the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Terrorism (Protective Detention) Act 2005. Those amendments go to the very heart of enhancing public and police officer safety and to ensuring that police are able to respond rapidly and indeed effectively to terrorist acts and other critical incidents which pose a serious risk to our present way of life. The further objectives of the bill are to enhance the operational effectiveness of surveillance device powers under the PPRA and to amend the PSPA and the PPRA to provide power for police to destroy explosives.

Sadly, Australia, like all Western nations, is facing at the moment a significant ongoing threat from terrorism. Indeed, it is a scourge on our democratic freedoms and our very way of life. I note that from September 2014, nationally, there has been an escalation of terrorist related activity with four terrorist attacks having been committed, with three very tragically resulting in fatalities. A further 12 imminent planned attacks have been disrupted. As a result of 27 separate counterterrorism operations, 62 people have been charged. This increased threat is expected, very sadly, to endure for the foreseeable future; hence the importance of this particular bill that is being discussed this afternoon.

Contemporary terrorism methodology has seen a shift from hierarchical cells making detailed plans for mass casualty and infrastructure attacks to low-tech, lone actor, terrorist attacks—lone wolf perpetrators, so to speak. These low-tech attacks perpetrated by an individual or small group are exponentially harder to detect and therefore to disrupt. There may be no visibility of planning and little or no direct communication between the terrorist group and other attackers within that particular evil network. The most likely scenario for a terrorist attack, very sadly, in this great country is a low-tech attack perpetrated by an individual or possibly a small group. This may involve the use of readily available weapons such as knives, vehicles, firearms or improvised explosive devices.

The details of the bill drill down and go a long way to combat these particular measures. In relation to the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986, the proposed amendments, amongst many being debated this afternoon, include clarifying that the police search powers include the power to search devices such as mobile phones or tablet computers in a declared emergency situation or a declared terrorist emergency; giving police the essential power to require a person to provide assistance to access a person's electronic device in a declared emergency situation or a declared terrorist emergency; and, furthermore, clarifying that an emergency situation area can surround a moving activity such as a person or vehicle.

The amendments before us this afternoon in relation to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act include a number of very important provisions. They include, amongst several, clarifying that a surveillance warrant or emergency authorisation can authorise the use of an existing device as a surveillance device; enabling a commissioned officer to authorise the installation and use of a tracking device to assist in taking persons into lawful custody in certain circumstances; and removing the requirement for a surveillance device warrant to specify neighbouring premises over which police may cross to gain access to the target premises, unless covert entry into a building is required to gain access to the target premises.


The extent of recent international attacks that have been tragically projected on our TVs over the last six to 12 months, with particular reference to the tragedy of what has occurred in Europe in the last six to nine months—and a lot of attacks have been foiled in some cases—means that we can never, ever take anything for granted. We must remain as vigilant as we can against any possible threat to our wonderful way of life. In doing so, we need to listen to the trained law enforcement experts—the

Queensland Police Service, the Australian Federal Police, the Crime and Corruption Commission and our intelligence agencies—to ensure that our laws enable a swift response that either defuses an attack or responds to one in a manner that prevents loss of life and, indeed, catches the perpetrators.

We do hope that all the powers that are being implemented in this legislation are never, ever needed in this great state, but, like anything, we also need to be completely realistic. These are extensive powers and they are needed at this particular point in time. It goes without saying that we must always ensure, where we can, that judicial oversight and monitoring of these particular powers acts to ensure that they are used effectively and appropriately and balance one's individual liberties at all times. We must trust that the advice from the Queensland Police Service that has informed this bill justifies the necessity of these additional powers and they will be reviewed in the future to ensure relevance and correct application.

This bill is very pertinent in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast next year. I have to make this comment though. It is disappointing, as some other speakers on this side of the chamber have said, that the Labor Party have not used this great opportunity to update bail and parole laws that they agreed to as part of the COAG agreement on 9 June this year.

At the end of the day, the price of freedom is constant vigilance. There is no way in the world that it gives anyone great delight in having to get up here this afternoon and speak on a topic such as this. At the end of the day, we can never, ever take our basic freedoms for granted. I am pleased to be able to contribute to this debate.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.39 pm): The price of freedom is eternal vigilance. Keeping our communities safe in the face of new and emerging threats of terrorism requires new legislative tools to empower our police and counterterrorism forces to do their job. The Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 expands those powers to strengthen those means of vigilance to hopefully prevent the evil acts which are intended to cause great harm and death as well as fear.

Terrorist attacks not only cause real, physical harm but also remove people's peace and safety to get on with living their lives. We want people to feel safe. However, more than that we want them to be safe. Knowing that some will criticise the need for this legislation, I would respond by saying that it would be negligent for those in a leadership role to have an 'I feel safe' approach to public safety if that is used as an excuse to do nothing or not do enough in the face of growing intelligence of high-risk threats of harm and realised terrorism attacks. That is why I support the intention of this legislation even though some have asked whether it is necessary. Unfortunately, it is. There have been growing examples tragically here on our shores as well as overseas that indicate it is required. Barcelona may seem a long way away, but the terrible loss of a little Australian boy in that recent attack indicates that our citizens can be affected anywhere. In Sydney we have also heard of recently foiled alleged terrorist attacks.

Leadership has a responsibility to act when shortfalls in the strategies to keep people safe are identified, and one of those changes has to be adequate legal tools so our police are able to respond legally and in a rapid and timely way. However, it is appropriate that questions about checks and balances are also asked in this chamber, in our committee process and by stakeholders. Providing appropriate checks and balances on power of course is important. That is why any legislation should and must be subject to timely review. I hope that one day the legislation that is before us is not necessary in its current format, but we are advised by those who are at the front line of keeping us safe that they need this toolkit to keep us safe.

This bill amends the Public Safety Preservation Act 1996, the PSPA; the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the PPRA; and the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005. The times we are living in mean that global conflicts have come into our local streets and communities, as we have seen in recent events more particularly down south and we believe other incidents have been averted elsewhere. At this time the work goes on to ensure that we do not see a repeat of what we have seen down south.

The nature of terrorist attacks has changed with the use of technology and the changing modus operandi. As noted in the explanatory notes, contemporary terrorism methodology has seen a shift from hierarchical cells making detailed plans for mass casualty and infrastructure attacks to low-tech, lone actor terrorist attacks. Low-tech attacks perpetrated by an individual or small group are very hard to detect and disrupt. Low-tech attacks can involve using readily available weapons such as knives, vehicles, firearms or improvised explosive devices. This explains why there has been a move to empower police to search a person and vehicle without a warrant for anything relevant to a terrorist




emergency in a declared terrorist emergency. The search powers enable police to seize anything that may provide evidence of the commission of an offence or anything that the person may use to cause harm to any person. This has been extended to electronic devices, particularly mobile phones, in such terrorist emergencies.

The bill also provides police with the power to require people in a declared terrorist emergency to provide their name, address and date of birth and provide evidence of the correctness of the details provided. This has come out of international experience where people leaving the scene of an incident include those who are or who could have been victims as well as those who may have been the offenders who cloak themselves in the crowd. That is the reason why people will be required to give their identification.

The declaration of an emergency situation is addressed in this legislation. The devolution of who can declare an emergency situation and whether there are enough checks and balances in that process is quite extensively covered within this committee report. I believe it is important to ask about checks and balances. We should not be frightened to ask whether the monitoring and scrutiny of that is robust enough. That is why in a few years time potentially this legislation will be reviewed again. Once again, it has been shown that there is a need for appropriately trained people at the right time and the right place to take action and to be able to address and avert greater harm. The training of those who are in the front line of declaring these situations is vitally important. While the legislative tool is there, we also have to ensure that in reality there is a rigour in how that is brought about. There is also clarification in regard to electronic devices and how they can be used as a surveillance device, the enhanced operational effectiveness of PPRA surveillance device powers and the power to dispose of explosives.

In bringing my contribution to a close what I want to emphasise is this: I doubt there are many members of this parliament who will ever have to front up to a coroner's court to explain whether their actions were sufficient in keeping people safe, and I certainly hope nobody in this place has to do that. Our police, however, face that very real situation. That is not code for 'anything goes' in regard to the powers we put in their hands to keep us safe—far be it from that—but we must ensure that when they are going in there to keep us safe they know they have the legal authority to do it and they are doing all they can to keep us safe, and hopefully they will not have to face a coroner's inquiry as to whether they did enough. They are the ones who often have to make the call. They are the ones who are often faced with very real and sometimes tragic circumstances beyond anyone's control. Where we have the ability to hopefully avert those disasters—those tragedies caused by those with evil intent—we must do all we reasonably can do to keep our police safe so they may come home to their families and keep our communities safe.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. As the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services outlined in his introductory speech, the bill will provide stronger safeguards to deal with and prevent acts of terrorism. Importantly, they will help keep Queenslanders safe.

The threat of terrorism and violent extremism is no longer something that happens overseas. Terrorist organisations such as al-Qaeda and ISIL have repeatedly advocated attacks on western nations. The shocking events overseas in places like London, Paris, Brussels and Barcelona as well as incidents in Australia at Martin Place and Parramatta highlight the very serious risk to public safety and the dangers ordinary people face from acts of terrorism.

Since 2014, nationally there has been an escalation in terrorist related activities with a number of terrorist attacks resulting in fatalities and a number of planned attacks disrupted by the police, with more than 36 people being charged as a result of about 13 different operations in relation to counterterrorism matters.

Australia is facing the most significant ongoing threat from terrorism in our nation's history. Not only is the threat of terrorism increasing; it is becoming increasingly harder for our law enforcement and intelligence agencies to detect and defeat these acts. The ever-increasing threats of low-tech, lone actor terrorist attacks are exponentially harder to disrupt as there may be no visibility of planning, little or no direct communication between the terrorist group and the attackers, and a limited time delay between intent and action.

A key aspect of the new laws proposed in this bill is their ability to equip the police with the powers they need to swiftly respond to any public emergency should there be an incident that affects, or has the potential to affect, important defence facilities such as RAAF Base Amberley, which is located in my electorate of Ipswich West. RAAF Base Amberley is the largest operational Air Force base in the

Southern Hemisphere and employs over 5,000 uniformed and civilian personnel. Under the command of base commander Air Commodore Ken Robinson, RAAF Base Amberley is currently home to No. 1 Squadron and No. 6 Squadron that operate the F/A-18F Super Hornets and the EA-18G Growlers. No. 33 Squadron operates the Airbus KC-30A and No. 36 Squadron operates the Boeing C-17 III transport aircraft.

It is also home to Army units making up the 9th Force Support Battalion. RAAF Base Amberley's largest squadron in terms of personnel is the No. 382 Expeditionary Combat Support Squadron RAAF, providing both garrison and deployed combat support. RAAF Base Amberley is also one of only two airfields in Australia that were listed as a transoceanic abort landing site for the space shuttle. It also hosted the former president of the United States, Barack Obama, when he visited Australia in 2014 for the G20 conference where world leaders met right here in Queensland Parliament House.

Our first responder to terrorist incidents is generally the Queensland Police Service. I am proud to have the Ipswich Police District Headquarters located in my electorate of Ipswich West under the command of Superintendent Brian Huxley, supported by Inspectors Keith McDonald, Mel Adams, Michael Ede, Michael Trezise, acting Inspector Troy Salton and Detective Inspector Lew Strohfeldt. The Palaszczuk government is committed to building up the Queensland government's front-line services and this is evident with the increased numbers of front-line police officers since the 2015 election.

The bill contains amendments to the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986 to provide police with new powers to deal with extraordinary emergency situations. These new powers will enhance the capacity of police to deal with complex emergencies that present a significant danger to the community. These new powers will apply to circumstances where an emergency situation has already been declared and the incident involves explosives or serious endangerment of life and because of the complexity or size of the emergency, one or more of the new powers is required to effectively manage and resolve the incident.

It is intended that police will be given the powers they need to manage situations that are more serious and complex than other emergency situations. For example, a hostage situation may occur and because of the scale and complexity of that incident, powers exceeding those currently available under the emergency situation may be required. Such an event may well be a terrorist incident. However, particularly in the early stages of such an incident, there may be no information available about the motivation of the hostage taker and, consequently, the threshold for declaration of the terrorist emergency cannot be met. For that reason, the trigger for the declaration of extraordinary emergency is focused on the scale, the complexity and the danger associated with the incident rather than the motivation of the person that has generated the emergency.


To deal with a situation of this kind, the bill provides powers that are currently reflective of some of the powers currently available under a terrorist emergency declaration. These include: the power to control the movement of the people and to search people and anything in their possession; the power to require access to information to facilitate the search of electronic devices such as mobile phones; and the power to require a person to identify themselves and to collect biometric information such as fingerprints when the person refuses to provide their details or there is doubt about the veracity of the details that they have provided.

These powers are balanced by appropriate safeguards. The bill constrains the use of the powers to extraordinary emergencies characterised by their scale, complexity and the danger they pose to the community. Further safeguards include that the declaration must be over the smallest area necessary to manage the relevant incident; the declaration is required to be revoked when the powers are no longer required; the emergency commander is required to notify an assistant commissioner as soon as reasonably practicable after the authorisation has been made; and, finally, an extensive report is required to be tabled on the exercise of the powers within six months of the emergency having ended.

The bill also amends the Corrective Services Act 2006 to support efficiencies in the operational practices relating to the delivery of health services to prisoners; the management of Corrective Services facilities, including prisoners; and the supervision of offenders in the community. Queensland Corrective Services has a world-class training facility at Wacol. The Corrective Services Academy is headed by Mr Alan Butler, General Manager, Capability and Development, supported by Ms Tamara Bambrick, Acting General Manager, Custodial Operations, and under the direction of Acting Commissioner Kerrith McDermott.

I regularly attend graduation ceremonies at the academy deputising for the Minister for Corrective Services, Mark Ryan, and I can attest to the quality of the graduates produced by the Corrective Services Academy. Just last week the academy had its seventh graduation ceremony in 13 weeks, just another example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to increasing front-line services not just with the Queensland Police Service but also with Corrective Services.

In closing, I would like to thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, particularly the chair, the member for Stretton, the secretariat and the submitters. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.56 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As has been highlighted by members on both sides of the House contributing to the debate this afternoon, it is very clear that we live in an ever changing world. That is an unfortunate and stark reality with which parliamentarians across not only Australia but also the world have to grapple.


At lunchtime today I went down to Coles and at the top of the Queen Street Mall we can see cement bollards. When we go to sporting events and airports we see increased security and, of course, at all open public spaces we are now seeing increased security. We see this even overseas, unfortunately. A few years ago Paris put armed service men and women on the streets, something that had not been seen in that country since the end of the Second World War.

As has been highlighted by both the minister and the shadow minister and many others members who have contributed to the debate, the whole point of this bill is to enhance public and police officer safety as well as to ensure that our police and security personnel are able to respond rapidly not only to terrorist events but also to critical incidents. We on this side of the House particularly are cognisant that still more must be done. That is why the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Clayfield, as highlighted again today by the member for Everton and shadow minister, and the LNP have a plan particularly when it comes to counterterrorism. Some of the things the LNP will do if given the privilege of forming government after the next election are things like improving and increasing police powers, bail and parole laws. One of the things that we have also announced is that there will be a dedicated minister for counterterrorism. As we know, there are many elements that must be considered and there are many organisations and groups that need to be consulted and worked with to ensure that ultimately we can make Queensland and Australia as safe as we possibly can.

I am sure that all members of the House would agree when I say that hardworking police men and women and all of the security personnel across this great nation do an absolutely amazing job at keeping us safe. We only have to consider just how many possible terrorist attacks and events have been foiled to see just what fantastic work they do.

It is incumbent on us as parliamentarians to ensure that we pass laws and do everything we can to make their job easier, give them the powers they need to do their job and support them day in, day out not only as an organisation but as individuals who are prepared to go out and put their lives on the line for our safety. As has been said by many members, we do need to be ever vigilant in a changing world. Our radio broadcasts, newspapers, Twitter feeds and television screens are so often filled with horrific events. Although this is not an exhaustive list, in recent memory there have been horrific attacks in Nice, London, Manchester, Brussels, Berlin, Paris, Sydney, Melbourne and, very recently and tragically for Australia, Barcelona. We need to make sure that our police and security personnel are well equipped and able to respond to low-key events, because we are told by security personnel and police that that is the most likely type of event we will see. As we so often hear, unfortunately it is a case of when, not if. As I say, the most recent attacks that we have seen around the world are low-key attacks.

This is a critical piece of the puzzle, but we should never assume that this is the be-all and end-all. There is work that will continually need to happen, and as a parliament we will need to work to strike the right balance. As someone who joined the Liberal Party at the age of 16, I am very cognisant of the need to protect the liberties, rights and freedoms of individuals, but that should never be at the expense of the safety of Australians and Queenslanders. We need to make sure that we do all that we can to keep our community and our country safe. As we have seen with the legislation that was passed earlier in the year in this House concerning changes to the PPRA, we need to be ever vigilant and make as many necessary changes as possible not only in terms of the general threat but also particularly ahead of the Commonwealth Games, which will be held in my hometown next year. Our city will be on the world stage and we need to make sure that, not only for Gold Coasters but for visitors around Australia and the world, it is not only the friendly games but also the safest possible games. I look forward to supporting the bill at each stage as it continues through the House.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.02 pm), in reply: I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who made a contribution to the debate on the Counter-Terrorism and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The reality and significance of the threat terrorism poses and the primacy of community safety has been clearly highlighted during the debate. I am encouraged by the support shown for the bill. While all members in this House are aware that no government can ever eliminate all the risks posed by persons intent on causing harm, this bill provides our police with the necessary legislative tools to enhance their capabilities to mitigate or minimise the risk to the community. I would like to particularly address some of the issues raised by members during the debate.

Some members have raised the issue of the time a person may be held in custody under a preventative detention order. The Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act is national, uniform legislation. All of the state jurisdictions have a time frame of 14 days in relation to preventative detention orders. That is the consistent and national approach. I note that some members of this House have stated that they will always take advice from law enforcement agencies such as the Queensland Police Service on matters of terrorism and counterterrorism. As the police minister, so do I. Any change in the number of days associated with the maximum period of preventative detention orders is most appropriately progressed in conjunction with other state jurisdictions to ensure that a uniform approach to terrorism is undertaken and to facilitate interjurisdictional cooperation in these investigations.

Some members have also raised the issue of changes to parole and bail laws in the context of terrorism offences. You may be aware that Queensland has entered into the COAG agreement in relation to these changes; however, more work is being done in this area and we will come back to COAG after appropriate and measured consideration has been made. In addition, I have already issued ministerial guidelines to the Queensland Parole Board that, when granting parole, the Parole Board Queensland must give consideration to issues of national security. This government is committed to ensuring nationally consistent legislation on counterterrorism matters to ensure that there are no safe havens for terrorism and to facilitate interagency investigative cooperation.

Some members have also raised the issue of safeguards. I can assure those members that this bill contains robust safeguards. For example, the bill contains extensive reporting obligations in relation to the exercise of a number of new powers. Also, the bill preserves the current role of the Public Interest Monitor under chapter 13 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 in relation to the new tracking device powers. Those, along with a number of other safeguards in the bill, ensure that the bill strikes the right balance between keeping the community safe and preserving the rights and liberties of individuals.

I would again like to thank all members for their contribution to the debate. I also acknowledge the hard work of all members of the Queensland Police Service, particularly those from the legislation branch who have worked very hard on the development of this bill, and those members of our Queensland Police Service who are particularly dedicated to responding to the risk and threat of counterterrorism. All members of our Police Service as well as other emergency services agencies and Corrective Services work very hard every day to keep Queenslanders safe, and this legislation will support them in that good work.

This bill is the third tranche of the Palaszczuk government's strong reform of Queensland's counterterrorism and emergency management powers. Our government is unwavering in its commitment to ensuring that Queensland is a safe place to live, work and holiday. 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 48, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.07 pm): I move—


That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.07 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.

## WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 14 June (see p. 1616).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (4.08 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Today we debate historic reforms to cut litter in Queensland. This bill will ban the scourge of plastic shopping bags and put a price on beverage containers so they are recycled. Many of the most passionate advocates for these reforms are Queensland schoolchildren. Every day I get letters from schoolkids around the state. By passing this bill we say to our young people that we value our wildlife, especially our marine creatures like turtles and dugong. We say that we want our parks, waterways, Moreton Bay and the Great Barrier Reef to be litter free. Today we can also deliver to all the community organisations who will benefit from the container refund scheme and we give kids a chance to make some pocket money by cleaning out parks and collecting and returning cans and bottles.

Many of us have fond memories of cash for cans and re-usable bottle recycling. I remember school holidays spent with my grandad, stacking XXXX longneck bottles in a wire collection depot to raise funds for the northern suburbs racing pigeon club. I can still smell the stale beer and hear the crash of broken glass. It is entirely possible that my taste for Queensland's iconic XXXX beer dates back to those fond memories of my grandad, although it is also fair to say that grandad did not mind emptying a XXXX bottle of his own later in the day.

An estimated 2.4 billion beverage containers and one billion lightweight plastic shopping bags are used in Queensland every year. These are ending up in our waterways and killing and maiming our native animals. This bill responds to overwhelming community demand. Queensland has the most iconic marine environment in the world, and we must act to protect our world renowned beaches, our waterways and, of course, the Great Barrier Reef. I have seen the impacts of this litter firsthand on my visits with Trevor Long and the team at Sea World. Many animals ingest plastic litter. Some marine turtles even choose to eat plastic bags over their regular food, unaware of the harm that will follow. Queenslanders told us that they are worried about the effects of plastic litter going into our environment and ultimately our own food chain.

The container refund scheme and plastic bag ban will address our litter problem while creating jobs across the state and supporting social enterprises and charities. It will give local communities an incentive to stem the massive amounts of litter in our playgrounds, parks, rivers and beaches. We are giving people access to the latest technology to do it. Reverse vending machines are easy to use and provide instant refunds. They will be made available right across the state. I am pleased to advise that, with Mr Speaker's permission, Queensland's first reverse vending machine is currently installed here at Parliament House. Members can test it out for themselves now if they like, before making up their minds whether to support this bill.

With an estimated 2.4 billion eligible containers generated in Queensland each year, the container refund scheme will create new social and commercial opportunities. This means more revenue for our not-for-profit organisations including sporting clubs and charities, particularly in regional, rural and remote areas of the state. It will give community groups like the Scouts a chance to make some money out of the work they are already doing to keep our neighbourhoods clean. I acknowledge their hard work and dedication and am encouraged by their positive feedback.

I also want to commend Woolworths and Coles for their announcement that they will voluntarily implement a nationwide ban on lightweight plastic shopping bags to align with Queensland's 1 July 2018 commencement date. It goes to show that there is broad momentum and support for this ban. Another great example of locally inspired action on plastic litter came from the Spar supermarket at Alexandra Headland on the Sunshine Coast on Friday, when they took on the challenge to go plastic bag free. I congratulate Bruce and Sue Luchterhand for their courage and encourage other retailers to follow in their footsteps.

We recognise that many Queenslanders are in the habit of relying on free plastic shopping bags to carry goods home and that some will require some support to shift their behaviour. This is why the bill contains a transition period ahead of the ban commencing on 1 July 2018. The Queensland government has partnered with the National Retail Association and Boomerang Alliance to ensure retailers and communities across the state are ready. We have also partnered with Boomerang Bags, a grassroots organisation, to empower local communities to make low-cost re-usable bags from recycled materials.

Importantly, Queensland's action on banning lightweight shopping bags goes one step further than the ban in other states by also including biodegradable and degradable plastic bags. Despite the promise of these technologies, it turns out that they can be as dangerous as, if not more dangerous than, regular plastic bags as they quickly break up into more pieces when in the environment. If we pass this bill today, Queensland will go from being the litter capital of Australia to the front of the pack, where we should be.

The Agriculture and Environment Committee considered the bill and published its report on 11 August 2017. The committee recommended that the bill be passed and made three further recommendations. These recommendations relate to the mandatory inclusion of a recycling industry representative on the board of the Product Responsibility Organisation that will operate the container refund scheme and to the minister reporting to the committee on progress on reaching relevant benchmarks within two years of commencement of the container refund scheme. The final recommendation refers to the inclusion of the benchmarks in regulation.

The Queensland government response fully supports three of the four recommendations of the committee and partly supports the remaining recommendation. The government agrees with the committee's view that the recycling industry will play an important role in the implementation and functioning of the proposed container refund scheme. The government also supports the committee's view that inclusion of a recycling industry representative on the board of the Product Responsibility Organisation would ensure balanced representation. The government is proposing to achieve the aim of this recommendation by amending the Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2011. The amendment will ensure that at least one member of the board will have knowledge and experience of the waste and recycling industry. The regulation will also ensure the board has a member or members with knowledge and experience of the local government and not-for-profit sectors.

It is important to note that the container refund scheme is designed to create the potential for members of the waste industry to compete for revenue through the scheme. This opportunity is also available to other sectors, such as local government and the not-for-profit sector, but is not available to the beverage industry as the beverage industry must fund the scheme and the Product Responsibility Organisation itself cannot distribute a profit to members. Any person who is able to earn revenue through the scheme has a pecuniary interest which would create a potential conflict of interest if they were a Product Responsibility Organisation board member. The amendments to the regulation will avoid this potential conflict of interest by specifying that a board member may not be currently employed by a waste or recycling company, local government or not-for-profit organisation.

I note that the committee reported that support for the measures proposed in the bill was universal and that the community is ready to make the switch from single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags to re-usable bags as a way of reducing plastic litter. I also note that the submissions received by the committee indicated there is considerable support for the introduction of a container refund scheme. I thank the committee for its valuable work and I welcome the fact that community support for the bill is so overwhelming it also enjoys bipartisan backing in this parliament today.

The container refund scheme is a product stewardship approach where the beverage manufacturers will take responsibility for appropriately managing the empty containers that result from the consumption of beverages. Queensland is leading the pack again by establishing a not-for-profit Product Responsibility Organisation to administer the scheme. The bill also ensures there is strong governance and oversight to ensure the container refund scheme is transparent and accountable in all

parts of its operation. The Product Responsibility Organisation board's composition includes a balance between industry and independent community representatives. The government has proactively engaged with the beverage industry to establish this organisation by the end of 2017.


The Queensland government recognises that waste is often a valuable resource that can be used beneficially and encourages the safe and environmentally sound re-use and recovery of waste. The bill amends the end-of-waste framework by enabling better regulation of the end user of resources. Without the control on the end user that is afforded by these amendments, the risks of environmental harm associated with the use of resources would have to be eliminated before the waste is supplied as a resource.

The amendments clarify that an end-of-waste approval can be used to trial the use of a waste as a resource when there is a lack of certainty about the waste, its intended use or its suitability for an end-of-waste code. These amendments respond to concerns raised by stakeholders about gaps in the existing regulatory framework and complement a raft of other minor amendments that clarify the operation of the end-of-waste framework. The amendments to the end-of-waste framework will result in more waste being used as a resource and will reduce the costs for operators who choose to apply for an end-of-waste approval for their wastes. These wastes would otherwise have been disposed to landfill.

As a result of these initiatives, Queensland can look forward to cleaner parks, beaches and public areas after the container refund scheme and the ban on plastic shopping bags start next year. For too long we have been the litter capital of the country. The container refund scheme and plastic bag ban represent an historic step towards correcting this record.

Finally, I want to speak to the amendments to the Planning Act also proposed in this bill. Amendments to the Planning Act 2016 and to the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016 will provide clarification on a small number of issues that have been identified since commencement. All of the amendments seek to clarify existing provisions and ensure that these new pieces of legislation operate in the way they were intended. The amendments do not represent a change in policy. Now that these issues have been identified, amendments are being progressed as a matter of urgency to ensure our planning system can operate in a clear and transparent manner.

It is intended that amendments be made to the Planning Act 2016 to clarify, firstly, the intent in relation to the minister's decision on certain change applications; secondly, owner's consent in relation to particular development applications; and, finally, to clarify certain appeal rights. It is further proposed that amendments to the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016 be made to address a cross-referencing error and to extend the period for the current Planning and Environment Court rules. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.20 pm): Today I rise to give my support to the passage of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017 which was introduced by the Hon. Dr Steven Miles MP, although there are some matters that need clarification by the minister as a part of this debate given that the Liberal National Party will not be opposing the legislation.

In June 2016 the Liberal National Party opposition leader, the honourable Tim Nicholls MP, and I as shadow minister for the environment and heritage projection gave to the people of Queensland a public commitment that a future LNP government would introduce a container deposit scheme. We also gave a commitment to eliminate the harms of single-use plastic bags. These announcements at the time prompted the minister, the Hon. Dr Steven Miles, to act because, as a consequence, we then saw the minister in July 2016 announce that the Palaszczuk Labor government would progress a container deposit scheme, with a further announcement later in November on an intended ban by Labor on lightweight plastic shopping bags. Whilst the minister is supporting the LNP's announcement, I for one am glad he is doing so as this is an important initiative for our environment, for conservation, for community organisations, for waste reduction and recycling, and for jobs in Queensland. While Labor attempts to always paint itself as the party for the environment, its record shows that it is a party big on rhetoric but does little in the way of delivering real, workable, balanced policies that help protect our environment. However, today is an exception.

Container deposit schemes have been tried and tested in over 40 jurisdictions around the world, including South Australia since 1977 and the Northern Territory since 2012. The National Litter Index has shown that Queensland has the worst litter rate in Australia at 72 items per 1,000 square metres—41 per cent higher than the national average—and I am pleased to say that this legislation based on LNP policy will hopefully introduce sensible measures to address this situation.

To those who ask, 'Can a container deposit scheme make a difference?' there are many organisations and individuals who believe the answer is yes. Clean Up Australia believes that when Queensland comes on board and implements the scheme the resultant impact will be a reduction in rubbish heading to landfill or ending up inappropriately in waterways, noticeable increases in recycling rates, a reduction in water usage and additional job creation. Clean Up Australia has found that beverage containers make up 23 per cent of litter collected in Queensland. In other states of Australia where a container deposit scheme has been introduced, more than 80 per cent of consumers return containers and redeem deposits while the remaining 20 per cent of unredeemed deposits help pay for the system to operate or are claimed by others.

The container deposit scheme is a natural progression for the Liberal National Party following on from when we were last in government, given that the LNP introduced the \$12 million Everyone's Environment grants program. Across the three rounds of the Everyone's Environment grants program a total of 308 organisations were allocated almost \$12 million to deliver projects and these projects then resulted in significant conservation and environmental improvements and achievements for Queensland. These achievements included almost 138,000 trees being planted, over 132,000 hectares having weeds removed and over 140,000 kilograms of rubbish being removed from local waterways and associated areas with over 16,250 volunteers being engaged in such efforts.

The LNP believes a container deposit or refund scheme will not only reduce litter and clean up our environment but that it also has the potential to create hundreds of jobs in Queensland's recycling sector. The LNP also believes that local charities, community groups and sporting clubs could financially benefit from collecting containers and returning them. It is estimated that community groups could claim over \$25 million from deposits under the scheme. I note the observation made at the Agriculture and Environment Committee by the Queensland Manager of the Boomerang Alliance, Mr Toby Hutcheon, who said—

I believe that most not-for-profit and community sector groups will be very, very interested in participating in the scheme in some form. The estimated number of containers we use in Queensland that will be subject to the scheme is around 2.5 billion per year. Considering that 10 per cent may go to the not-for-profit sector that is \$25 million a year that could go into very valuable community work. In South Australia, Scouts give their federation approximately \$2.8 million from collections, so it is a considerable benefit.

I sincerely hope to see an uptake like this in Queensland. I know schoolchildren right across Queensland, including in my own electorate of Moggill, as well as my own children, are very excited about the introduction of the container refund scheme in Queensland.

Under the scheme, empty eligible 150-millilitre to three-litre drink containers with an approved refund mark will be able to be returned to a container refund point, including reverse vending machines, for a 10-cent refund. As the minister has alluded to, there is an example of that on level 3 of the Parliamentary Annexe. It is important that this House acknowledges the tremendous amount of work done by representatives on the Container Refund Scheme Implementation Advisory Group. The fact that we have this bill before us today shows the dedication and devotion of those officers from organisations such as the Australian Beverages Council, the Australian Council of Recycling, the Australian Food and Grocery Council, the Boomerang Alliance, the Association of Container Deposit System Operators, the Local Government Association of Queensland, the National Association of Charitable Recycling Organisations, the National Retail Association, Scouts Queensland, the Waste Management Association of Queensland and the Waste, Recycling Industry Association Queensland. These aforementioned organisations should be thanked for working together to assist in designing an effective scheme which provides the opportunity for community and social groups to participate in the state's recycling efforts.

In relation to the plastic shopping bag ban, I note four other states and territories have plastic shopping bag bans in place covering single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags which are less than 35 microns in thickness. On average a single-use plastic bag is used for just 12 minutes but it can take up to a thousand years to fully decompose. Australians use over five billion of such plastic shopping bags every year, with an estimated 900 million used here in Queensland. The ban is proposed to commence on 1 July 2018, with a transition phase for consumers and retailers prior to this date. Congratulations to Woolworths and Coles on their recent leadership and associated announcements with regard to this issue. For consumers the message is: take a re-usable bag when shopping and keep re-usable bags in your car so you are always prepared.

Plastic bags break up, not down, into smaller bits, posing an even greater threat for wildlife to swallow. The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland has estimated around 30 per cent of sea turtle deaths in Moreton Bay are attributable to plastic ingestion and 70 per cent of loggerheads in Queensland waters have ingested plastics. Some 90 per cent of all seabird species have ingested



plastic debris. A joint EM Foundation-World Economic Forum report from 2016 offered the view that at least eight million tonnes of plastic leak into the ocean every year. By 2025 the oceans will contain one tonne of plastic for every three tonnes of fish and by 2050 more plastic than fish. Ongoing efforts to address this issue must be a priority and further research and funding to examine the threats posed by marine plastics and the impacts on human health given the accumulation of plastics in shellfish and fish is something I am deeply concerned about as a medical practitioner.

As I have indicated, the Liberal National Party has a strong track record when it comes to supporting grassroots efforts to clean up our environment, including when last in government in Queensland, by introducing a waste avoidance strategy, partnering with councils to address the problem of roadside litter and, as previously mentioned, administering a successful \$12 million grants program for community organisations to clean up, restore and protect their local environments. The federal LNP coalition government under then prime minister John Howard established the world's first oceans policy in 1998. In fact, it can be said that it is successive LNP coalition federal and state governments that have delivered for the environment, including a prohibition on oil and gas exploration in the Great Barrier Reef, a ban on whaling, a ban on sandmining on Fraser Island, creating the first stage of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park and achieving World Heritage status listing of the Great Barrier Reef.

I return now to the bill. The provisions of this legislation are consistent with the plastic bag bans in other jurisdictions where a ban also applies, with the exception that Queensland's ban also covers biodegradable plastic shopping bags as these bags have the same potential impact on the environment and wildlife as traditional plastic bags if they are littered. However, as with any piece of Labor legislation, there remain a number of questions which I hope the minister can answer. Take for example the following statement by the department in response to submissions—

The bill provides for a regulation to prescribe another thickness of plastic to be a banned bag. This would also allow the thicker, single-use plastic shopping bags to be banned if the need arises.

My question then is: who is it that determines this need? Will it be the same with respect to the oversight of the plastic pollution reduction plan, and what groups are on the independent task force responsible for making such a determination?

With regard to the operation of the board of the Product Responsibility Organisation, PRO, whilst I noted this year's budget allocation, can the minister categorically confirm how much this will cost Queensland taxpayers? Whilst this body is seen to be charged with the rollout of the container deposit scheme across the state, we are still yet to hear what financial resources will be dedicated towards this task in an ongoing manner. If the operation of the scheme is meant to fund the operations of the Product Responsibility Organisation, presumably the initial capital outlay required in order to give the scheme the economies of scale needed to secure its ongoing operation has an evidence base. I note that the main function of the Product Responsibility Organisation is to administer and provide governance for the scheme, including ensuring that ongoing efficient and effective arrangements are available in Queensland for empty beverage containers to be collected, sorted and recycled, and also establishing a network of container refund points to, as far as practicable, provide communities in Queensland with access to a place where empty containers can be returned for the payment of refund amounts.

I note that while Labor expects minimal costs to government associated with the implementation of the plastic bag ban there are costs associated and anticipated around the preparation and delivery of community and retailer awareness. I also understand that the government has entered into a partnership with the National Retail Association to undertake extensive retailer engagement in the lead-up to the introduction of the ban on 1 July 2018 and that the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection is expected also to undertake broad community messaging. It would be beneficial for the minister to advise the House what these campaigns are expected to cost taxpayers.

Furthermore, the minister's explanatory notes outline further anticipated cost to taxpayers in relation to the delivery of broad public messaging in the lead-up to the 1 July 2018 commencement of the container deposit scheme in order to provide information about the types of containers to which a refund applies and how the scheme will work. Once again, will the minister outline to the House a summary of what these campaigns are expected to cost taxpayers?

I also note that in relation to the rollout of the container refund scheme the government has identified that there may be a need to provide some small-scale infrastructure grants to community groups and remote local governments and communities. The question facing many councils and groups now is: how do they factor the provision of such infrastructure into their budgets? Where do they go to seek such grants and what are the time frames proposed around such applications being assessed and approved? With regard to the review of the container deposit scheme, I note the bill outlines that

the Product Responsibility Organisation will provide quarterly and annual reports directly to the minister. What is not clear is to where they will be asked to send their updates, in what format and will they be made available to the public so taxpayers can assess the rollout of the scheme?

I also note that the bill makes reference to banned plastic bags being banned either by regulation or, if not banned by regulation, being 35 microns in thickness. However, the department's response to submissions states, 'A ban should apply to plastic bags up to 70 microns.' This raises some questions that the minister should clarify so as to ensure that retailers have certainty as they enter this new regime. Is the government looking at moving to a ban of 70-micron bags and, if so, in what time frame is this envisaged?

I support the decision to conduct a review into the operation and effectiveness of the plastic shopping bag ban with a review commencing no later than three months after 1 July 2020. This is important as it will inform us as to whether the uptake of the ban is understood by the public and retail sector alike. I also draw to the attention of the House the report of the Agriculture and Environment Committee which noted—

The committee anticipates that the recycling industry will play an important role in the implementation and functioning of the proposed container refund scheme. In the committee's view, the inclusion of a recycling industry representative on the product responsibility organisation board will promote balanced representation.

Accordingly, I conditionally support the committee's second recommendation that the bill be amended to mandate the inclusion of a recycling industry representative on the board of the Product Responsibility Organisation. Due to potential or actual conflict of interest aspects, it may be appropriate for the government to support alternative arrangements in order to satisfy this recommendation. I note the minister's comments a little earlier in relation to the matter.

Furthermore, I commend the committee report for taking on board the feedback of stakeholders such as the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland with regard to reviewing the container refund scheme after its commencement. I note the committee report advises that it sees merit in monitoring the performance of the scheme, including that of the Product Responsibility Organisation, after a reasonable amount of time has elapsed after its commencement.

Accordingly, I support the committee's third and fourth recommendations. Recommendation 3 is that the committee recommends that the minister report to the committee on progress in reaching relevant benchmarks within two years of commencement of the container refund scheme. The benchmarks should include key performance indicators for the container refund scheme and Product Responsibility Organisation, including a container recycling target, a convenience and accessibility target in relation to the availability of container refund points and targets relating to social enterprise and innovation and technology outcomes and the appropriate time frame in which those targets are required to be achieved. In terms of recommendation 4, the committee recommends that the minister specify in regulation those benchmarks referred to in recommendation 3.


The other element of the bill that requires clarification is in relation to penalties and compliance with respect to the plastic bag ban. Who will be in charge of enforcing the bag ban? Will this responsibility fall on department of environment officers?

With reference to the other main objectives of the bill, I note the changes to the end-of-waste codes and I understand that the department is attempting to address issues such as the inability to control the use of end-of-waste resources under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011. The intention of the end-of-waste framework is for waste to be approved for use as a resource, provided it meets very strict quality criteria that minimise the potential for environmental harm when used as designated. The amendments introduced in the bill seek to enable better control of the end use of resources where necessary to reduce the potential for environmental harm whilst encouraging appropriate and acceptable uses of waste materials. As such, these should be supported. I also note that due diligence has been discharged with respect to the bill being considered against fundamental legislative principles.

In conclusion, the LNP will not oppose the proposed legislation given its benefits to the environment and conservation in Queensland. I look forward to the minister addressing and clarifying some of the aforementioned matters. There is no doubt that we would not be here today without the leadership of the Liberal National Party and our political support for these very important policy initiatives which will deliver for our environment and Queensland.

I note the erratum to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017 circulated by the government today. I accept the explicit clarification offered as the basis for the document. I also looked at the foreshadowed amendments that the minister will move as a part of the consideration in detail and I will have further comments about that later.

I place on record my thanks to the members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee and particularly the LNP members for Condamine and Gregory for their due diligence in assessing and evaluating this legislation. I also acknowledge the committee's secretariat for its work. This is a great day for our environment, wildlife, community groups, conservation organisations and all Queenslanders.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.40 pm): I support the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017. I would like to start by thanking the other committee members and the secretariat for their work on this bill. I would also like to thank the many individuals and organisations who took the time to make submissions and appear as witnesses in the hearings. Many of these people and organisations have been working on the issue of plastic pollution for decades and I acknowledge their ongoing concern for our environment.

The committee made four recommendations, the first of which is that the bill should be passed by the House. I am glad that was a unanimous recommendation. I am pleased that the recommendations have been accepted in principle and I note that the minister has identified an alternative way to achieve recommendation 2 and I support this change.

While plastic was a product developed in the late 1800s, it was not until the 1940s that it moved to being a widespread part of our life. People eat off it and we eat with it. We wear it. People drive in vehicles and communicate with devices full of it. People live in dwellings where it is ubiquitous and it is essential in our schools and in our hospitals. Few of us now could navigate our daily lives and our daily activities without plastic. The properties that make plastic useful—its strength, its longevity, its adaptability—also make it an environmental problem. There is a growing awareness that people need to rethink their relationship with plastic and the way that it is used.

The support for the measures in this bill was almost universal. The provisions will require significant changes to the way we live, but those making submissions overwhelmingly indicated that the community is ready to make the change. I would like to acknowledge the extensive consultation that occurred before this bill came to the parliament. The minister and the department are to be congratulated for consulting widely with industry groups, environmental groups and individual stakeholders. All of these groups have come together with good intent and spirit to work to resolve a major problem for our society.

This is an important way forward to solve the major environmental challenges that lie ahead. We must come together and work collectively to solve these problems with sensible policy solutions that work for all sectors of our community. The banning of single-use shopping bags will require changes of practices for everyone. We all take it for granted that we can go to any retail outlet and get a plastic bag to carry home our goods. The environmental impacts of this assumption are enormous and the submissions demonstrated that the community is ready to make the switch.


I would like to acknowledge the Norman Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee, or N4C, which work in my own electorate and made a submission with respect to this bill. I have been volunteering with this group for 20 years and have participated in the work they do caring for our catchment and the local environment. They told the committee of the impacts of plastic on the health of the waterway they care for and rightly identified that single-use plastic bags and disposable drink containers were a major part of the plastic pollution they deal with.

Clean Up Australia Day is a major activity each year in my electorate and most sites are around Norman Creek or its tributaries such as Bowies Flat Wetland, Glindemann Park or Joachim Street Park. It is amazing to see the number of volunteers who show up to help on this day, and I am really pleased that for most of these volunteers it is not something they do once; they do this regularly all year long.

I am really pleased that local schools such as the Coorparoo State School have environmental school leaders and an environmental group that coordinates their contribution to Clean Up Australia Day. When I go out each year with students from Coorparoo State School and other young people across the electorate they are amazed and distressed at the volumes of plastic bags and drink bottles that we pull out of places like Bowies Flat Wetland. It is for their future that this bill is so important. The Coorparoo State School environmental group and the N4C do a lot to ensure that our environment is

sustainable for the future of our community. I know the N4C and the Coorparoo State School environmental group will be extremely pleased that we are taking this important step to ban single-use plastic bags and establish a container refund scheme to increase recycling.

I also know that the thousands of people across all parts of our community who have contacted me about this issue will be pleased. These people and these groups know that this is crucial for our environment. They know business will need to change. They know we must all change our behaviours and our lifestyle. They know that governments must show leadership to assist people to make the necessary changes, and I am proud to be part of a government that has shown that leadership. Members of my community know we can achieve this by all parts of society working together for a sustainable future. Labor governments have consistently demonstrated a commitment to ensuring the sustainability of natural environments. This is one more step to ensure a sustainable future for all. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (4.43 pm): I rise to speak to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017 as a member of the Agriculture and Environment Committee. This bill was introduced into the House by the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, the Hon. Dr Steven Miles, on 14 June 2017. The committee recommended that the bill be passed with one amendment. The committee received 63 submissions and held briefings with the department and public hearings in Brisbane and Yeppoon.

The objectives of the bill are to introduce a lightweight plastic bag ban and a container refund scheme in Queensland and also an end-of-waste framework where products are used as a resource. The plastic bag ban applies to single-use bags with a thickness of less than 35 microns including degradable bags. These are bags that are largely used in grocery and convenience stores where you collect your fruit and vegetables, for example. The ban does not include thicker single-use plastic bags your shopping may be placed in—for example, if you went and purchased an item from the likes of a Myer store. Barrier bags are also not included in the legislation, these being bags such as a loaf of bread may come in or prepackaged fruit or deli products. Nappy bags and other similar packaged items are also not included. Whilst these bags are not included in this legislation, the bill provides for regulation amendments to be included in the ban if the review finds that slightly thicker single-use bags are being provided as an alternative to the single-use lightweight bag. Penalties apply to retailers that do not comply with the regulation that will commence on 1 July 2018.

The proposed ban has received widespread support, not only from wildlife and conservation groups but also from local government and the wider general public. The Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland stated that about one billion plastic bags are used in Queensland every year and it is estimated over 16 million become litter. The majority of the rest end up in landfill. The Wildlife Preservation Society stated that these bags by their nature are easily picked up by the wind which allows their escape from landfill, shopping centres and public places. I think we have all seen that. Their movement in the breeze means they can easily get into rivers, creeks and the marine environment. It is here that they are exposed to the many birds, animals and reptiles who get entangled or mistake them for food. The Local Government Association of Queensland stated that the proposed ban would assist councils to reduce windblown litter at landfills, reduce litter in public places and waterways and reduce stormwater network blockages reducing the cost of repairs and maintenance.

Degradable and biodegradable bags have not been included because, as heard by the committee, these can take up to two years to decompose, by which time they are broken into smaller pieces and are often consumed by wildlife. The Norman Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee noted that if a better biodegradable bag was invented it appears that the legislation will permit this to be used. The Master Grocers association expressed some concern as to the cost that retailers may be exposed to. They stated that the government should supply retailers with posters and flyers to assist them to overcome some of the problems that they will undoubtedly encounter.


The beverage container refund scheme is also another litter-reducing scheme. The legislation will cover beverage containers that contain a liquid for human consumption and apply to containers between 150 millilitres and three litres and includes all glass, aluminium, plastic and liquid paperboard. The legislation does not include milk and fruit juice containers, wine and spirit bottles or takeaway coffee cups.

The scheme would be run by a board made up of an independent chair approved by the minister, at least two directors with financial and legal qualifications, one director with community interest approved by the minister and the remaining positions to be from the beverage industry. The committee recommended that there be a representative from the recycling industry on the board.

The bill states that the refund price will be 10 cents per container. This would be managed at various collection points around the state and returns would be scanned using a barcode rather than weight as there would be less likelihood of exploiting the scheme. It is believed that there would be about 307 of these locations across the state. The scheme is designed to fit in and work with the current recycling scheme or kerbside scheme that we all know today. As we have also heard, this could be of benefit to not-for-profit groups. We all remember years ago the Scouts used to enter the bottle recycling scheme on a fairly large scale. This will again give not-for-profit groups that opportunity.

The Local Government Association and the Brisbane City Council stated that they had some concerns around the appropriate planning provisions made to control a licensed community group's involvement in the scheme to ensure odour, noise and public health are adequately controlled. A lot of work will need to be done with local government on how the depots are maintained. During the course of the investigation—and the member for Greenslopes commented on the group that he works with—it became apparent the work that those groups do and we have to admire them for it. From my experience, plastic bags and bottles are a greater problem along the eastern seaboard than inland, because wind-blown bags end up in creeks, mangroves and oceans where they cause problems to wildlife.

The bill proposes the introduction of the end-of-waste approval application and provides opportunities for an approval classification if the resource can be used without any environmental harm. In my area on the Darling Downs, that is already being done with some human waste being used as fertiliser to grow grains and cotton. We support those amendments. We support the legislation with the recommendation that a representative from the recycling industry sit on the board.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.50 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017. This bill is important for all Queenslanders to ensure that we are recycling our rubbish and cleaning up our environment. Through the introduction of banning lightweight plastic bags, known as one-use plastic bags, the implementation of the container refund scheme and enabling greater control of the use of our end-of-waste resources by amending the code, the bill will contribute to reducing the amount of pollution in the environment by changing consumer behaviour, which is an important aspect of the bill.


My electorate is known as the gateway to the Whitsundays. It is also surrounded by the natural beauty of the Eungella National Park, as well as many beaches, creeks and rivers, including our special Pioneer River, which is the only blue water river in Queensland. We are the custodians of our natural heritage for future generations to come. It is time that we ensure our beaches, creeks, rivers and bushland are kept uncluttered and free from pollution.

We are all aware of the damage that plastic bags do to our marine life. Not only does it take away from the beauty of our waterways; it kills animals. It is time that we took out of our system as many one-use plastic bags as possible. What goes in the water from my electorate ends up on the Great Barrier Reef. This bill will encourage consumers and retailers to consider whether a plastic bag is needed. If they choose to use a bag, they can use a re-usable bag. In some instances, consumers have already started to use re-usable bags and many people keep shopping bags in their car boots. Retailers will be able to offer alternative bags for sale, as they currently do at many supermarkets.

A Product Responsibility Organisation will be set up to administer and provide governance for a beverage container refund scheme. This will ensure manufacturers of beverage products take stewardship and responsibility for beverage products that generate waste in the form of empty containers. The entity running the container refund scheme is able to enter into an agreement with individual container refund point operators or entities acting on behalf of a number of refund point operators. There is flexibility built into this scheme. The scheme allows for reverse vending machines, where a consumer can take their eligible empty containers for a refund. I have witnessed those machines working in suburbs overseas. People line up with their containers and the system works quickly and efficiently.

A charitable organisation can operate a container refund point and also receive donated containers. The refund for the containers can be paid to the organisation so long as they keep records to show the payment. A representative from scouting was at the Keppel hearing. He reported that in New South Wales the organisation relies on the container refund scheme for the majority of their fundraising. There appears to be an interest in the opportunities for charities to manage a collection point. The number of empty drink containers on the roadsides and dumped in landfill will be reduced because of this bill. The containers will have value, so customers will benefit from their changed behaviour.

End-of-waste approvals are considered in the bill. This allows for an applicant to apply to the chief executive for an end-of-waste approval to conduct a trial to demonstrate that one kind of waste can be used as a resource. It needs to be proven that the use of the resource is safe, will not cause environmental harm and is suitable for the end-of-waste code. The approvals will be based on the product being used for one or more specific uses, which will restrict the resource being used outside the approval in such a way that may cause environmental harm. Already in Mackay our sewage waste is recycled and the water is used by farmers for irrigation. That is a win-win for the environment and for the farmers. There is great potential for waste products from our sugar milling process to produce viable commercial products from what was previously considered waste. The potential to safely generate waste into useful products is great. I thank the committee members for their support of this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.56 pm): It gives me great pleasure to talk on the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017. Firstly, I thank all committee members. This was an important bill before our committee. I take this opportunity to also thank the secretariat staff and all people involved, especially the submitters to the inquiry who gave us a great understanding of where people are on this issue. It is fair to say that about 98 per cent of people would support this legislation.

The LNP does not oppose the bill. The bill amends the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to ban lightweight plastic shopping bags and introduce a container deposit scheme, which will start next year, to cut litter, increase recycling of containers and reduce the impact of harmful plastics pollution in the environment. Both the plastic bag ban and the container refund scheme require a legislative framework. All beverage manufacturers that manufacture a beverage product in a container covered by the scheme take responsibility to manage empty containers and pay for the costs of the scheme. Consumers have reasonable access to a refund, which is important, when they return eligible empty containers to a container refund point. This morning I noted a machine on level 3 of Parliament House, which I am looking forward to using.

The LNP supports banning single-use plastic bags and a container refund scheme and has announced a similar policy. I acknowledge the shadow environment minister, the member for Moggill, for the commitment he made to this issue quite a long time ago. In fact, I remember he made a very important announcement on this issue well over 12 months ago. The bill provides for the sale of beverages in containers, including restrictions on manufacturers selling a beverage product, refund amounts for empty containers, container refund points, an obligation on a container refund point operator, recovery amounts for empty containers recycled by material recovery facilities and approved containers for beverage products, including the relevant registers and application approvals.

I wish to talk about something that is very important in regard to legislation, which is the impact it will have on people in Western Queensland. There is a lot involved in putting together this legislation and making it work. It will have an impact and a cost on local governments. Many people in the House have been involved in local government and they would understand the costs that are incurred on local governments from time to time. This will be another cost incurred on local governments that, certainly in Western Queensland and regional Queensland, can ill afford to have any further costs put on their budget bottom line. We have to remember that their rate base is very small. It is not the rate base we see in South-East Queensland. They rely heavily on extra grants and funds, both from the federal and state governments. They also have to be very prudent in the way that they manage their budgets. This legislation will have an impact on local governments and I will talk about that later.

The LNP supports both policies and has led the announcements with the Palaszczuk government following. The member for Moggill, the shadow minister for the environment, made an announcement about this well over 12 months ago. The LNP has led the way on plastic bags and a container deposit/refund scheme to increase recycling, cut litter and protect the environment. The LNP announced its commitment to a containment deposit scheme in June 2016.

The LNP announced its commitment on plastic bags in November 2016. The opposition leader, Tim Nicholls, committed to phase out plastic bag use across the state should it be successful at the next state election. The LNP took the lead and was strongly supported by Clean Up Australia founder and chairman, Ian Kiernan. It is fair to say that the LNP has led the way in Queensland and the Labor Party has followed. I also note that supermarket majors Coles and Woolworths announced that plastic bags will not be used from 1 July 2018. The LNP has also taken the lead on a container deposit/refund scheme.

I now move to look at the impact that this legislation will have on local governments in Western Queensland. I note that there will be support for this legislation around South-East Queensland and coastal Queensland. There is obviously enough of a population and enough opportunity for someone to make a commercial opportunity out of recycling.

The problem in Western Queensland—and the Local Government Association of Queensland would be well aware of this—is that to have someone fulfil the requirements under this legislation in places like the Boulia Shire Council, the Diamantina Shire Council, the Winton Shire Council or the Longreach Regional Council will result in a financial impost on those councils. Councils out there can ill afford to spend more money and more money on—

**Mr Rickuss:** The West End ratepayers will prop it up.


**Mr MILLAR:** I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. I would hope the West End ratepayers would prop it up, but that is highly unlikely.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr MILLAR:** Of course. One of the major things for Western Queensland councils right now is cluster fencing, the eradication of prickly acacia and the elimination of wild dogs. Adding this to a local government's budget could be a quite hefty impost.

I call on the Minister for Environment to give special consideration to those Western Queensland councils when implementing this legislation. We all support the intent of this legislation. We support the banning of plastic bags. We support the recycling of containers, but we must remember that it will have an impost on local governments in Western Queensland.

I would ask the Minister for Environment to talk with the mayors in Western Queensland about this—whether it is Rick Britton, Ed Warren, Andrew Martin or Butch. They need to be involved in this and need to be given some assurance that this will not result in more costs for their budget bottom lines which are getting smaller and smaller all the time. My only request is that the Minister for Environment take their thoughts into consideration. I support the bill before the House.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.03 pm): I rise this afternoon to speak in favour of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017. Plastic is a ubiquitous part of all of our lives, but it has also become a silent killer. Millions of tonnes are clogging the world's oceans and devastating sea life. This bill will implement a generational change which will have far-reaching positives for our children and grandchildren, for our wildlife, our beautiful beaches, our waterways, our environment and the Great Barrier Reef.

Shortly after I was elected in 2015 I met with Jo Stoyel, Flavia Santa Maria, Rolf Schlagloth and Paul Bambrick from Plastic Bag Free Livingstone—a local, grassroots community campaign group which has been working for years to see a ban on plastic bags and also the introduction of a container deposit scheme. Plastic Bag Free Livingstone evolved from a small community group to a game-changing voice, harnessing public and business support to drive these legislative changes to ban plastic bags and introduce a container deposit scheme in Queensland. Plastic Bag Free Livingstone began the campaign after watching turtles choking, suffocating and dying from ingesting plastic bags and having them wrapped around their heads.

In September 2015 Plastic Bag Free Livingstone and I ran a parliamentary e-petition for the ban of plastic bags in Queensland. The petition received over 1,600 petitions from across Queensland. I was proud to stand in this place on 15 September 2015, the day that the petition was tabled in the parliament, in support of the ban. In September 2015 I also tabled a copy of the nonconforming change.org petition started by Emma Kent, also in 2015, which had almost 30,000 signatures in support of banning single-use plastic bags in Queensland. I am extremely proud that I have the opportunity to speak again today in this place on this issue, but now in support of a bill before this parliament which will see our vision for a plastic bag free Queensland and a Queensland container deposit scheme become a reality. Plastic Bag Free Livingstone and I subsequently ran a parliamentary e-petition for a container deposit scheme in Queensland, which was tabled in this House in February 2016. This petition received almost 800 signatures.

I was shocked to learn that Queenslanders use over one billion plastic bags every year. In fact, we are the most littered mainland state. The material which represents the greatest volume of litter in our state was plastics which break down and can also attract toxic chemicals, devastating marine life through ingestion and potentially entering our food chain. In a single day Australians use over 10 million plastic bags. The average plastic bag is used on average for only five minutes yet can take up to 1,000 years to break down in the environment. Multiply that by the number of shoppers and the picture is clear: plastic bag use in Queensland is an environmental epidemic.

I am very proud to say that, shortly after being informed about the benefits of going plastic bag free by Plastic Bag Free Livingstone, I decided to make the change and go plastic bag free in my household. It has made an incredible difference. It is very empowering to go to the shops and know that each time I take my re-usable bags and do not use plastics bags I am helping save the environment.

Marine plastic pollution is devastating to wildlife and the environment. It must be stopped. Plastic bags suffocate, disable and kill thousands of marine mammals and seabirds worldwide each year. Studies in Moreton Bay have found the ingestion of plastic debris was responsible for about 30 per cent of all turtle deaths. Thousands of seabirds also die along the coast.

A recent Commonwealth study showed that 43 per cent of seabirds were found to have plastics in their gut. When the animal dies and decays, the plastic bag is free again to repeat the deadly cycle. Globally, it is estimated that 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and one million seabirds die every year from ingesting or becoming entangled in marine debris.


States like South Australia that have a cash-for-container scheme and a single-use plastic bag ban have considerably less plastic litter than other states like Queensland. Like South Australia, there are bans on plastic bags in Tasmania, the ACT and the Northern Territory. Over 25 countries have either banned the bag or imposed levies. These actions have all drastically reduced plastic bag use.

South Australia has had a ban on single-use plastic bags since 2009, and it is estimated that this ban removes over 400 million bags from the economy every year. It remains a popular ban, with nine out of 10 South Australians taking their own re-usable bags to the supermarket. Banning plastic bags in Queensland would immediately reduce the number of bags in circulation in Queensland by approximately one billion bags every year. With a little bit of change in our routines and help from re-usable bags like the ones that I brought into this place and showed members in 2015, we can eliminate the problem.

We know Queenslanders want plastic bags gone. In fact, the recent discussion paper on plastic bags received more than 26,000 submissions, with more than 96 per cent of these supporting the ban. Banning single-use plastic bags in Queensland will not only help save our environment but also opens the door for replacement industries such as cloth—cotton or canvas—bags, paper bags and green containers or cups. This could help grow jobs and establish Queensland as a leader in sustainable industries like re-usable bags. I am very keen to work with local entrepreneurs in Keppel to establish sustainable industries in our local area as a result of these changes and for our local area to reap the economic benefit of this important environmental change. This would be a win-win—creating jobs whilst also saving the environment.

I congratulate Jo, Flavia, Rolf and Paul for their passion and ongoing dedication to protecting our environment and banning single-use plastic bags in Queensland. The team has worked tirelessly, holding stalls and clean-up days, talking with local businesses and promoting the cause on social media. We were also lucky enough to have environmental warrior Bob Irwin Senior to come on board with our campaign. He travelled to Yeppoon last year for a beach clean-up day to draw attention to the amount of plastic on our beaches.

I always knew it would be a long battle, but here we are passing legislation in the Queensland parliament to make this dream a reality. I also thank Toby Hutcheon from the Boomerang Alliance for all of his advice and wisdom throughout this campaign and the Livingstone Shire Council for supporting the campaign to ban single-use plastic bags in Queensland. I wholeheartedly commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.10 pm): In joining the debate on the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017, I commend the committee for its deliberations and thank the many thousands of people who had input into the discussion paper, which I am pleased to say I circulated through my electorate with a note of encouragement to residents to have their say. This bill was introduced into the Queensland parliament by the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection on 14 June 2017, with the Agriculture and Environment Committee reporting to the House on 11 August.

In simple terms the bill aims to provide a head of power for the introduction of a lightweight plastic shopping bag ban and container refund scheme for Queensland. In addition, the bill's provisions in relation to end-of-waste codes will be amended to allow for greater control on the use of end-of-waste resources and protection of the environment.

I commend the Agriculture and Environment Committee for their deliberations and the secretariat and departmental staff for their work on this bill. Four recommendations were made including that the bill be passed. I understand that the government is accepting two of the other three and amending the board composition of the Product Responsibility Organisation.



There has been much discussion in the community and at a political level about safely disposing of, and also reducing the amount of, plastic in our everyday lives for a number of years now. Other countries and Australian states have introduced the abovementioned schemes successfully and the LNP is fully supportive of the intent of the bill before us. Keeping Queensland clean and livable with a healthy natural environment and waterways is a topic close to many honourable members' hearts.

On 25 November 2016, a discussion paper titled *Implementing a lightweight plastic shopping bag ban in Queensland* was released for public consultation and closed on 20 February 2017. Impressively over 26,000 submissions were received, with more than 96 per cent of them supporting the introduction of the ban. This ban was to commence on 1 July 2018.

The committee chair's foreword makes comment of our reliance on plastic in today's world and the need to rethink our relationship with plastic and the way we use it. It is also noted that significant changes to our everyday practices will need to be made as the provisions become the law. We are informed there is flexibility in the container refund scheme that will allow for community organisations to increase the volume of recycling without impact on the current recyclers.

Having grown up in South Australia where a cash-for-container scheme was in place, I have seen firsthand the benefits of having one—whether it is a lack of litter or valuable revenue raised from the scheme for community projects. Visiting Adelaide only a few weeks ago I saw how well people had adapted to plastic bag bans. I realise they had eight years to get used to it, but people do conform. Like many people, I do re-use my plastic bags mainly as bin liners in the home and I can understand the early inconvenience this may cause as people adjust to the new laws, but the benefits will far outweigh this inconvenience.

The committee received 63 submissions from a range of groups and individuals including the beverage and retail sector, community and environment groups, local government and resource sector. The Boomerang Alliance submission, under the heading 'Container Refund Scheme (CRS)', stated—

The main objects of the Act reflect the outcomes we can expect from a CRS, that is, it will reduce container litter, increase recycling, ensure manufacturer product stewardship responsibilities, provide opportunities for social enterprise and community organisation benefit and complement existing kerbside collection services.

We note that many local government areas in Qld do not have kerbside services so the introduction of the CRS will effectively provide many communities with the opportunity to access recycling services.

As indicated by the response to the discussion paper and submissions, there is overwhelming public support for the introduction of a container refund scheme. I am a long-time advocate of waste reduction and have had compost bins and rainwater tanks before they were ever fashionable. Last year I was delighted to take part in a Boomerang Alliance project to promote a cash-for-containers initiative right on Currumbin Beach. Local Scouts groups were involved in the construction of a giant surfboard made from plastic bottles filled with sand. The end result was very effective, but all good things come to an end and the Scouts were not quite as enthusiastic about emptying the sand from every plastic bottle afterwards.

Public awareness and education is vital to any changes made to legislation. I was pleased to be informed that the Boomerang Alliance has been commissioned by the Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to deliver awareness programs on both the container recycling scheme and the plastic bag ban in Queensland. The alliance has made contact with my office to discuss the programs for the electorate of Currumbin. I look forward to working with them to host a community meeting in the Currumbin electorate. Apart from the one-off awareness programs being coordinated by the Boomerang Alliance, I ask the minister: what else is being done to educate residents?

Details of the bill such as what beverage type of containers and size will be eligible under the container scheme—most containers between 150 millilitres and three litres—will need to be made clear to the public through further awareness mechanisms or programs. For example, a carbonated soft drink plastic or glass bottle three litres or less is eligible but a 150 millilitres or less plastic or glass bottle is not.


I note the minister's observations in his introductory speech that Queensland is '... top of the leaderboard for littering' and has '... one of the lowest recycling rates in Australia'. This is a shameful title to be awarded. The Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index for the period of 2015-16 shows our state's litter rate is 41 per cent higher than the national average—the highest state with 72 items of litter per 1,000 square metres—and we should be doing everything we can to clean up Queensland. The survey conducted by Keep Australia Beautiful informing the index outlines that 16.6 per cent less litter as a whole was counted across rural road sites in Queensland in 2015-16 in comparison to 2014-15, with beverage containers the only category where there was an increase in litter.

However, I am really proud to say that my beloved electorate of Currumbin does not fit that moniker at all. Currumbin is a popular place to visit, as we are blessed with having some of the state's most beautiful surfing and swimming beaches and lush green valleys. In fact, Currumbin won the Keep Queensland Beautiful cleanest beach award in 2013 and went on to win the national Keep Australia Beautiful cleanest beach award that same year. Rainbow Bay, not to be outdone, further south in the electorate, also won the Keep Queensland Beautiful cleanest beach award in 2014.

The benefits of winning the title are pretty obvious. There are the bragging rights for starters and more visitors, but winning an award like this tells you more about the people who live there. I have often said in this House that Currumbin residents are very connected to their community, and they are—but they are also proud of the place they live and call home and they can sniff out an imposter a mile away. Claims by my ALP opponent that she is a local are untrue as she does not live in the electorate at all. I had to wait many years to claim 'local' status and it shows just how deceitful Labor are when it comes to telling the truth.

Communities that take pride in their surroundings and are clean are perceived to be safer and have less crime. Currumbin also has an environmental conscience, and I congratulate the individuals and organisations who put in countless hours to take care of our beautiful natural landscapes. Currumbin Wildlife Hospital recently held an open day—'Hospital Heroes'—to raise much needed funds and awareness of the significant damage that waste creates in our waterways—in particular, the terrible toll it takes on our wildlife.

Residents along Tallebudgera Creek have been complaining for a couple of years now about debris in their creek. They are frustrated that neither council nor the state government will accept any responsibility to clean up the mess and have started a petition calling for agencies to respond to this issue. I am happy to support them in their efforts to get some answers and, more importantly, some action on an issue that really does affect us all in one way or another.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (5.19 pm): I rise to speak to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill that had its first reading in this House on 14 June 2017 when the Hon. Steven Miles, the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, presented a bill for an act to amend the waste reduction and recycling legislation. I support the passing of this important piece of legislation. During my contribution on the debate, I will outline my personal experience working with the constituents in my current electorate of Sunnybank, which will soon be known as the seat of Toohey once the election is called.


The minister pointed out in his speech when he presented this bill to the House that this bill will substantially reduce plastic pollution and pollution caused by disposable containers that should be making their way into our recycling bins but are making their way into our waterways and then into the sea. The bill introduces two important initiatives. The first initiative is the statewide container refund scheme and the second initiative is the ban on the supply of lightweight plastic shopping bags in Queensland. I will also outline a conversation I had with my four-year-old, Joe, when we were at the shops on Friday afternoon.

We are lucky to live in a state that has some of the richest biodiversity in the world—from the plains in Central Queensland, to the mountain ranges, to the beaches on our east coast and the islands just off the coast and our wonderful Great Barrier Reef. Queensland has one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world, and it is the responsibility of the members of this Legislative Assembly to protect this heritage for our children and our children's children. To not do so is completely irresponsible.

Queenslanders are not good at recycling. In fact Queensland has the lowest rate of recycling of any state in Australia. The container refund scheme which is introduced by this bill will provide that, for every container that is returned, the person or organisation that is returning the container will earn 10 cents. This refund of 10 cents will have a positive effect on our community. It will allow community groups to raise much needed funds for community projects, it will reduce litter and it will allow areas where recycling is now not part of the regular collection service to actively participate in recycling. In my electorate alone, I have community groups and schools that are keen to start participating in the refund scheme and they look forward to its implementation on the passing of this legislation.

This brings me to my conversation with Joe, my four-year-old, while we were out shopping last Friday. We were walking towards the dry cleaners when a plastic bag was picked up by the wind and blown towards us. Joe picked up the bag and a squashed plastic water bottle that lay on the ground. I said to Joe, 'We should put that plastic bag in the bin.' Joe replied, 'So it doesn't get into the sea and hurt the turtles.' Joe, my four-year-old, understands why recycling is so important. It is important that

this bill has the support of those opposite. Although they are often slow to embrace progressive legislation, they do so today. I also want to say that this one is for you, Joe, and your mates at kindy. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (5.23 pm): I rise to make my contribution on the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill. This bill seeks to amend the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act to ban lightweight plastic shopping bags and introduce a container deposit scheme to start on 1 July 2018. Essentially, it will cut litter, increase the recycling of containers and reduce the impact of harmful plastic pollution in the environment. The LNP supports both policies and it has led the announcements, with the Palaszczuk government following. The LNP announced its commitment to a container deposit scheme in June 2016, which was then followed by Labor one month later.

I would like to talk about the impact of this scheme in Redlands and what we did locally when the member for Moggill announced our policy. With some help from local institutions, I started a program called Recycle for Redlands which was based on our container deposit scheme. I approached every primary school in my electorate and basically said that I would conduct this container deposit scheme for term 4 and I would pay 10 cents per container from the electorate allowance to schools that were participating in Recycle for Redlands.

I probably should have put a cap on how much I was going to pay because let us just say that the schools very enthusiastically took up the container deposit scheme. Russell Island State School, Mount Cotton State School, the Redland District Special School, Redland Bay State School, Faith Lutheran, Macleay Island State School, St Rita's and others all very enthusiastically got involved in Recycle for Redlands. Fortunately, I was helped very much by JJ Richards, who helped with supplying the bins, collecting the containers, counting the containers and also recycling the containers. The schools collected, in thankful what was a relatively short term, more than 100,000 containers.

**Mr Russo** interjected.

**Mr McEACHAN:** No. I paid out over \$10,000 and I gave the winning school a \$1,000 bonus. The winning school was Russell Island State School. I ran the program on a per capita basis, and per capita they collected more containers than any other school. They may have been helped by the Russell Island RSL but that is okay.

During this program, I spoke with Dr Kathy Townsend. Some members may have heard of her as she heads up the Moreton Bay Research Station for the University of Queensland. I would like to read a little bit from her website. It states—


I have been investigating the lethal and sub lethal effects of particulate plastic on endangered marine turtles with the overall aim to provide information for policy makers on sea discharge of waste disposal and pollution legislation. While information is available on the impact of marine debris on turtles in other parts of the world, currently no peer reviewed information is available on the impact of the ingestion of marine debris on turtles found in Australian waters. Urgent measures are required to address the problems of marine pollution, particularly since the impact of human rubbish has spread far beyond our immediate shores. I am addressing this lack of information in Australian waters and work closely with interested industry partners such as Underwater World, Mooloolaba and Queensland Parks and Wildlife (EPA).

When I spoke with Kathy, she said she was delighted that we had brought this legislation to the House and she was delighted with the Recycle for Redlands program. She said even that modest attempt at cleaning up rubbish on a Moreton Bay scale will have a material impact on the health of Moreton Bay turtles and sea life. This is very important for my electorate. I have a vast area of marine shoreline that is impacted by outflows from the Logan River and local creeks like Hilliards, Moogarrapum, Tingalpa, as well as the Brisbane River. It all ends up in Moreton Bay.

I would also like to relay a recent incident that occurred when I was volunteering with the Volunteer Marine Rescue. We got a call over the radio that there was a turtle in trouble. A very large, old, green sea turtle was repeatedly floating to the surface with its head down. The plastic gets into their gut and it causes them to float to the surface and they are unable to dive or to eat. Eventually they get exhausted and either die from exhaustion or become prey particularly to tiger sharks. We went looking for this turtle and found it. We brought it on board the boat with some effort and took it back to Victoria Point where Queensland Parks and Wildlife came by boat and picked it up so it could be treated.

That was a pretty good outcome for that turtle, but it really demonstrated how important this legislation is and the real impacts on the health of Moreton Bay. For those of us who live on the shores of Moreton Bay—and I have 10,000 residents who live on islands in Moreton Bay—this is really important legislation.

In closing, this is an LNP policy thankfully copied by Labor. It will have an important positive, enduring impact on the sea life of Moreton Bay. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (5.30 pm): I rise today to express my personal satisfaction that the Queensland parliament has at long last agreed to implement a ban on single-use plastic bags and introduce a container refund scheme. While we trail other states and many countries around the world, this legislation will not only achieve obvious environmental outcomes but also arrest a staggering acceptance that waste is an unavoidable by-product of living in the 21st century.

I was delighted to announce to my community of Noosa last year that an incoming LNP government would introduce a container deposit scheme and a ban on single-use plastic bags. I am proud to stand in this place today and celebrate the fact that bipartisan support for this legislation has been achieved and that the changes for which my dedicated community have fought so hard will now take place.

I started campaigning for better waste management practices from the time I became the shadow minister for the environment back in 2009. I noted today the reverse vending machine that is in the foyer of Parliament House. Back in 2009 I asked about reverse vending machines and in those days there were only two in Australia and they were both in Sydney. Two years ago I presented a petition to the House on behalf of my community calling on plastic bags to be banned—the result of an intense campaign led by the Noosa Community Biosphere Association with the support of Noosa council, Tourism Noosa, Australia Zoo and members of national and even international communities.

Noosa has deservedly earned, and fiercely protects, its status as Queensland's first reserve in the Man and the Biosphere Program, which was awarded in 2007 by UNESCO, recognising the relationship and delicate balance between people and nature. My community is well known for its passion to protect its environment. In the same way that I fought with them to deamalgamate from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council so that we could secure our own environmental management rights, I joined an army of local environment groups in their fight to change attitudes to waste and recycling and to raise awareness of the ugly and irreversible impacts of human consumerism, ignorance and laziness—a sad indictment on our innate ability to ignore the plight of other living things.

Not everyone in this place will have the fond memories that I have of growing up at Everton Park, a suburb in Brisbane which was just a country town back then. Life was simple and things just made sense. Milk was delivered in glass bottles in the morning and they were washed and collected for re-use. Fresh local produce was bought direct from a greengrocer who would bring his truck of fruit and vegetables to my neighbourhood once a week. Supermarket groceries were stacked in cardboard boxes or, in some cases, brown paper bags—never, ever in plastic bags.

Perhaps the greatest memory I have as a kid, as many others in this place would share, is the pocket money I earned from collecting used soft drink bottles which were then recycled. The fact is in my own lifetime I have gone from living in a society that lives within its means to one that is disposable in every sense of the word. Today we are surrounded by plastic. Our landfill is full of it. Our oceans are choked by it. Nothing is built to last anymore; we simply throw things away and replace them with new. Quite often with groceries the cost of product packaging is far greater than the value of the items inside.

I have to shake my head at people who buy bottled water when we consider that the water is imported either from overseas by ship or interstate by truck and the plastic bottle packaging that the water comes in uses a vast amount of petroleum in its production and is simply then thrown away to add to increasing piles of litter and rubbish. This is beyond comprehension when we consider that for many struggling families the cost of living is a constant worry and in Australia we enjoy some of the world's cleanest tap water.

We must learn to live within our means—a challenge the communities in my electorate have taken seriously and responded to by making the bold decision to cap population growth in order to ensure a sustainable future. Nothing illustrates this better than the shire identifying the total amount of water available to it from Lake Macdonald plus the water allocation we have from the Mary River and planning for a population that does not exceed the drinkable water supply. While controversial at the time, the decision to cap growth was considered to be plain common sense which forms the basis of good old-fashioned public policy, much like the introduction of compulsory recycling bins, which the Noosa council has extended only fairly recently for green waste. Unfortunately, just as in the case of yellow recycling bins, it is up to the individual to make the right waste disposal choice to reduce landfill. Sadly, the confusion over what can and cannot be recycled in order to avoid contamination of an entire load continues to impede our progress, which is why legislation like this is essential for real change to be made.

Queenslanders use around one billion single-use plastic bags each year and the average family collects about 60 each week. These bags are used for around 12 minutes and take roughly a thousand years to decompose, if indeed they do at all. According to the Wildlife Preservation Society of

Queensland, 16 million of these bags are littered and easily picked up by the wind, allowing them to escape landfill. Many of these bags then enter our rivers, creeks and oceans. A ban is the only measure to address this. The LGAQ's formal response to the proposed ban refers to the high cost to councils of windblown litter, plastic bag contamination in recycling bins and costly stormwater network blockages that must be repaired because of the damage caused by plastic bags.


Plastic in our oceans is a planet size crime. Every year plastics kill more than one million birds and a hundred thousand sea mammals. Seals are strangled by them and turtles are suffocated by them, mistaking them for their primary food which is jellyfish. Research articles from the *Guardian* newspaper in London, Taronga Zoo, the American Chemical Society and our own Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society have reported that plastics are found inside animals across the ocean food chain, particles and chemicals of which end up in things like salt and the fish we consume, contaminating human food sources.

To date, impassioned community groups such as the Boomerang Alliance have been at the forefront of a plastic shopping bag ban in Noosa and hinterland towns, particularly the little village of Peregrian. In the absence of a national ban on plastic bags, the major supermarkets have been slow to match their competitor Aldi, whose plastic shopping bags are much stronger and are used many more times. The recent announcement by Coles and Woolworths to phase out the supply of bags next year is reflective of public sentiment and the greater pressure being put on them to act responsibly and to reduce their carbon footprint.

The introduction of a container refund scheme, or CRS as it is known, is yet again common sense. I cannot for the life of me understand why all of those years ago we stopped recycling and the South Australians from 1977 made it into an art form. The CRS represents a significant financial opportunity for the not-for-profit sector and local businesses to get involved, offering a way to secure a long-term and sustainable revenue base through the collection and return of cans and bottles.

Under the bag ban, lightweight shopping bags will no longer be available and businesses will need to provide alternative solutions for their customers. I have invited interested and affected groups and businesses in my electorate to attend the forum on Tuesday, 19 September at the Noosa J to help them prepare. The forum will be organised by the Boomerang Alliance, and again I thank them and their legion of supporters, particularly Toby Hutcheon who I met all those years ago, for the excellent work they have done.

It is my deeply held personal view that this long overdue legislation is the beginning of a necessary measure to replace our collective complacency with conscious and concerted decision-making when it comes to pollution and pollutants, consumerism and waste disposal. It is 2017 and an out-of-sight, out-of-mind mentality has no place in modern Queensland. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.40 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of my community and lend my strong support for the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill—a bill that will substantially reduce plastic pollution in Queensland. From 1 July 2018 this bill will introduce a statewide container refund scheme and a ban on the supply of single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags in Queensland. These initiatives will reduce the amount of litter in our environment. As most know, the majority of plastic ends up in landfill which in itself creates issues for the efficient processing of waste, but it is the damage it causes to our rivers, creeks and marine environment, to our bird life and animals that can become entangled or mistake such waste for food which causes an immediate threat. Like many in my community, this is an issue I am very passionate about.


The Nudgee electorate, located on the edge of Moreton Bay, lays claim to the environmental jewels Nudgee Beach Reserve and Boondall Wetlands—1,500 hectares of tidal flats, mangroves, saltmarshes, melaleuca wetlands, grasslands and open forest. It is an area of precious environmental value and has been listed as a wetland of international importance. I have spent most of my life exploring these wetlands: from school holidays spent at my grandparents' home in Banyo taking trips to Nudgee Beach; to school trips to the Nudgee Beach environmental centre as a student at Earnshaw State College, exploring and learning about the beauty and complexity of this extraordinary ecosystem; to today, when I have the great privilege of teaching my two young boys about its precious natural value and why it must be preserved. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the Nudgee Beach environmental centre, their Parents & Citizens Association, the Nudgee Community Reference Group and the Boondall Wetlands Environment Centre for their stewardship and passionate advocacy for the protection of these precious reserves.

The wetlands have a diversity of wildlife including flying foxes, possums, squirrel gliders, frogs and reptiles. It offers habitats for over 190 species of birds including Australian kestrels and ospreys, sandpipers, egrets and kingfishers, as well as rainbow bee-eaters on the mangrove boardwalk. Each year around 40,000 migratory shorebirds feed on the food-rich mudflats and roost in the saltmarshes and mangroves along the shore. They travel to Moreton Bay each spring from as far away as Siberia, Japan, Mongolia and Alaska.

There is increasing evidence about the cumulative impact that plastic has on our soils, waterways and marine environments. Plastic does not break down in an animal's digestive system when ingested and it is a known cause of starvation. It is deeply concerning, then, to learn that 16 million bags enter our environment as litter every year. It is concerning that the National Litter Index indicates that Queensland is consistently the most littered state and has one of the lowest recycling rates of all mainland states. The community has shown that it is ready to take action to reduce such pollution, with 96 per cent of the over 26,000 submissions to the government's discussion paper supporting the introduction of a plastic bag ban. The ban will bring us in line with four other states and territories but positively differentiate Queensland by including both degradable and biodegradable plastic bags in the ban, as biodegradable bags can be as dangerous for wildlife as traditional plastic shopping bags.

The bill also establishes Queensland's own container refund scheme. Empty containers that are returned for recycling will earn a 10-cent refund. Not only will this incentivise a reduction in the amount of litter and increase recycling, but the scheme creates a welcome opportunity for community groups and social enterprises to establish a source of independent revenue for themselves.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students across my electorate who have written to me passionately advocating for such improvements and to the many members of my local community who have taken the time to raise this issue with me at my various community information and market stalls across the electorate. I am proud to be a member of a government that is taking steps to protect our precious natural environment. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (5.44 pm): The Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill is a policy that was announced by the LNP back in June 2016, and it received huge public support when the LNP flagged it. The bill amends the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to ban lightweight plastic shopping bags and introduces a container deposit scheme to begin on 1 July 2018. This will cut litter and increase the recycling of containers, which will help our environment. The legislative framework will ensure that shopping centres will not supply banned plastic shopping bags; all beverage manufacturers who make a beverage product in a container which is covered by the scheme will be responsible for the management of empty containers and the cost of the scheme; consumers will have easy access to container refund points; and there will be collection of the material.

The term 'beverage' has also been defined in the act. Section 99L(1) describes what will be recycled and refunded. A few in this House—not too many—would remember the good old days when, if you returned a glass bottle to a store, you would get sixpence for it. A bottle of soft drink cost one shilling and sixpence, so you only had to collect three bottles to get another bottle of soft drink. It was pretty good. Some of the kids would even rip around the back, pinch the bottles out of the crates and come back into the shop and try it again.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Yes, just about. On 14 February 1966 we went to decimal currency. It was a different story in those days. You could buy a lot of lollies and everything for the refund you got on a bottle, so it was good for the kids. I guess there will be a lot of kids out there who once again will enjoy getting 10 cents back. It is not quite as much as you would get back in those days, because it was one-third of the price of a bottle of soft drink. It gives you a bit of a rough idea of what it was worth to go and collect these bottles, but the prospect of reward for return is a much better prospect than wrecking our environment.

The LNP led the way on plastic bag and container deposit schemes in 2016 when we announced the CDS. This government calls it the CFS, but that is all right because they followed us and that is a good thing anyway. The Environment Council of Central Queensland have commented on this policy and said that the initiative will reduce the amount of litter in our natural environment which ends up in the marine environment and damages our marine flora and fauna, and I agree with them. It will not only benefit the Great Barrier Reef but also help Fraser Island, which is in my electorate. There is an awful lot of garbage that gets washed up on Fraser Island. I would like to thank my colleague Christian Rowan for coming to Fraser Island with us and having a look at the amount of rubbish that was on the beach. The number of containers that were on that beach on Fraser Island was quite amazing.

One thing that no-one has mentioned here today is the amount of broken glass on beaches. It is terribly dangerous, especially when you have children running around with bare feet. I have seen some terrible accidents in the past where kids have stepped on broken glass, especially when the bottom of a glass bottle is protruding. The kids can get bad foot injuries from broken glass. The container refund scheme will take some of that danger away. We really need to keep beaches clean and free of glass, sharps and so on. That will be of huge benefit in terms of kids being able to play on beaches. For example, on Fraser Island people throw out bottles, which are then broken when cars run over them. It is not very safe at all.


I thank the shadow minister for environment for coming to Fraser Island to see the effects of containers that are not properly disposed of. A lot of containers on Fraser Island are washed up out of rivers to the south. I ask the people of Brisbane to do the right thing and not throw their containers into rivers because a lot of that garbage is washed up the coast and ends up on Fraser Island.

I do not know why the container refund scheme was ever done away with. South Australia has been leading the way in this area for a long time. It has taken us a long time to catch up. The Scouts group in Hervey Bay collects aluminium containers in a dedicated pallet with a frame. They get a small sum for those containers. In future they might get a lot more from collecting other types of containers. This scheme will make a huge difference to the fundraising efforts of organisations such as Scouts. I think it is a great idea. I grew up with the system of refunds for glass bottles. I think it will make a huge difference to a lot of organisations.

It will be great to see glass taken off streets and beaches so that kids do not get serious injuries such as cut tendons from stepping on broken glass. That can result in operations and so on. Taking glass off our streets and beaches—especially beaches, as sand can cover the glass pieces—will be of great benefit to the community.

**Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (5.52 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Millar): Order! Nice try, member for Burnett. I will call the member for Ipswich West.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.52 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017. This bill amends the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011. As the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection said in his introductory speech—

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017 introduces two important initiatives: firstly, a statewide container refund scheme; and, secondly, a ban on the supply of lightweight plastic shopping bags in Queensland. The bill also amends the end-of-waste framework in the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to ensure conditions can be applied to end-of-waste codes and approvals.

We are fortunate to live in the most beautiful state in Australia. Whether it be our magnificent Great Barrier Reef, our beautiful rainforest, our rangeland, our Mitchell grass country, the hinterland along the Great Dividing Range, our mountains or our outback, Queensland tops the other states for diversity and beauty. Unfortunately, we also top the list of Australian states when it comes to littering. We have one of the lowest recycling rates in Australia. This is not something Queenslanders can be proud of. With the laws to be enacted by this bill, it is hoped there will be a significant decrease in littering through the banning of lightweight plastic bags and the compulsory deposit introduced for beverage containers. A side benefit of the scheme is that it can support important community groups such as Scouts Queensland, should they choose to participate in the program. It is worth noting that the Scouts in South Australia annually receive something in the order of \$2 million by participating in the South Australian recycling scheme.

In summary, the objectives of the bill are to provide a head of power for the introduction of a lightweight plastic shopping bag ban and a container refund scheme for Queensland; and to amend provisions in relation to end-of-waste codes to enable greater control on the use of end-of-waste resources, when necessary, to reduce the potential for environmental harm, and streamline and clarify administrative arrangements for end-of-waste approvals.

The plastic shopping bag ban and container refund scheme initiatives both require a legislative framework in order to be implemented. The legislation ensures that, for plastic bags, all retailers are obliged to meet the requirement not to supply a banned plastic shopping bag and that, for containers, all beverage manufacturers that manufacture a beverage product in a container covered by the scheme are taking stewardship responsibility to managing the empty containers and paying for the costs of the scheme and consumers have reasonable access to a refund when they return eligible empty containers to a container refund point.

An important aspect of the bill is that the end-of-waste framework entered into force on 8 November 2016 and replaced the beneficial use approval framework. During stakeholder consultations on potential regulatory provisions to clarify and support the administration of the end-of-waste framework, several concerns with the framework under the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 were highlighted. The main issue concerned the inability to control the use of end-of-waste resources.

The intention of the end-of-waste framework is for waste to be approved for use as a resource, provided it meets strict quality criteria that minimise the potential for environmental harm when it is used as designated. The need for controls on the end user of the resource would therefore be unnecessary, as the resource would be considered to be no different from any other virgin material or non-waste resource. However, in certain cases, for example using biosolids from sewage treatment plants as a soil fertiliser, stipulating strict quality criteria could increase the treatment cost in order to meet the quality criteria, which could be detrimental to the overall use of the resource. This may lead to unintended outcomes including increased disposal of waste to landfill. The amendments introduced by the bill seek to enable better control of the end use of resources when necessary, to reduce the potential for environmental harm whilst encouraging appropriate and acceptable use of waste material.

After the bill was tabled by the minister it was referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee, of which I am a member. In its report, tabled in August 2017, the committee made four recommendations. The first recommendation is that the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill be passed. The second recommendation is that the bill be amended to mandate the inclusion of a recycling industry representative on the board of the Product Responsibility Organisation.

The third recommendation is that the minister report to the committee on the progress in reaching relevant benchmarks within two years of the commencement of the container refund scheme. The benchmarks for the scheme should include key performance indicators for the container refund scheme and Product Responsibility Organisation including a container recycling target, a convenience and accessibility target in relation to the availability of the container refund points and targets relating to social enterprise and innovation and technological outcomes, and the appropriate time frame in which those targets are required to be achieved. The last recommendation is that the minister specify in regulation those benchmarks referred to in recommendation 3.

In closing I want to thank the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and his department for their hard work with regard to the bill. I want to thank my fellow committee members, the secretariat and the submitters, particularly the Plastic Bag Free Livingstone group which addressed the committee at our hearing in Yeppoon. This energetic group is working hard to address the problems of litter in the Livingstone shire and I am sure it will be delighted when the bill is passed. I commend the bill as it will be amended to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Madden, adjourned.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Millar): Order! Just before we move on to the private member's motion, I want to apologise to the member for Burnett. He did have the call. He did rise first. Members, if you are on the speaking list, please rise. If someone rises before you, they will get the call. I apologise to the member for Burnett.

## MOTION

### Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee, Report



**Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House—

1. notes the importance of the recommendations by the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee in its report No. 2 *Black lung white lies: inquiry into the re-identification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis in Queensland* to all former and current coal workers being considered as quickly as practicable; and
2. orders the Premier and Minister for the Arts to produce to the House by noon, Friday 8 September 2017 a full government response to the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee's report No. 2 *Black lung white lies: inquiry into the re-identification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis in Queensland*.

The LNP has carefully considered the need to move this motion at this time and give the House an opportunity to express a view on this matter. This motion follows the Minister for Mines writing to the Clerk on 28 August 2017 to give notice that the Palaszczuk government's response to the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee report, which was due by 29 August 2017, would be delayed by three months until 29 November 2017. This motion is carefully worded. It does not condemn the Minister for Mines; nor does it condemn the Palaszczuk government. The motion asks the House to note the



importance of recommendations in the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee report to current and former coalmine workers and seeks to direct the Premier to provide a full government response to the select committee's report No. 2 by 12 noon this Friday, 8 September 2017, and I will now outline the reasons it does so.


During the last sitting week the House debated and unanimously passed the Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation (Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to make preparations to support current and former coalmine workers who may be affected by CWP. We also know that updated regulations that commenced on 1 January 2017 made changes relating to dust management, reporting and medical assessments for coalmine workers. The Minister for Mines has also addressed the House on several occasions about what he has done in response to the reidentification of CWP in Queensland. The minister told us in March this year that the government has not been idle and has indeed 'thrown the kitchen sink at this issue', to quote him directly. The minister has reported on his consideration of the recommendations in the Monash report and told us that chest X-rays now meet the ILO standard and that CWP is now a notifiable disease.

We make no criticism of those matters. However, in considering all of those messages of reassurance and statements outlining the progress that the Palaszczuk government has reportedly made, the news that there would now be a delay in providing the House with a full government response to the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee report No. 2, tabled on 29 May 2017, is curious and the House now has an opportunity to scrutinise the reasoning offered by the minister.

Let us consider the time frames and the events involved. The recommendations in the report of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee tabled in the House on 29 May this year did not sneak up on the Palaszczuk government. The select committee was established by resolution of the House on 15 September last year—almost 12 months ago—and an interim report was tabled in March this year—almost six months ago. Similarly, the recommendations of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee report No. 2 have not taken the Palaszczuk government by surprise. It was tabled on 29 May this year. It has been available to the Palaszczuk government for more than three months. The report contains recommendations proposing changes to the regulatory system relating to coalmine workers.

In contrast, the extended terms of reference granted to the select committee in March relate to the occupational respirable coaldust exposure of port, rail and power station workers and workers potentially exposed to silica dust during silica sandmining, transport and processing. As such, the view of the mines minister that the report relating to the extended terms of reference needs to be tabled before the government responds is difficult to justify. The Palaszczuk government can respond fully to the recommendations relating to coalmine workers. Further, the consideration of the parliamentary Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee of the exposure draft Mine Safety and Health Authority Bill 2017 would benefit from a government response to the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee report No. 2 being made available at this time.

With all the resources available to the Palaszczuk government and the repeated assertions by the Minister for Mines that the government has been taking action, the reasons offered for delaying a full government response to the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee report No. 2 do not ring true. The House has driven decision-making on this matter. It established the select committee during the debate on a motion moved by the LNP. It selected its terms of reference to extend the committee's report on a motion moved by the select committee chair. Now the House can express a view about the proposal by the Minister for Mines to delay the reporting date by three months. This date was determined by section 107 of the Parliament of Queensland Act, not by the LNP, the select committee or even the CLA. That requirement was also known to the Palaszczuk government more than three months ago and is another thing that has not snuck up on it or taken it by surprise. For those reasons, I urge all members to support the motion before the House.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (6.05 pm): Firstly, let us examine this government's actions to date to protect our coal workers from black lung. When this issue emerged almost two years ago, I ordered an independent review by Monash University—a review that is the backbone of the extensive reforms this government has already delivered. Coalmine inspectors working with underground coalmines have brought down dust levels. My Department of Natural Resources and Mines cross-checked current records with Queensland Health to identify any missed cases and established a system to ensure no cases are missed in the future. Work began on investigating regulatory changes as part of the mine safety legislation review already underway—a review that will have tangible results in new, stronger legislation. In June last year I joined representatives of employers, employees and the medical

profession to announce a whole new regime to protect the health of our 5,500 underground coalminers. Since then the reforms have stacked up to better protect the health and safety of our coalmine workforce and ensure a safety net for those who have this insidious disease. Since July 2016 more than 14,000 chest X-rays have been checked by a Queensland radiologist to the ILO standard and then double-checked by a US based B reader. We have in place a register of doctors, spirometry practitioners and X-ray imaging clinics that are appropriately qualified and experienced to offer health services to Queensland coalminers.


Since 1 January a number of changes have been enshrined in law. There are compulsory health assessments for all underground coalmine workers when they enter the industry and every five years thereafter. There are similar assessments for above-ground coalmine workers at least once every 10 years. Retiring coalmine workers now have the right to a full retirement health assessment—a right that will be enshrined in a mine safety bill I plan to introduce to this House later this week. This bill will strengthen mine health and safety generally and provide for the implementation of our battle plan to tackle this disease. All of this activity has been informed by the Monash review. We now also thankfully have the extensive work of the select committee to add to this body of advice. I undertake to table a full government response to the committee report by noon this Friday. I further advise the House that the government will support many of the committee's recommendations. Therefore, I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'practicable' be deleted and the following words inserted:

‘; and

- (2) notes the undertaking by the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines to table in the House by noon on 8 September 2017 a full government response to the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee report No. 2—*Black lung, white lies: inquiry into the re-identification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis in Queensland.*'

Actions speak louder than words and my focus since this issue emerged has been to do, not to dither. Those opposite stand condemned by their own words. Just over a year ago the member for Kawana told this chamber that he was concerned about this being policy on the run. The opposition leader, on the other hand, wanted a lengthy commission of inquiry, further postponing vital action on this disease and yet it is so important to have this response tabled this week. My concern has always been for the health and safety of mineworkers and I share that concern with the members of the select committee, those who participated in the Monash review and, most importantly, the member for Bundamba.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (6.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion before the House. I listened very intently and respectfully to the minister, because this is a serious issue. Of course, I spoke about it the last time the House sat.

This afternoon I spoke to one of my constituents ahead of tonight's debate. I refer to Chris Byron, who is a very sick man. He lives in my electorate of Whitsunday along with his wife, Sue. There are also people like Steve Mellor, who lives in the adjoining electorate of Mackay. They are watching this unfold. Many people cannot understand why there is delay after delay after delay. We have heard from the member for Hinchinbrook about the timeline. People in Central Queensland wonder why there are holdups and delay, delay, delay. They want to see a government response.

I spoke about it the last time the House sat and I commented on the weight of the report, 1.5 kilograms. If it were thrown at someone's noggin, it would knock them out. As we already heard, there is a fair bit of material in there in relation to coal workers' pneumoconiosis. There has been tremendous and unprecedented bipartisanship, dare I say, from the members for Southern Downs and Bundamba. The workers of Central Queensland and of the coal industry, be they underground coalminers, aboveground workers, port workers or waterside workers, are wondering, 'What is the holdup?' Who is standing up for the workers? Is it the Australian Labor Party? No, I do not think it is. No wonder the tree of knowledge is sick. No wonder they poured the last beers at the Globe Hotel in Barcaldine. Pat Ogden, a former client of mine and a great supporter of the ALP, would be blowing up deluxe.

During our deliberations it was great to hear people from the unions, the mining companies and the families of the miners saying to us, 'We cannot believe how government and non-government members have worked alongside each other to get to the truth with the reidentification or re-emergence of coal workers' pneumoconiosis.'

As we have already heard tonight, the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee was established on 15 September. We are waiting and waiting for this government's response. There were 68 recommendations of which one, need I remind members, involved establishing the mine safety and health authority in Mackay, the No. 1 service city for the Bowen Basin from where 90 per cent of

Queensland's coal travels across the range, which is the other side of the hill in my backyard. Those northern members who flew down there this week saw the 33 coal ships sitting off Hay Point. The coal industry would not be what it is without the workers. I keep saying that. Who is standing up for the workers? There were 68 recommendations and 34 key findings. We owe it to those 24 men who have been diagnosed with coal workers' pneumoconiosis to get on with it.

**Mr Williams** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I hear the interjection from the member for Pumicestone. We should get a tow truck. I am happy to take the member to Saraji, Peak Downs, Goonyella and Collinsville so he can explain to the miners in the Jolly Collier, Dysart, the Tieri Brolga, the Capricorn and Blackwater, the Pit Pony in Collinsville and the Black Nugget in Moranbah what is going on here.


**Mr Whiting** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I hear the interjection from the three-piece member for Murrumba and invite him to visit, because this is a serious issue.

**Mr Whiting:** I am not going to a pub with you!

**Mr COSTIGAN:** You would have the time of your life if you came with me, member for Murrumba. It would be an eye-opener. You will not have to go to Specsavers; I give you the tip.

People like Chris Byron, Steve Mellor and others are counting on us to get on with it. The men and women of the deep deserve better. They have built up this much vaunted industry. We have seen Queensland kick along and then some, and we are failing them the more that we dilly-dally. The absence of a government response in a timely manner is disgraceful and it is time that the Palaszczuk Labor government get on with it.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.15 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment to the motion wherein the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has given an undertaking to provide by noon on 8 September a full government response to the report of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee.

I join those opposite in saying that I think the members for Bundamba and Southern Downs and the other members of the committee are doing an excellent job in looking at this issue. We all were surprised to see CWP return in the manner in which it has. This is a serious issue, and the minister has given an undertaking in his amendment that by 8 September a full government response will be given to parliament. I support that amendment. This issue is one with which members should not play politics. I take on board what the member for Whitsunday has said. One minute we talk about the bipartisanship between the chair and the deputy chair of that committee but in the next minute we see a grandstanding opportunity that really gains absolutely nothing. Compare that to what we gain when we work together.

The amendments to the workers compensation legislation that we debated the last time this House sat delivered the world's best WorkCover coverage for workers suffering CWP. That is what we achieve when we work together. That is what we achieve when the minister, members of the select committee and I work together to deliver the best outcome for workers suffering CWP. Without a doubt, the recent legislative amendments are some of the best in the world.

We acted very quickly. Last year I set up the stakeholder reference group following meetings with workers suffering CWP who were concerned at the manner in which WorkCover was dealing with their cases. The group was made up of workers, industry and legal professionals and government entities, including WorkCover and the Department of Natural Resources and Mines. This group reported with four recommendations and worked with the select committee on them. The select committee supported the four recommendations of the stakeholder reference group and added another: that WorkCover coverage should be extended to include all coaldust lung diseases. That is exactly what we did.


This government acted quickly. We brought in the legislation, we debated it in the last sitting of parliament and we now have from working together—and I acknowledge the support of those opposite—some of the best WorkCover coverage for those suffering workers. We acted quickly and in concert with the select committee; that is how we get things done.

The minister has committed to providing a full government response. We are working on some of the recommendations. My department is considering health and safety areas. We are expanding the scope from the mining health and safety act into normal occupational health and safety legislation. I am

working diligently with the minister—and our departments are working together—to identify how we can harmoniously enact legislative changes to ensure that they are compatible and deliver the best outcome when it comes to workers suffering from dust lung diseases.

Grandstanding on this issue, trying to order people to do things, will not get us anywhere. This is a serious issue. We need a holistic, sensible approach to enable the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and the chair and the deputy chair of the select committee to work diligently together to deliver the best outcome. All the grandstanding by the member for Whitsunday will deliver nothing. We will deliver an outcome that will be of benefit.

We all were surprised when CWP re-emerged. I believe that a number of governments were at fault in this respect. We now know what the select committee has found. The minister has given an undertaking that he will deliver a full response. We have already addressed the workers compensation issues. All workers, whether retired or currently working, will be able to obtain their full entitlements. I also add that the change that Labor made to remove the five per cent threshold in relation to common law means workers can also claim common law entitlements.

 **Hon. L SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.19 pm): Twelve months ago this very month this parliament passed a motion that we establish a select committee into the issue of the reappearance of this insidious disease, which we had been kidding ourselves into believing had disappeared almost four decades ago. There was discussion at that stage whether it should be a royal commission, but it was felt by this parliament that it should be a select committee. I think it is fair to say that most members in this place would have been surprised by the depth and extent of the catastrophic failure and incompetence that was uncovered by the committee that has been working diligently ever since. I think it is probably also fair to say that for some people the facts that the committee has uncovered are probably an inconvenient truth.

On 29 May the committee provided a report to this parliament and the people of Queensland that made 68 recommendations to improve health and safety for coal workers in Queensland. Last Wednesday, over three months after that, we saw a response from the minister wherein he advised the Clerk that the government would wait until after the committee had completed its full scope of work before it responded. Now we see a situation in this parliament—and it is only for the minister and others to surmise why that would be the case—where we are told, some six days after being told that we could not have a fulsome government response, that we will now have a fulsome government response by 8 September.


Whilst we welcome the acknowledgement by the minister that in all but word he is going to support the motion that was given notice of by the member for Hinchinbrook in this parliament this morning, one really has to ask the question: what has changed in the last six or eight hours? Why was it not good enough to provide that response last week—and I would dare to say that much of that work should have been done by last week—particularly if one looks at what the government did in recent times, including in relation to the tow truck inquiry where the government adopted its report on the day and legislated within two weeks; the *Not now, not ever* report, some 134 recommendations, adopted by both sides of politics on the very day that it was handed down by Dame Quentin Bryce, notwithstanding the fact that we are still struggling with the implementation of some of those recommendations; or, indeed, the ongoing child sex abuse royal commission where we have had interim recommendations brought down by that commission which have been adopted by parliaments all throughout Australia as they have been recommended? What is the difference? Why is it that it is not good enough to do in it the case of the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee, but in the case of tow truck operators in Queensland and others we can bring in an almost immediate response? It does not make sense.

I get the very strong impression that there are some who are pushing and fighting against this because they do not like what was revealed and they do not like the recommendations that are contained therein. This parliament has to take note and be cognisant of the fact that this select committee has worked very hard. All the members who have served on that committee have been exposed to the emotional reality and they have been exposed to the facts of failure which have let down coal workers in this state.

As of yesterday, if any members were listening to the evidence provided to us by the industrial relations department, we now have a total of 66 claims for coal workers' pneumoconiosis in Queensland, some 20 of which have been accepted absolutely, we have 15 notification claims, there

are another three that have been rejected and 27 are now waiting assessment. If one looks at the average verification, we can expect that some 90 per cent of those will come up with a positive claim and a positive diagnosis. Based on that we are looking at up to 50 people in Queensland.

This parliament owes it to those workers to do the right thing by them. I find it very strange that we could not do this last Wednesday but we can do it today. We have to be thankful for that particular fact. We need to make sure that we legislate in the spirit of what the select committee brought down. If this parliament votes against those recommendations it will be letting down all of those workers in the future, regardless of the iteration of this parliament.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.24 pm): I rise tonight to support the amendment moved by the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. Safety at work is a human right. The financial and legislative capital we invest in developing the practices and regulatory framework that minimise preventable harm in the workplace is a measurement of our values. Earning a living should not mean risking your life. When a dangerous condition like pneumoconiosis, a malady we thought we had eradicated, re-emerges we are rightly alarmed and reminded that safe practice requires constant vigilance.

The resources boom has delivered a great dividend to Queensland, with coal the greatest benefactor. We owe a great debt of gratitude to those who toil to mine it, most particularly those whose work has enriched us all to their own personal detriment. The Palaszczuk Labor government has responded decisively to that challenge. Tonight I want to pay particular tribute to my colleague and my friend the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines for his critical leadership on this issue. As one of our state's leading maxillofacial surgeons the minister's hands and heart have saved and changed countless lives. As a leading clinician and as a man of deep compassion, few people know the impact a devastating and pernicious disease like black lung can have on a life better than Dr Lynham.

Indeed, from a health perspective I can advise the House that Queensland Health has been working with the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to develop strategies to deliver improved health outcomes for mineworkers. As a doctor, Minister Lynham knew that when this issue arose the best way forward was to commission a full and independent review to understand where the system had failed. The Monash review of the respiratory component of the coalmine workers health scheme has made 18 recommendations, 11 of which have been implemented, with the remaining seven underway. This is a set of solutions grounded firmly in science that will deliver real protections for our miners—actions by the minister, not words.

One of the most significant improvements to the scheme is the introduction of the dual read X-ray system. To date over 14,000 X-rays have been received to be read under the interim dual X-ray system. These X-rays are read once in Australia, sent to be read by B readers in Chicago, Illinois in the United States and then returned. This interim measure will remain in place until we are confident that the system we are establishing in Queensland will operate with the same rigour to protect our miners—action by the minister, not words.

I am also pleased to report to the House that just the other day the new X-ray imaging standards were finalised, mandating that certain techniques be used to capture appropriately clear images using the International Labor Organization four-grade standard. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is currently in the advanced stage of evaluating tenders for the dual X-ray contract. In addition, the new spirometry standards currently being worked on by a collective medical group that includes members of the Thoracic Society will be finalised by the end of 2017—more action by the minister, not words.

A lot has been said about poor X-ray reading through this process. Queensland Health has just recently endorsed the clinical pathways for diagnosis of coal workers' pneumoconiosis. This was developed by the Coal Mine Dust Lung Disease Collaborative in conjunction with Dr Bob Cohen from the University of Illinois—more action by the government, not words.

In addition to this, nominated medical advisers will soon be required to undertake specific training to ensure they are appropriately trained to understand the specifics involved in health care and in the surveillance of mines. These nominated medical advisers are now also on a register managed by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines—more action by the minister, not words. Should they not fulfil their training requirements or not meet new standards, they will no longer be on the eligible list of NMAs that miners can visit for their medical checks. By mid-2018 an e-records health system will be completed for the management of Queensland miners' health records—more action by the Palaszczuk Labor government, not words.

The Palaszczuk government will always fight to deliver appropriate protection for Queenslanders in their workplaces. Labour must never be reduced to a unit of cost on a balance sheet but must always be measured in terms of human endeavour and the human vulnerabilities that comprise it. I thank the committee for its work and, in particular, the minister for his contribution to improving the safety of Queensland coalminers.

Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

Motion, as agreed—


That this House—

1. notes the importance of the recommendations by the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee in its report No. 2 *Black lung white lies: inquiry into the re-identification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis in Queensland* to all former and current coal workers being considered as quickly as practicable; and
2. notes the undertaking by the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines to table in the House by noon on 8 September 2017 a full government response to the Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee report No. 2—*Black lung, white lies: inquiry into the re-identification of coal workers' pneumoconiosis in Queensland*.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY


### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (7.30 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on the Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 by 2 November 2017.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)

### APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

#### Declared Urgent; Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (7.30 pm), by leave, without notice—

That, under the provisions of standing order 137—

- (a) the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) be declared urgent bills;
- (b) the Finance and Administration Committee report to the House on the bills by 11 October 2017; and
- (c) the bills be set down on the *Notice Paper* for the second reading stage after the committee has reported.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

## WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2657, on motion of Dr Miles—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (7.31 pm): In the Bundaberg and Burnett region, local community groups and schools have really taken the lead in the protection of our environment. I take this opportunity to congratulate the various community groups that have been proactive in introducing initiatives to create a cleaner, greener environment for future generations. I cannot talk about positive environmental initiatives without mentioning the extraordinary work of Bargara local Carmen McEneaney

and Boomerang Bags Bundaberg. Local businesses have declared a war on waste in a bid to protect the environment. Bundaberg and Burnett businesses, including Nana's Pantry, Learmonth's FoodWorks, Bargara Beach Bakehouse, SportsPower, IGA Burnett Heads, The Red Shed fruit and vegetable stall, the Kebab Shack at Bargara and the Last Stop Convenience Store in North Bundaberg stock re-usable shopping bags made from donated recycled fabric to reduce the use of single-use plastic bags in the community. The re-usable shopping bags have been handcrafted by local volunteers who have formed a group known as Boomerang Bags Bundaberg to cut back on waste. In fact, one amazing volunteer, Pam Twyford, has just finished making her 1,000th bag to contribute to the cause. Pam says that Boomerang Bags has given her back her love of sewing and that she is enjoying creating bags from repurposed material.

Every boomerang bag replaces about 700 plastic bags and it is estimated that 100 recyclable bags will replace two tonnes of plastic rubbish. I have been a proud sponsor of the Boomerang Bags Bundaberg initiative since its inception. I was honoured to stand beside that dedicated group as we officially launched the bags recently. The campaign will have a significant impact on our local environment. The boomerang bags are changing people's attitudes when they are out shopping and are allowing our community to take the lead on reducing waste and pollution.

The boomerang bag initiative makes us stop to really think about the impact each and every one of us has and to understand that the choices we make can and do make a difference to the health of our environment. It is encouraging to see local groups and businesses that are dedicated to discouraging the reliance on plastics to cut back on waste and rid the region of plastic pollution. I also congratulate the Bundaberg Christian College for their ongoing involvement in and support of this initiative. I thank those in the Discovery Coast area, especially Amber and Tanya from the Discovery Coast Environment Group, who are strong supporters of such initiatives. There is a great group doing great work.

Another important local environmental initiative that has made an impact on our community is the implementation of the Waste Minimisation and Recycling Competition within our local schools. I was proud to partner with the Bundaberg Regional Council, Impact Community Services and A2Z Waste Recycling to promote the importance of recycling to our future generations. In schools across the region, those with little green thumbs have adopted a number of environmentally sustainable practices at their schools, including collecting food scraps for chooks, worm farms and compost bins, re-using paper for collage activities and establishing vegetable gardens. I was delighted to see local schools engaging with students on waste and recycling issues to build a healthy respect and understanding for the environment. It is fantastic to see our school communities getting involved in fostering healthy habits for the environment.

We have had a great response from schools, including St Luke's Anglican School in Bundaberg, Sharon State School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Bundaberg, Gooburrum State School and West State School, to this new education initiative. Next year I look forward to more schools taking up the challenge on this very important initiative. St Luke's Anglican School was crowned Bundaberg's most environmentally friendly school after taking out the competition following its impressive submission showing that the school had been actively involved in recycling to encourage students to become globally aware and, more importantly, responsible citizens.

My community is also getting excited at the prospect of a container refund scheme. Community groups and businesses from across Bundaberg and the Burnett came to a forum that I co-hosted with the Boomerang Alliance. I understand it was the first in the state. I encourage all members to take up the opportunity offered by the Boomerang Alliance and engage with their communities through this very important scheme. It is important for local community groups and businesses to understand how these changes may affect the way they operate and what they can do to prepare to make the most of the opportunities presented. The forum provided the ideal platform to discuss these changes. The forum was well attended by various community and school groups including the Bargara Lions, Impact, the Bundaberg Special School, the Bundaberg Regional Council waste management centre, the Burnett Heads Progress Association, the Girl Guides and local businesses, including A2Z Waste Recycling. The container refund scheme will offer local charities, sporting clubs and schools a lot of money-making opportunities, not to mention the benefits of the scheme in reducing pollution in our region's precious natural environment.

Local initiatives are important as toxic plastic is causing significant damage to marine life. We know from research that it could be making its way up the food chain, ending up in our diet. Unfortunately, this means that what is at the bottom of the food chain is eating plastic and it accumulates as it goes up the food chain. Several studies have looked at fish and crustaceans that we purchase or

catch and even they have digested plastics. We know plastic contains toxins and those toxins can leach into the seafood we love to consume. Reducing the impact of marine debris demands a multipronged approach involving consumers, industry and government. From a consumer's perspective, it is all about making personal choices and being educated about what needs to be done.

Published research has found that in Queensland 34 per cent of sea turtles had ingested marine debris, including microplastics. Types of rubbish most commonly found inside turtles are day-to-day consumer generated debris, such as food wrappers, packaging, plastic bags, fruit stickers and so on. Every year four to 12 million tonnes of debris enter the oceans and 80 per cent of that debris comes from the land. The majority of that debris is plastic and it takes hundreds of years to break down.

The sea turtles that we are finding washed up on the shores of Australia are eating or getting tangled in marine debris just off our coastline. They eat it as it resembles the food they like to eat. For example, older turtles love to eat jellyfish, so they will go for soft, clear or translucent plastic bags, because of their resemblance to jellyfish. Turtles have been on this planet for almost 110 million years and they are now in danger of extinction, partly because of marine debris. This is about making choices that will reduce the probability of those animals becoming extinct in our lifetime. Of course, this gives me the opportunity to mention the Mon Repos Visitor Centre, which is one of the iconic tourist ventures in Queensland. Rejecting a product because of its excessive plastic packaging will send a strong statement to industry and industry will respond.

Firstly, I will address the container refund scheme, which has been widely talked about tonight. The bill contains the planned introduction of a 10-cent refund on all covered beverage containers from July 2018. It is estimated that every year in Queensland 2.4 billion containers are used. In Queensland we have low recycling and high litter rates. It is reported that the container refund scheme could reduce container litter by at least 60 per cent and increase recycling above 80 per cent. The bill also allows community organisations to get involved in collection to raise valuable funds, which is something that community groups in my region welcome. It is estimated that community groups that collect cans and bottles could share in an expected conservative estimate of \$25 million in refunds every year. The scheme should be self-financing, with the beverage industry responsible for covering the costs of the scheme.

The scheme includes all glass, plastic, aluminium and paper beverage containers between 150 millilitres and three litres. These will have a 10-cent refund applied. Milk, some fruit juice and health tonics are exempt. There has been questions raised as to why beer bottles are included but wine and spirit bottles are not included in the scheme. Wine bottles, in particular, are common in litter and their exclusion creates an unfair advantage over other alcoholic beverages.

The use of barcodes has been widely discussed and explored as the primary means to verify refund containers on collection. Collection points have been widely discussed. Those of us who live in regional Queensland want to make sure that local not-for-profit organisations or established local enterprises are given the opportunity to undertake this activity.


Other submissions to the committee supported the establishment of container refund points. I have mentioned that not-for-profit organisations should be involved in this. The establishment of regional hubs will assist with accessibility challenges. However, it has been highlighted through discussions with the department that an accessible Queensland scheme would require in excess of 300 container refund points. We want to ensure that regional Queensland is included.

I will now turn to the issue of plastic bags. The bill announces a ban on single-use lightweight plastic bags up to 35 microns in Queensland. It is encouraging to see that the government is talking about the option to increase the thickness of banned bags should retailers seek to provide slightly thicker bags.

This is a subject that we all feel very strongly about. There is bipartisan support for this legislation tonight. Plastic bags are doing enormous damage to the environment, including our oceans. Not only is the chemical pollution harming our ecosystems; it is also harming us via the food chain. I live in a region where plastic rubbish on our beaches is a daily reminder of how prevalent plastic pollution has become. The need to reduce this pollution is vital.

I want to acknowledge Toby Hutcheon from Boomerang Alliance who is in the gallery tonight. He has been an avid supporter of this legislation and an advocate to us all. Thank you for your advocacy, Toby. It is great to see that this legislation will pass with bipartisan support tonight. Thank you for all your work.




 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (7.41 pm): I rise to speak briefly to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017. We know that the bill proposes banning single-use plastic bags and introducing a container deposit scheme. The objectives of the amendments related to the plastic shopping bag ban are: to reduce the amount of plastic pollution by reducing the number of plastic bags that become waste and enter the environment as litter; and to encourage retailers and consumers to consider whether a carry bag is necessary in the first instance and if a bag is needed then to use alternative shopping bags. The objectives of the amendments regarding the beverage container refund scheme are: to increase the recovery and recycling of empty beverage containers; reduce the number of empty beverage containers that are littered or disposed of to landfill; ensure manufacturers of beverage products take a product stewardship responsibility; and provide opportunities for social enterprise and benefits for community organisations. I know that my Scouts and Guides groups are particularly excited about this. I brought the Morningside Scout Group into the city to have a look at the container deposit machine. They were extremely excited and had lots of goes at disposing of cans. The container refund scheme is to complement existing collection and recycling activities for recyclable waste.

Most of us would have been reasonably embarrassed to hear that Queensland is at the top of the leaderboard for littering and that we have one of the lowest recycling rates in Australia. It was clearly time that we caught up with a number of other jurisdictions in Australia and put this legislation in place. It was gratifying when the government went to review the submissions to its discussion paper to see the sheer number of people who were in favour of what we were proposing. Something like 96 per cent of the 26,000 submissions to the discussion paper on plastic bags said that they supported the ban.

I want to particularly acknowledge the members of the Bulimba Electorate Youth Advisory Panel who identified this as a key priority for them and wrote their own submission to the committee. They appeared before the committee to talk about what they thought was really important. One of the things they identified was the need for community awareness and ways to encourage people to actually make this a part of their lives.

I particularly acknowledge Hayden Woodall, who did a lot of the coordinating work and appeared before the committee. I also acknowledge the other members of the panel: Isabella Hine, Grace Houlihan, Anne Kelley, Andrew Lynch, Sarah Ludowici, Emma Simpson, Brayden White, Grace Nakamura, Mahelie Goonaratne and Samara Ranie. They all wrote an excellent submission. I was gratified to see key points from their submission were quoted by the committee throughout their report.

This is going to make a huge difference to our environment. It is good to see the implementation time is 1 July next year. This gives us all time to make sure our communities know what is happening and how they can do the best thing by the environment. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (7.45 pm): As a coastal member for the beautiful seat of Maroochydore, I want to see our waterways protected from the rubbish discarded by careless hands which has found its way into the stomachs of birds and marine life. From ancient times, the Maroochy and Mooloolah rivers, which are in my electorate, have connected the coastline and have been lifelines for human and native wildlife. Plastic is a relatively recent and unnatural introduction into the ecosystem. It has been devastating for too many creatures.


I commend the many organisations out there trying to push back against this rubbish to ensure there is hope for our local environment. Maroochy Water Watch and catchment groups, Coastcare and a multitude of other groups have regularly participated in clean-ups, particularly Clean Up Australia Day. So many of these groups are out there throughout the year. The work they do to clean up and restore our environment is absolutely amazing. However, I wish that this work were not necessary. Despite growing public awareness of the need to protect our environment, rubbish still pours into our most precious waterways throughout our nation and our beloved local areas. Greater protections to stop at least some of this rubbish finding its way into watercourses is necessary.

This legislation's main intention is to ban single-use plastic bags and also introduce a container deposit scheme which I support. There are some questions about implementation which the shadow environment minister has raised. I await the minister's response to those questions. The success of this bill lies in the implementation and the yet unseen regulations.

The LNP took leadership on these issues, launching our policy last year both with regard to single-use plastic bags as well as a cash-for-container policy. Many of the so-called degradable bags have not saved the environment but instead harmed it as they unleash microparticles of plastic into the guts of marine creatures. They have not been the answer.

I am sure others have experienced what I have experienced. If you put something in one of these bags and put it in the back of the cupboard and then go to pull it out later, the bag disintegrates in your hands. It is absolutely disgusting. I do not like it when that happens because it is messy, but it is devastating when those particles go into our watercourses and then into the guts of animals. There is growing evidence that these microparticles of plastic in our environment are increasingly having quite a devastating impact on marine wildlife and bird life. Whether it is these disintegrating bags or whether it is other types of bags that do not disintegrate which are going into our environment and being sucked into the ecosystem and causing damage, it is clear that something has to be done.

The move to introduce a cash-for-container scheme with a refund for approved beverage containers has winners other than just the environment. I have heard other members comment that our Scouts and Guides and potentially many other community organisations will get involved in collecting this rubbish to support their great community work. There is a dual benefit. Not only will we reduce litter and increase recycling through this particular scheme, but the flow-on benefit to community organisations is substantial. This scheme will take very careful implementation and, as mentioned, the success or otherwise will be in the execution of the legislation—how well that is done—and the regulation that fits around that. The commencement date for the container refund scheme and the bag ban is July 2018.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017. As other members have said whilst the name suggests that this is about waste, what we do know is that it is really about implementing two LNP policies that were announced late last year and early this year around banning lightweight plastic shopping bags and instituting a container deposit scheme or, as the government has referred to it, a container refund scheme. This bill and its objectives will provide both a head of power and the framework for the introduction of a lightweight plastic shopping bag ban, as well as providing a head of power and the framework for the introduction of a container refund scheme for Queensland.

I think it is interesting to reflect on what has really been a journey for the state of Queensland and many of the participants in this realm. For many, many years—indeed, for decades probably—the environmental sector has certainly seen benefits in banning lightweight plastic bags, as it has in terms of having a container deposit scheme. It has certainly taken some time to convince some of the key players of the benefits of both of those opportunities.

I do recall that when I was first elected I got pulled aside by one of the owners of a local IGA in my community. He was basically pleading for some clarity, some direction, particularly around the plastic bag situation. He was very conscious that a ban was ultimately going to come—some would say it has possibly come a little later than many expected. He was seeking the support of the government to go that way many, many years ago. Some of his competitors were less conciliatory around the idea of banning lightweight plastic bags, but those competitors have since come around. I note that Australia's two biggest supermarket giants—Woolworths and Coles—have both announced plans to phase out single-use plastic bags over the next 12 months and have confirmed that from 1 July 2018 customers will need to bring their own bags or buy re-usable ones in store. It really has been quite a path for some of those market leaders to see the benefit in banning lightweight plastic shopping bags, but I think it is an extremely sensible outcome.

I remember during my term as the minister for environment spending a number of opportunities with Dr Col Limpus—whether it be out on Moreton Bay during the annual Moreton Bay turtle rodeo or at Mon Repos turtle sanctuary—discussing some of the scourges of turtle health in Australian waters. What is interesting and what should be pointed out is that, whilst lightweight plastic bags are a contributor, they are possibly not the main contributor. I suspect that there does need to be further work done around this space. What are possibly the main contributor are what Col would often refer to me as shards of plastic that came from things like Chinese takeaway containers that would end up breaking down in marine environments under the sun and UV and the salt water, causing these shards to splinter off—shards that looked very similar to juvenile jelly fish, which are one of the primary feeding sources for our turtles. Whilst the community, and indeed the retailers themselves, are now prepared for this plastic bag ban, I do think the environment department, the environment minister and indeed the community need to consider some of the other products that we are using that potentially do not have the same profile as plastic bags but do have a detrimental impact on our environment, particularly our turtle population.

I turn to the container deposit scheme. Similarly, there are a number of players in this space who have had a road to Damascus experience where they have seen the error of their ways and have decided that they will jump on the bandwagon of community sentiment around this. We have heard stories from both sides of politics about how people can recall in their childhood these kinds of schemes. I personally cannot. I do not know whether that is demonstrating my age.

**Mr Walker:** Some of us can.


**Mr POWELL:** I take that interjection from the member for Mansfield—some can and they remember it quite fondly. Again, there was a lot of consternation around the costs of this program, the benefits of this program and indeed some of the flow-on effects to local government operators in particular who are the primary responsible organisations when it comes to collecting recyclable waste, particularly here in South-East Queensland.

It is interesting to note some of the contributions to the committee's considerations on this bill—in particular, the Brisbane City Council, which does support both the ban on the use of lightweight plastic bags and the introduction of the container refund scheme but continues to express concern over the introduction of the container refund scheme because of the potential financial impact on the BCC's existing kerbside recycling program, which is funded through the sale of recyclable commodities. It also expressed concern that appropriate planning provisions are made to control or license community group collection points to ensure that odour, noise and public health are adequately controlled. Those concerns were reflected also by the LGAQ and, might I add, by some of their regional cousins including the Southern Downs Regional Council, which noted that councils and/or community organisations across its region would incur the capital costs associated with establishing infrastructure required to participate in the scheme.

I think that they are important points to make. This scheme will potentially come with a cost. It will come with a cost to councils, particularly those that do rely on recyclable product that they then onsell to fund the collection of those recyclable matters. It is interesting to note that even South-East Queensland councils have now come to a point where they agree that these bans are necessary and that this container deposit scheme is beneficial. I think that was a journey that the community needed to go on and that the community needed to take some of those councils and retailers on.

I acknowledge in the gallery Mr Toby Hutcheon and commend him for his long and dedicated campaign to see these bans and this container deposit scheme come about. During my term as minister for environment, Toby was with the Queensland Conservation Council. He is now working, I understand, with the Boomerang Alliance. I look forward to welcoming Toby to the Glass House electorate. We have a tentative date, I understand, for 19 October, when we are going to hold a community evening for not only members of the community but also businesses, to allow them to understand what has transpired here tonight in terms of legislative requirements but also the opportunities—opportunities whether they be small or medium or large businesses but also opportunities for community organisations. I know there will be community organisations like the Scouts groups around the electorate of Glass House that will be seeing potential benefits in what we pass tonight.

I do commend the legislation to the House. I do support the shadow minister in the LNP's support for this bill tonight. I do acknowledge that, for some, it has been a rather long and tortuous journey, but we have got there. I think the community will benefit but, more importantly, the environment will benefit too.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (7.58 pm): In supporting the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill before the House tonight, I reflect on how this will impact upon the Kawana electorate, not only local community organisations but also the environment. When we have looked at this issue in the Liberal National Party for the past 12 months we looked at two aspects of this debate: firstly, looking after the environment and how we can better protect the environment, particularly with respect to plastic bags and making sure that fewer are used and fewer go into the ocean and also with respect to bottles and cans, particularly plastic water bottles, and making sure they do not end up in our oceans and on our streets—because we know that litter and rubbish go down the stormwater drains and into the ocean.

The first element I am particularly interested in is how we can better protect our local environment on the Sunshine Coast. The second element, particularly for the container deposit scheme, is how our young children in P&C associations, Neighbourhood Watch groups and scout groups can become little entrepreneurs and make money out of selling the containers.

**Mr Cramp:** Good capitalists.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Indeed. I take the interjection. With the good capitalism in these young individuals, they might be able to make some money from this. The member for Glass House commented that people have recalled these schemes in the past but perhaps he was too young for that. I recall a recycling scheme in New South Wales, but now I am not sure whether it was just my father giving me money for picking up bottles and so forth or if it was actually a scheme that I was involved in in New South Wales. Nonetheless, my family brought me up in a way where we believed that if we recycled there would be some benefit from that. Of course, with the entrepreneur in me, I want to see that particularly in the Kawana community.

I see great opportunities for local organisations, both environment organisations and community organisations. When I announced the LNP policy locally in Kawana on the banks of Currimundi Creek, we had Narelle and the representatives of the Sunshine Coast Environment Council as well as Tony Moorhead, who is the president of the Currimundi Catchment Care Group. These two fantastic organisations, together with Friends of Currimundi Lake, strive with all of their volunteers to look after a particularly important catchment on the Sunshine Coast, being the Currimundi catchment area. I want to pay tribute to the Sunshine Coast Environment Council and Narelle for coming down to Currimundi Lake on that day. They supported the LNP's announcement of the introduction of the container deposit scheme. It is good that the government then followed suit and we have the debate in parliament tonight for the introduction of this scheme from next year. We were joined at that press conference by Tony Moorhead from the Currimundi Catchment Care Group.

I want to pay particular tribute to two groups and their volunteers which look after the Currimundi Lake area and that whole catchment—that is, the Currimundi Catchment Care Group and Friends of Currimundi Lake. I want to firstly talk about the Currimundi Catchment Care Group and I mention Tony Moorhead and his partner, Kaye Brown. Tony has been the president for a number of years. They are tireless in their efforts to make sure they do all they can, including rubbish collections at the lake, street rubbish collections and national tree days where they plant trees all around that area.

I want to pay particular tribute in the Currimundi Catchment Care Group to David and Jenny Allan. When I was first elected to parliament in 2009, David was the president of the Currimundi Catchment Care Group. They have done an enormous amount of work for our communities with respect to the environment. They have shown dedication, passion and commitment over many, many years to our Sunshine Coast community. Tony Moorhead now continues that work in a challenging environment where it is hard to get volunteers and it is hard to get volunteers to hand out brochures.

I see the container deposit scheme as a great opportunity to add to what the Currimundi Catchment Care Group and the Friends of Currimundi Lake are doing. All of their volunteers are doing great work to make sure that not only is Currimundi Lake clean but also the public are educated about what to do and what not to do in the lake. For instance, the '6 knots-no wash' campaign has educated people that they should not go more than six knots because that has a tremendous detrimental impact on the erosion on the side of the lakes. They have had coir log wall campaigns where they have put up natural log walls rather than rock walls to stop erosion or prevent erosion. They have had their national tree days, together with Ron Burnett and the great work that the Parklands Community Group is doing.

I want to pay particular tribute to the late Dot Billingham, who was one of the founders of the Parklands Community Group. I was a neighbour of Dot's. She has unfortunately passed away from cancer, but Dot's legacy continues now with council naming the local park after her—the Dot Billingham Park. The president of the Parklands Community Group is now Mr Ron Burnett, and it is great to see all of these local environmental groups working together.

I took my son, Jasper, and my daughter Madison for a walk near Parklands in the bush on the weekend. There was a sign which was put up for National Tree Day in 2009 when I was a candidate for the election. We had planted little native trees as seedlings and those trees are now three times my height and five times the height of my children. Schools like Talara, Meridan State College and Kawana Waters State College participated in that event and now we have thousands and thousands of trees because of the Parklands Community Group.

The Kawana Forest Residents' Association had their AGM on the weekend. I want to pay tribute to Greg Chambers, who after a few years at the helm as president is retiring. We get their notices every fortnight with the clean-up working bees and the weed-busting exercises they are doing. These community groups do not exist unless we have the wonderful volunteers like we do in Kawana making sure they are run administratively effectively. They are ensuring that their community knows about it but, again, they are struggling to get members. It is unfortunate that sometimes our communities take


for granted what we have and the volunteers in these wonderful organisations. I would encourage more Kawana residents to join these associations, just like the Kawana Island Residents Association led by John and the great work they are doing up there.

Toby Hutcheon from Boomerang Alliance has been acknowledged by the member for Glass House. I spoke to Toby only today. I had been corresponding with Toby in relation to having a forum where his organisation, which is funded by the department, would come and talk to my residents and groups in a bipartisan approach, not a political approach. Toby assures me this is what his presentation is. I welcome Toby to the Kawana community where he can talk to our local church groups, our soccer groups, our sporting groups, our scout groups and the Girl Guides—like the Kawana Scouts, the Kawana soccer club, the Kawana Park Eagles and the P&C associations at Meridan, Talara, Kawana, Pacific Lutheran College, Buddina State School, Chancellor State College and Siena. I also mention all of our wonderful Neighbourhood Watch groups.

I see this as a real opportunity for young people to not only clean the environment but also make money for their associations. I see this as an old-fashioned way of campaigning and raising funds, but at the same time the young people will learn about money and the environment. If we can educate this young generation going through that it is better to recycle the plastic bottles and offer some incentive and not utilise plastic bags, we will all live in a far better world than what we live in now with the rubbish around the place at the moment. Sometimes we have to offer some incentives in these situations and I hope the young people will be encouraged by the incentive. I see this as a real opportunity for these young people in the Kawana Scouts group, the Kawana Girl Guides, our other Neighbourhood Watch groups and the P&Cs.

I am educated on the environment, but my children who are at school are learning far more about the environment and the human impact on the environment these days than what we ever learnt at school. If we can change the habits of younger people—indeed, if we can change the habits of older people and all people—then the communities we live in will be far greater.


I thank Toby Hutcheon and the Boomerang Alliance for the support they have given to not only the LNP but the government to make sure this finally gets across the line. I look forward to the introduction of the container deposit schemes in Queensland. I look forward to working with all of our wonderful community organisations that I have mentioned in Kawana. They are already committed to putting great efforts into our environment, but they will put in even greater efforts now, particularly with the incentives for young people. This will encourage people to recycle and look after our environment so we can leave it in a better place than what it is today.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (8.08 pm): I am pleased to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017. I thank the Minister for Environment for bringing this bill forward. Representing and living in the beautiful bayside electorate of Sandgate, I am very aware of the negative impact litter, particularly plastic litter, can have on land, in our waterways and most particularly in my local environment on the bay. It is important for individuals and businesses to actively make changes to reduce litter—and our waste stream more generally—and increase recycling to preserve our communities for the future. The amendments within this bill focus on two key initiatives to achieve these goals. The bill aims to decrease litter by banning single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags and by encouraging recycling through a beverage container refund scheme.

My constituents on the whole are particularly mindful and aware of their impact on the environment, but we can always do more and this bill aims to do just that. The Palaszczuk government committed at the last election to investigate restrictions on single-use plastic bags and options for a container deposit scheme and this bill puts those commitments into action. The aims of this bill are already being supported in my electorate of Sandgate with local businesses including our local farmers' markets stall replacing plastic bags with paper bags.

I would also like to particularly acknowledge the Nashville State School P&C, including President Lynda Bundock, in my electorate who is bringing the two key objectives of the bill together by proudly selling re-usable recycled produce bags to replace single-use plastic bags. These re-usable bags come in a convenient holder pouch so people can take them with them each time they go to do their grocery shopping. These bags are made from 100 per cent recycled plastic bottles. They let water and air flow through and have an easy zip for closing. Nashville State School P&C sales of these bags are not only raising funds for a new school playground but also helping our community and environment. There are great examples in this bill of how we can see the benefits for the community and benefits for our environment come together.

I want to commend the work that has gone into developing this bill and providing the opportunities that it will deliver to each and every one of the people in our community, but most particularly the range of community organisations that it will help and assist. I acknowledge that a number of contributors to the debate tonight and this afternoon have made comment about how we have come so far and how changes in the way that people regard and think about waste in our community have changed so much. I reflect upon this in my lifetime. I often say to people that if Clem Jones had said to the people of Brisbane in the mid-seventies, 'From tomorrow you're going to have to sort your rubbish into two different kinds of rubbish. You're going to have to take it out to the footpath and it will only get collected once a week,' there would have literally been a riot in the streets of Brisbane. We have come a long way and this bill is evidence of how we are doing more to think sensibly about waste in our community and making sure that recycling and prevention of that waste in the first place are a key part of what we do. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (8.11 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill. I see in his introductory speech the minister made the following observations—

Queensland tops the country in many respects. We have the best beaches and certainly the best reef, but we are also top of the leaderboard for littering. We have one of the lowest recycling rates in Australia. It is not something Queenslanders are proud of.

I agree wholeheartedly with the minister in that regard. Previously I had believed that a ban on plastic shopping bags was an appropriate measure and I still have that view. However, I will detail some of the statistics a little later in my speech.

I note that the objectives of the bill are primarily to introduce a lightweight plastic shopping bag ban and a container refund scheme for Queensland. During the examination of the bill, the Agriculture and Environment Committee received a number of submissions and conducted public hearings. One of the submissions received was from the Coolum and North Shore Coast Care on the Sunshine Coast. A few years ago the group conducted a three-year-long study. Volunteers from the group did monthly marine debris beach surveys on three local beaches: Coolum, Peregrine and Marcus. Also included in the monthly survey was a small nearby bay. The purpose of the survey was to collect marine debris which was recorded on data sheets using methodology provided by Dr Kathy Townsend from the University of Queensland.

The data collected during a 12-month period across the four locations identified that in total 14,848 pieces of debris were collected ranging in size from half a centimetre to more than 16 centimetres in length. Interestingly, of those 14,848 pieces of rubbish collected, only 37 were plastic bags. I would imagine that not all of those were shopping bags. However, there are 332 plastic container lids, 551 cigarette butts and 1,802 pieces of polystyrene foam. It is also worth noting that there were only four pieces of fish netting found and there was no mention of any pieces of fishing line being located. I note from the submission that the type of plastic found inside turtles included hard plastic pieces, soft plastics, balloons, rubbers, food packaging and some plastic bags. Some of these items are not found in large quantities in marine debris surveys, suggesting that turtles may be targeting a particular type of rubbish.

They also made the point that increasingly more food and grocery items are being packaged in plastic containers and bags. They also made the point that the onus should be put on the food item producer and the manufacturer to be made more accountable for determining the size and volume of food packaging.

Coolum and North Shore Coast Care are advocates of container recycling schemes, as am I. I can remember, as can others who have spoken before me, when we used to collect bottles and cans and take them back to the shops. We would get 10 cents back—or whatever we used to get back in those days; it always changed. Returning to similar schemes not only helps address the issue of rubbish pollution but also gets kids out of their bedrooms and away from electronic devices. They can do a bit of fossicking around to earn a few extra dollars.


I note, however, that in relation to the container types the committee report states—

A 'container' is a container that is made to contain a beverage and is made to be sealed for storage, transport and handling before being sold for the beverage to be consumed:

This means that containers such as take-away coffee cups, juice containers and other containers that may be sealed at the point of purchase for the consumer to take-away for consumption are not covered by the scheme, irrespective of whether the beverage in the container meets the definition under section 99L(1) as being a beverage for human consumption.

As I said, 1,802 pieces of polystyrene were located during the marine debris surveys carried out at those four locations on the Sunshine Coast over 12 months. Included among those polystyrene items were disposable coffee cups. Let's just think about how many people drink coffee, and those cups then happen to get into our waterways. As I said earlier, the Sunshine Coast study located 551 cigarette butts. Is there anyone in this place today who is advocating that cigarette smoking should be banned? There are many things that we should look at. This is a very worthy way of moving forward and stopping pollution, which is doing damage to our environment.

I am very fortunate to have been the minister for national parks. So much damage is done to our natural environment. I think we all know that there is a vortex in the middle of the Pacific Ocean consisting of plastic. Hopefully, one day someone will get really smart and will be able to Hoover that up and turn it into something worthwhile. At the moment we as human beings are responsible for this damage that we are creating. I think today we are taking a step in the right direction. We are making the right sort of move and taking responsibility for the damage that we are doing.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (8.17 pm): It is terrific to see the bipartisanship on display in the chamber tonight as I rise to give my views on the bill before the House. In doing so, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge some of the people in the electorate that I represent who have been banging on for a long time about this important area of public policy. I think of my local government colleague Councillor Jan Clifford, who represents Airlie Beach, Shute Harbour and Jubilee Pocket. I commend her and Barb Adamson and others such as Leonie Bartlem for introducing their Boomerang bags some time ago. These ladies feel very passionate about the environment and wanted to make a difference. I acknowledge Councillor Clifford taking that argument to the LGAQ last year. Not only did the Whitsunday Regional Council ban the use of single-use plastic bags; Councillor Clifford pushed that barrow at the highest level in local government at the LGAQ level. I acknowledge her leadership in the environmental space in relation to these matters.

We have some terrific environmental heroes in the electorate that I represent. When we think about the electorate of Whitsunday the mind boggles—from Blacks Beach to Dingo Beach across our iconic Whitsunday islands and our bays, estuaries, rivers and creeks. Of course, we should not forget our iconic Great Barrier Reef. We need to clean up our act—all of us. In the course of discussing the merits of the bill before the House it has been interesting to listen to members speak this afternoon and tonight about their childhood. We heard about them doing their bit for the environment and making a few bucks on the side as well. As a kid I would take my aluminium cans to Kele Bros in Mackay. I would go around to the Mackay showgrounds on a Sunday after the football. I see the Leader of the House nodding his head because I know he loves football. There were a lot of cans there. I would collect those cans and I would crush them up. I would take them into Kele Bros and get good coin for them.

I would do the same with soft drink bottles. Harrups Cordials from Mackay is a household name in the cordial business—I see the member for Townsville nodding with his Mackay connections—and also Coca-Cola Amatil. That money was so good for me that 30 years ago it helped pay for my first ever interstate trip to the Tiwi islands in September 1987. I remember watching the sun setting on the Arafura Sea at Cape Fourcroy, going to Nuyu and learning about AFL, fish traps, dugongs and turtles. That was all on the back of recycling.

**Mr Power:** They don't play Rugby League there!

**Mr COSTIGAN:** They did at Richardson Park. I was at the grand final. It was between Nightcliff and Brothers.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I said the Northern Territory broadly speaking, Deputy Speaker. It is interesting to see the member for Logan again, like a train coming down the range jumping the tracks. That is typical of him. I talked about Councillor Clifford in this space and how she and her go-getters tried to ban single-use plastic bags. You have to acknowledge some of the businesses in the Whitsundays too, Cannonvale businesses like MBW butchers and Goodness Gracious. Those businesses said, 'Do you know what? We want some buy-in here because it's important.'

I also want to acknowledge the work of Libby Edge, who is well known to members of the House across the political divide. Libby runs Eco Barge Clean Seas, where something like 500 volunteers go across the Whitsunday Islands. I see the minister and I take it on face value, because the minister knows full well—as good as anyone, I dare say—that Libby Edge is an amazing lady. Her work in cleaning up marine debris over many years has won the admiration of people right across the political


divide. No matter where people come, their demographic or their socioeconomic status, they salute Libby Edge in the Whitsundays. She did not grace the front page of the phone book by fluke. Her Clean Streets and Creeks program and the Mackay Coastal Clean Up are well documented in the community, and I say that on the back of the Great Northern Clean Up which happened a couple of days ago across North Queensland. There is no doubt that the Whitsundays are a place very dear to my heart. We attract tourists from all around the world. People do not want to come and see rubbish on the beach, whether it is Airlie Beach or White Haven Beach, and that clean-up work is to be saluted.

I also want to acknowledge one of Libby's supporters: David Edge, marine contracting, GBRMPA. I am sure that Dr Russell Reichelt, chief executive and chairman of GBRMPA, admires Libby's work as well as anyone. It would be remiss of me not to salute Nick Hortle, who has moved on as the chief executive officer of Cruise Whitsundays, the leading provider of passenger services across the Whitsunday islands and ferry transfers to the reef. The work of Cruise Whitsundays in supporting Libby Edge and Eco Barge Clean Seas is truly appreciated. On the mainland the Landcare groups come to mind. I heard the member for Kawana rattling off a number of community groups in his part of the state on the Sunshine Coast. Whitsunday Catchment Landcare has been going for 20 years next year. This scheme will come in next year in terms of banning single-use plastic bags.

The container deposit scheme is something that the LNP flagged. Let us not forget that the LNP flagged this last year. We wanted this as policy, and I will give the Palaszczuk Labor government credit where it is due. They have finally adopted this policy so that the community will be better for it. In the Whitsunday Catchment Landcare organisation there are people like Graham Armstrong, Jim Dickens, Wendy Gordon, Bren Fuller, Scott Hardy, John Casey—my old mate on the banks of the O'Connell River and son of the real 'Crocodile Dundee from Down Under', the late Alf Casey—and Councillor Ron Petterson, who all do a terrific job. I was delighted to be there last year in Cannon Valley on National Tree Day planting a tree. You can plant as many trees as you want, but you do not want to go down to the creek at Galbraith Park Estate or wherever and see rubbish littering the streets, because the turtles, the dugongs, the whales and our marine life is so precious to us. People come to the Whitsundays to see the whales breaching, not just Hervey Bay. I salute the member for Hervey Bay. Having said that, for me personally it was great to see the whales breaching during Audi Hamilton Island Race Week. It was no surprise for spectators and participants, just as the week before at Airlie Beach Race Week there were whales and turtles.

On that note, Libby Edge cares for the turtles. I have been to her turtle hospital. I have also been to Reef HQ. One of the first jobs that I had in this place when I was in Townsville as the shadow assistant minister for North Queensland was to see what was happening in Townsville at Reef HQ. Fred Nucifora and all the crew up there do a tremendous job. I have known Freddy for a long time. In my own patch, Libby Edge has her own version of a turtle hospital for convalescing turtles to make sure they get back on their feet. Libby is to be admired as well, because we do not want turtles eating plastic bags. We have to draw a line in the sand, and I think this bill goes a long way to achieving that.

I am proud to be part of the LNP opposition that pushed this barrow last year. I acknowledge the stewardship of our shadow minister for the environment. He has been up in my part of the world in recent times trying to get rid of that 100-foot rust bucket on Gloucester Island, which has been home to a national park for almost 80 years. I know it is very dear to his heart. Caring for the environment is not something that either side of politics has a mortgage on. We have a good story to tell on our side, and I acknowledge the Labor government for supporting the endeavours of the LNP opposition in providing what is a great step forward in looking after our environment.


 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (8.25 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill. As indicated by earlier speakers, the LNP support this legislation. In fact, the LNP has led the announcement with the state Labor government following. The bill amends the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2001 to ban lightweight plastic shopping bags and introduce a container scheme to begin on 1 July 2018. It is envisaged that these measures will reduce litter, increase the recycling of containers and reduce the harmful impact that plastic pollution has on our environment. I would like to thank the members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee for their consideration of the bill and for the detailed information which is contained in the committee report. I also acknowledge the member for Gregory, who is a member of that committee, and his spirited comments earlier in this debate in relation to making sure there is no cost shift onto local governments caused by this legislation.



Four other states and territories—South Australia, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory—have plastic shopping bag bans in place. That covers the single-use, lightweight plastic shopping bags which we all probably know quite well. South Australia and the Northern Territory are currently the only Australian states with established container schemes. The New South Wales scheme is intended to commence on 1 December 2017, closely followed by the Australian Capital Territory and West Australia. I have often been asked, ‘Why doesn’t Queensland have a container deposit scheme?’ especially in areas of my electorate which border South Australia. Mine is one of the few electorates that shares a boundary with South Australia. They have had a container deposit scheme for some 40 years, and we have heard that it has always been quite successful in South Australia. I hope that the introduction of the container refund scheme in Queensland will encourage behavioural changes in members of the public and create opportunities for those who choose to use container refunds to raise funds. I receive a considerable number of complaints in my office. We have a lot of roads in my electorate, and there is often a lot of litter on the sides of those roads. I hope that people do change their behaviour and, instead of littering our roads, they look at how they can help service clubs like the Scouts or the Guides or someone who is out there retrieving those containers and collecting those refunds.

The explanatory notes identify that the government may need to implement a small-scale infrastructure grants program for community groups and those remote local governments and communities. There are probably quite a few empty containers around the Birdsville area after the races over the weekend, so there is an opportunity where events such as that which occur in regional areas. We do have a lot of cans and containers and a lot of waste that accumulates during those events and we do not want councils to be left picking up the cost. Local governments are often considered as the provider of the last resort. In this case they might end up being the collector of last resort. I hope that there is no cost shifting to local government through this legislation.

As I was going through the detail of this legislation I found some of the submissions that were made. They made suggestions that there should be some re-usable calico bags instead of plastic bags. I can advise that a school in my electorate has been actively encouraging the use of calico bags, namely Hannaford bags. The Hannaford bag is a strong calico bag that can be used again and again and is machine washable. Members are probably wondering why I have chosen to talk about the Hannaford calico bag. It is because I found the Hannaford calico bag at the Hannaford State School in my electorate. They are great users of these Hannaford calico bags. I commend the Hannaford State School for their efforts to reduce the number of plastic bags and for what they do in their community to educate people and encourage the use of re-usable, washable calico Hannaford bags rather than plastic bags. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (8.30 pm), in reply: The debate tonight has made it clear that this parliament is determined to reduce litter and increase recycling in Queensland. Tonight this parliament is ready to make the historic decision to stop the use of nearly one billion lightweight plastic shopping bags each and every year. We are ready to respond to our community and take real action to increase the recycling of the 2.4 billion beverage containers that are used in Queensland each year.

In his contribution the member for Sunnybank said that this one is for Joe and his kindy mates. I think we can all agree that this one is for our kids and our grandkids, the strongest advocates for cash for cans and a plastic bag ban. It is for all those primary school kids who made the member for Redlands shell out 10 cents per can and bottle. I hope for his sake that those kids were not as wily as the member for Hervey Bay was in his younger years—double claiming his sixpence refund by stealing back the bottles he had just returned.

I acknowledge that during his contribution the member for Moggill asked a number of questions, primarily about how the scheme will be funded and the impact on taxpayers. I am happy to address those questions. Firstly, let me assure members that the design of this scheme ensures that the beverage industry will be responsible for funding the Product Responsibility Organisation as well as for paying for the cost of the scheme itself. This will include the initial outlays required to establish the scheme and the requirements to promote the scheme amongst consumers. The PRO will also be required to provide its quarterly and annual reports to the minister, and those reports will be made public on the EHP website.

Assuming the bill is passed with the support of honourable members tonight, the government, through the environment department, will consult the Local Government Association of Queensland and the implementation advisory group on how to best target the small-scale grants the government is

funding in association with the container refund scheme. It is intended that small communities in remote and regional Queensland will be provided with financial support to ensure these communities can participate in the scheme. The consultation process will ensure that best use is made of the over \$500,000 that will be available for the grants.

I note that the member for Gregory in particular expressed concerns about the potential cost to small local governments. I assure the member that the government is aware of those concerns and will work to ensure the appropriate supports are in place for those communities. My department is already working with the LGAQ and other members of the implementation advisory group on statewide access targets for the scheme. These targets will ensure the Product Responsibility Organisation, which will operate the refund scheme, has container refund points located in communities right across the state and not just in our large cities.

The member for Moggill also asked some questions about the implementation of the plastic bag ban. On the question of the head of power that will allow a regulation to ban a plastic bag of greater than 35 microns thickness, this power can only be implemented through a regulation with the approval of the Governor in Council. The purpose of this provision is to ensure that the plastic bag ban is not undermined by retailers supplying very similar bags that are ever so slightly thicker, for example 36 microns. Those members who saw the excellent ABC program *War on Waste* will know that this is an issue faced in Tasmania. Given the strong support of so many retailers for this ban in Queensland I do not expect that the government will need to call on this measure, but we have learned from the experience of other jurisdictions that we need to avoid this type of loophole. This is why the bill ensures the government has the ability to respond quickly if anyone does try to get around the ban in this way.

The member for Moggill asked about enforcement of the ban. This will be undertaken by the environment department as part of responsibility for the administration of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act. Again, given the overwhelming support of the community for the plastic bag ban, I hope that the penalties for a breach of the ban are never used, but the government will be ready to deal with any breaches that do occur. This is a good illustration of why community awareness and preparation ahead of the ban are essential.

I am happy to inform the House that the National Retail Association's activities across the state preparing retailers for the ban are supported with \$155,000 in funding from the government. Over 100 workshops are being held across Queensland to support retailers to get ready for the ban ahead of 1 July 2018. I thank the National Retail Association for its hard work to reduce plastic litter and to protect Queensland's environment.

The Boomerang Alliance has also been working in partnership with the environment department to promote awareness throughout the community of both the plastic bag ban and the container refund scheme. The partnership with Boomerang includes \$70,000 in funding from the department. This includes \$10,000 for online tools to spread the message far and wide about how the community can prepare for the plastic bag ban and benefit from the container refund scheme. A number of members tonight, including the members for Currumbin, Noosa and Burnett, have pointed out how much they value the contribution of the Boomerang Alliance and look forward to community forums planned in their own electorates. I want to extend my thanks and congratulations to Toby Hutcheon and the Boomerang Alliance for their efforts and acknowledge that Toby is here in the gallery tonight, as he has been for the entire debate.

I also thank the other NGOs, Greenpeace, WWF, Sea World, Boomerang Bags, QCC and others, and everybody who signed a petition, took an action or in some way supported this bill, because we certainly would not be here without the level of community support that we saw. I thank the officers of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection who have worked diligently throughout the consultation and bill preparation and of course tonight. I thank the staff of my office who have worked on this pretty much since the day after we were elected. I acknowledge the work of the implementation advisory group, who have contributed to the development of the bill and, ultimately, the scheme we will have in place here in Queensland. I have no doubt that our scheme will be stronger and more effective as a direct result of the close consultation with industry and the community sector. I commend this 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

Insertion of new part—



**Dr MILES** (8.38 pm): I move the following amendment—

**1 Before clause 1**

Page 10, after line 1—

*insert—*

**Part 1 Preliminary**

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

*Tabled paper.* Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes Hon. Dr Steve Miles's amendments [\[1573\]](#).

**Dr ROWAN:** The LNP will not be opposing this amendment as it is technical in nature. I also foreshadow that the LNP will not be opposing the other amendments to be moved by the minister, given their intent to clarify and that they are technical or consequential in nature.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new part—

**Dr MILES** (8.38 pm): I move the following amendment—

**2 After clause 2**

Page 10, after line 16—

*insert—*

**Part 2 Amendment of Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011**

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3—

**Dr MILES** (8.39 pm): I move the following amendment—

**3 Clause 3 (Act amended)**

Page 10, line 18, 'This Act'—

*omit, insert—*

This part

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 3, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4—

**Dr MILES** (8.39 pm): I move the following amendments—

**4 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 4, pts 3A and 3B)**

Page 20, lines 11 to 22—

*omit, insert—*

- (1) A person is a **manufacturer** of a beverage product if the person—
  - (a) makes the beverage product, including, for example—
    - (i) by filling containers with a beverage; or
    - (ii) engaging another person under a contract to make the beverage product or fill containers with a beverage for the person; or
  - (b) imports the beverage product from a foreign country; or
  - (c) arranges for the distribution of the beverage product in Queensland.
- (2) For subsection (1)(a) and (b), it does not matter whether the beverage product is made in, or imported into, Queensland or another State.

**5 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 4, pts 3A and 3B)**

Page 20, lines 27 to 30—

*omit, insert—*

- (1) A manufacturer of a beverage product must not sell the beverage

**6 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 4, pts 3A and 3B)**

Page 21, lines 12 to 18—

*omit, insert—*

- (2) For this section, it does not matter whether the beverage manufacturer sells the beverage product in Queensland, in another State or somewhere else.

**7 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 4, pts 3A and 3B)**

Page 21, lines 21 and 22, 'the manufacturer'—

*omit, insert—*

a manufacturer

**8 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 4, pts 3A and 3B)**

Page 23, lines 10 and 11, 'the manufacturer'—

*omit, insert—*

a manufacturer

**9 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 4, pts 3A and 3B)**

Page 42, line 13, after 'beverage product'—

*insert—*

who holds the approval

**10 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 4, pts 3A and 3B)**

Page 43, line 2, 'The manufacturer'—

*omit, insert—*

A manufacturer

**11 Clause 4 (Insertion of new ch 4, pts 3A and 3B)**

Page 44, line 32, 'the manufacturer'—

*omit, insert—*

a manufacturer

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5—

**Dr MILES (8.40 pm):** I move the following amendments—**12 Clause 5 (Insertion of new ch 4, pt 5)**

Page 51, line 21, after 'manufacturer'—

*insert—*

or an association that represents small beverage manufacturers

**13 Clause 5 (Insertion of new ch 4, pt 5)**

Page 52, lines 6, 7, 8 and 9, 'the manufacturer'—

*omit, insert—*

a manufacturer

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 33, as read, agreed to.

Clause 34—

**Dr MILES (8.40 pm):** I move the following amendment—**14 Clause 34 (Insertion of new ch 16, pt 2)**

Page 104, line 27, 'The manufacturer'—

*omit, insert—*

A manufacturer

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 34, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 35, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—

**Dr MILES** (8.41 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

**Dr MILES:** I move the following amendment—

**15 After clause 35**

Page 110, after line 8—

*insert—*

**Part 3 Amendment of Planning Act 2016**

**36 Act amended**

This part amends the *Planning Act 2016*.

**37 Amendment of s 78 (Making change application)**

Section 78(3)(bb), 'under part 6, division 3'—

*omit, insert—*

for an application that was called in under a call in provision

**38 Amendment of s 79 (Requirements for change applications)**

(1) Section 79(1)(b)(iii)—

*omit.*

(2) Section 79—

*insert—*

(1A) Also, a change application must be accompanied by the written consent of the owner of the premises the subject of the application to the extent—

(a) the applicant is not the owner; and

(b) the application is in relation to—

(i) a material change of use of premises or reconfiguring a lot; or

(ii) works on premises that are below high-water mark and outside a canal; and

(c) the premises are not excluded premises.

(3) Section 79(2)(a), 'subsection (1)'—

*omit, insert—*

subsections (1) and (1A)

(4) Section 79(2)(b), 'subsection (1)(b)(iii)'—

*omit, insert—*

subsection (1A)

**39 Amendment of s 83 (Notice of decision)**

Section 83(1)(f), 'called in—the Minister that'—

*omit, insert—*

called in under a call in provision—the Minister who

**40 Amendment of s 86 (Extension applications)**

(1) Section 86(2)(b)—

*omit, insert—*

(b) accompanied by the required fee.

(2) Section 86—

*insert—*

(2A) Also, the extension application must be accompanied by the written consent of the owner of the premises the subject of the development approval to the extent—

(a) the applicant is not the owner; and

- (b) the development approval is for—
    - (i) a material change of use of premises or reconfiguring a lot; or
    - (ii) works on premises that are below high-water mark and outside a canal; and
  - (c) the premises are not excluded premises.
- (3) Section 86(3)(a), 'subsection (2)'—  
*omit, insert—*  
subsections (2) and (2A)
- (4) Section 86(3)(b), 'subsection (2)(b)(ii)'—  
*omit, insert—*  
subsection (2A)
- (5) Section 86(3)(d), 'subsection (2)(b)(i)'—  
*omit, insert—*  
subsection (2)(b)

#### 41 Insertion of new ch 8, pt 1A

Chapter 8—  
*insert—*

#### Part 1A Transitional and saving provisions for Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Act 2017

##### 324 Definitions for part

In this part—

**amending Act** means the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Act 2017*.

**existing change application** means a change application made before the commencement.

**former**, in relation to a provision, means the provision as in force immediately before the provision was amended or repealed under the amending Act.

##### 324A Responsible entity for particular existing change applications

- (1) This section applies to an existing change application made to the Minister to change a development approval given for an application that was called in under—
  - (a) the old Act, chapter 6, part 11, division 2; or
  - (b) the repealed *Integrated Planning Act 1997*, chapter 3, part 6, division 2.
- (2) Despite former section 78(3), the Minister is taken to be, and is taken to always have been, the responsible entity for the change application.

##### 324B Requirement for owner's consent for particular existing change applications

- (1) This section applies to an existing change application to which former section 79(1)(b)(iii) applied if, under section 79(1A), the application would not be required to be accompanied by the written consent of the owner of the premises the subject of the application.
- (2) The existing change application is not invalid merely because it did not comply with former section 79(1)(b)(iii).
- (3) A decision of the responsible entity for the existing change application to accept the application under former section 79(2) is not invalid merely because the application did not comply with former section 79(1)(b)(iii).
- (4) Subsection (5) applies if, on the commencement, the responsible entity for the existing change application had not decided to accept the application under former section 79(2).
- (5) Section 79(2), as in force on the commencement, applies for making a decision about accepting the existing change application.

##### 324C Requirement for owner's consent for particular existing extension applications

- (1) This section applies to an existing extension application to which former section 86(2)(b)(ii) applied if, under section 86(2A), the application would not be required to be accompanied by the written consent of the owner of the premises the subject of the development approval.
- (2) The existing extension application is not invalid merely because it did not comply with former section 86(2)(b)(ii).

- (3) A decision of the assessment manager for the existing extension application to accept the application under former section 86(3) is not invalid merely because the application did not comply with former section 86(2)(b)(ii).
- (4) Subsection (5) applies if, on the commencement, the assessment manager for the existing extension application had not decided to accept the application under former section 86(3).
- (5) Section 86(3), as in force on the commencement, applies for making a decision about accepting the existing extension application.
- (6) In this section—  
**existing extension application** means an extension application made before the commencement.

#### 324D Existing appeals—excluded applications

- (1) This section applies if—
  - (a) a person appealed to the P&E Court or a tribunal before the commencement; and
  - (b) the appeal is in relation to an excluded application and is about a matter mentioned in—
    - (i) former schedule 1, section 1, table 1, item 1 or 2; or
    - (ii) former schedule 1, section 1, table 2, item 2 or 3; and
  - (c) the appeal had not been decided before the commencement.
- (2) On and from the commencement, the appeal is of no further effect.

#### 42 Amendment of sch 1 (Appeals)

- (1) Schedule 1, section 1, table 1, item 1, from ‘other than’ to ‘Minister’—  
*omit, insert—*  
other than an excluded application
- (2) Schedule 1, section 1, table 1, item 2, from ‘other than’ to ‘Minister’—  
*omit, insert—*  
other than an excluded application
- (3) Schedule 1, section 1, table 2, items 2 and 3, from ‘other than’ to ‘Minister’—  
*omit, insert—*  
other than an excluded application

#### 43 Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary)

Schedule 2—

*insert—*

**call in provision** means—

- (a) chapter 3, part 6, division 3; or
- (b) the old Act, chapter 6, part 11, division 2; or
- (c) the repealed *Integrated Planning Act 1997*, chapter 3, part 6, division 2.

**excluded application** means—

- (a) a change application, or development application, called in under a call in provision; or
- (b) a change application, or development application, decided by the P&E Court; or
- (c) a change application made to the Minister as the responsible entity under section 78(3)(bb).

#### Part 4 Amendment of Planning and Environment Court Act 2016

##### 44 Act amended

This part amends the *Planning and Environment Court Act 2016*.

##### 45 Amendment of s 39 (Planning Minister)

Section 39(4), definition *planning Minister*, ‘part 2’—

*omit, insert—*

part 1

**46 Amendment of s 79 (Existing rules migrate to this Act)**

(1) Section 79(4)(a), '6 months'—

*omit, insert—*

1 year

(2) Section 79(4)(b), '6 months'—

*omit, insert—*

year

**47 Amendment of s 80 (Migration of particular repealed SPA provisions about the P&E Court to the rules)**

Section 80(4)(a), '6 months'—

*omit, insert—*

1 year

**Mr WALKER:** This amendment and some amendments to follow deal with amendments to the Planning Act. The Deputy Premier kindly gave me a briefing on these this afternoon. The opposition has no objection to this series of amendments and will not be opposing them.

Amendment agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (8.42 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (8.42 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be amended so the title reads 'A Bill for An Act to amend the *Planning Act 2016*, the *Planning and Environment Court Act 2016* and the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* for particular purposes'.

Amendment agreed to.

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


Motion agreed to.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (8.43 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Currumbin Electorate

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (8.43 pm): You do not have to live along the Queensland coastline to understand the enormous contribution our volunteer surf lifesavers make, let alone the countless hours of service they perform to keep our beaches and our reputation safe. They have my ongoing support and respect, but tonight they have my deepest sympathy. It is with a truly heavy heart that I pay tribute to one amazing individual and top bloke, Dean Mercer, who was taken from us suddenly on the morning of 28 August when he suffered a massive heart attack at just 47 years young. Dean gave so much to the surf-lifesaving movement over many years as a competitor, coach, mentor and mate, but undoubtedly his biggest gift was as a husband to wife, Reen, and proud dad to their four boys.




On a happier note, I congratulate Currumbin Vikings as they once again took out the coveted 2017 Patrol Club of the Year at the annual Point Danger Surf Life Saving Queensland Awards night in July. Each year I sponsor a surf rescue board and the 11 clubs in the Point Danger branch compete for the title. I wish to place on public record my sincere thanks to all of our clubs for their dedication and outstanding community spirit. The Point Danger branch performed 205 rescues in the 2016-17 season. The rescue board was the most popular piece of rescue equipment used last season, utilised for 76 rescues.

Congratulations also to Lily Dick, Currumbin's very own Rugby Sevens gold medallist. Lily, a born and bred local, was a key player in the Australian women's Rugby Sevens taking out the gold medal at the Commonwealth Youth Games in the Bahamas on 22 July with a huge win of 31-5 over regular rivals Canada. Our 'Gator' girls at Palm Beach Currumbin Rugby Union Club, the Alleygators, are going from strength to strength and we are very proud of their efforts. I am hopeful the Alleygators will be successful in securing funding in the new Get in the Game Female Facilities program to assist with the development of amenities for their female players. Lily's family are about as entwined in Currumbin as you can get. Father Craig, mother Joanne and brother Sam run the quaintly named Village Store right alongside Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and have done so for many years and the Dicks have been active members of Currumbin Beach Vikings Surf Life Saving Club. Craig was a longstanding committee member of Teenage Adventure Camps Queensland, donating countless hours to make the annual camp at Currumbin for children with life-threatening disabilities a magical week.

Last week we lost another wonderful community member Keith Fleming, a long-serving, respected member of our local Lions Club who always had a smile and a yarn to tell no matter the time of day. Keith was a strong supporter of the LNP and mine, helping me on numerous election campaigns and giving unlimited hours performing whatever tasks we required. Keith left behind wife, Ruth, and son Gavin. Rest in peace, my dear friend.

### Sandgate Electorate

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (8.46 pm): As usual, it has been a busy time in and around my electorate of Sandgate of late and I am pleased to share with the House some of the positive highlights. Last Saturday week I was pleased to join the huge crowd of people who attended the recent Brighton State School fete. The weather was amazing and a great day was had by all.


Over this past weekend I was honoured to officially open the Bracken Ridge State High School 50th anniversary festival celebrations which were attended by current and former students and staff. It was in some ways an unusual anniversary having acknowledged that the school's name changed from Nashville State High School in 2000. During the celebrations I was pleased to catch up with Mark Allison, now Managing Director and CEO of Elders, who was school captain at Nashville State High School in 1977. It has always been a small school which has achieved above expectations. The event provided current and former students and staff the opportunity to catch up, share stories and celebrate the school's milestone.

In other school news, Shorncliffe State School participated in the school's annual sailing regatta at the Queensland Cruising Yacht Club last month. I presented trophies and medallions to students who participate in what I believe is a unique activity for a state primary school which was supported by QCYC volunteers. The QCYC has also recently launched its 2017-18 sailing season. The 2017-18 season includes the 70th Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race which will once again start at Shorncliffe in my electorate. I was pleased to speak at the season launch to reiterate the Palaszczuk government's long-term commitment to the QCYC facilities on Cabbage Tree Creek and commitment to sailing in the community.

The government also continues to support active local community organisations in my electorate such as Sandbag. Sandbag delivers a range of support programs in my electorate, including delivery of the very successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work. I have been pleased to join graduates recently at Sandbag to celebrate their Skilling Queenslanders for Work graduations. Through this program, local young and unemployed people are graduating with real qualifications and skills, often heading directly into work, starting apprenticeships or continuing with further study. Program participants recently completed a large building project at the Sandgate office of All About Living, a local aged and community care provider in my electorate.

All About Living was also one of the organisations participating in the Healthy Ageing Expo at Brighton Health Campus held recently. I was honoured to represent health minister Cameron Dick to officially open the expo, which brought together government, non-government and local service providers to engage with the community to promote healthy ageing. We used the occasion to celebrate 70 years of providing health and aged-care services at the Brighton Health Campus, formerly known as Eventide. I was pleased during the expo to unveil a special timber bench crafted by the Sandgate Men's Shed, now established on the campus, acknowledging some of the staff who have contributed to the many years of aged-care service at Brighton Health Campus. This is just a taste of my vibrant and diverse electorate of Sandgate.

### Nerang PCYC

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (8.50 pm): I rise to speak about an incredible organisation that does so much in the Gaven electorate: the PCYC Nerang, an organisation that I am very proud to be a part of as a committee member. I know that all members who have the great fortune to have a PCYC in their electorate will attest to the outstanding work that the police, committee members, employees and volunteers of their PCYC do in our communities. The PCYC Nerang is no different. Established in 1982, it is more than a great place to go to the gym, play basketball or take martial arts, boxing or dance classes. It is very much a heartbeat of our community, reaching out and assisting so many people through its operation of childcare services, the YMT Youth Leadership Program and the Braking the Cycle program which provides our local youth the vital driving lessons they need to attain their licence.


I make special mention of Sergeant Scott Muldoon, who for the past 25 years has led the PCYC Nerang team on their journey in service to our community. Scott's efforts have been absolutely central to the success of everything the Nerang PCYC has achieved. He is always the first to lend a hand to whoever needs it and always leads from the front. As they say, beside every good man is an even better woman, so it would be remiss of me not to note Scott's wife, Kerry, who is an incredible community advocate in her own right. She is always helping out at community events and, just like her husband, is without doubt one of the most positive people I have ever met.

PCYC is all about teamwork, and the Nerang team of manager Rebecca Morris; her team Blake, Courtney, Carl, Willy, Karen, Leanne, Scott, Zoe and William; and the PCYC childcare team of Cassie, Crystal, Shell, Kylie and Kat never stop working for our community. Nothing is ever too much trouble for them. Bec, or as I refer to her 'Boss', never ceases to amaze me with her tireless work ethic, positive attitude and selflessness. In fact, one of my favourite tasks at the PCYC is helping out at our fundraiser fight nights, where Bec ensures that I undertake all of the most glamorous duties, which mainly involve cleaning up rubbish, sweeping floors and lifting all things heavy.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr CRAMP:** I am very qualified; I take that interjection. Jokes aside, Scotty and Bec have always made me feel like a part of the team and their friendship is very much appreciated. Finally, I thank my fellow members of the PCYC committee: Ben Samin, Chris Emzin, Paul Dent, Gael McDonald, John McKeon, Lindsey Heitmann, Senior Constable Steven Reed and Geoff Palmer when he is not off holidaying somewhere. They are just the best bunch of people you could meet. I always look forward to our committee meetings, which I consider to be more like catching up with mates—and the food is pretty good as well! I say again that I am just so proud to be a part of this fantastic team and I look forward to continuing to work hard to ensure that the Nerang PCYC has the funding and facilities to continue its vital work in our community well into the future.

### Howard Police Station

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (8.53 pm): Last Wednesday in the great electorate of Maryborough I had the privilege to represent the police and emergency services minister and turn the first sod on the brand-new fire and police station at Howard, the \$10 million facility delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. We must always remember that Labor always builds in regional Queensland. That is what this great party has done throughout its history.


It was fantastic to turn the first sod in constructing the new facility. This facility replaces a police station and courthouse that was built in 1893. It is certainly too small for modern policing. One thing that concerned me when I was first elected was the size of the police station. We were expecting police to work out of this building, which was absolutely horrendous. During a major and violent domestic violence episode we sent police out on the beat without proper radio contact. They had no contact from

the station. I went in to bat for the Howard community. As I said, Labor always builds for the regions. This is what the Palaszczuk government does. We are putting resources back into regional Queensland.

Howard is a small community in my electorate. I thank Faye Whiffin from the Howard community centre. It is fair to say that Faye is not a Labor supporter, but we work very hard together. Faye is a great lady. We have a great respect for one another and work very well together. The other person I acknowledge from the Howard community is Ricky Rowland. Ricky does a lot of volunteering for the community. He is in the rural fires and the progress association. He is a family man and a great community asset. His family has been living in Torbanlea for over 100 years. The family knows the region very well.

With the community support, and of course with the support of this great Labor government, we have delivered once again for regional Queensland. This \$10 million facility will enhance policing and fire services in the Burrum district, one of the fastest growing areas in my electorate. It is really great to be part of a government that does not cut, sack and sell but delivers for the community and ensures the community gets the services it needs. As I keep saying, Labor builds while those on the other side tear down. They are good white ants in that they just chop everything away. The people of Howard, Torbanlea, Burrum Heads, Craignish and Toogoom are grateful to the Palaszczuk government that delivers for regional Queensland.

### Brisbane Metro

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (8.56 pm): I have three of the Brisbane South East Busway stations in my electorate: at Eight Mile Plains, Garden City and Griffith University. They are busway stations that will be serviced by the new Brisbane Metro service. That is fantastic news for the people of my electorate, because the Brisbane Metro is a tremendous project being delivered by the Brisbane City Council which will service the people of my electorate in great style.


There has been absence of leadership from the Palaszczuk government in this area. There is no plan to tackle bus congestion, so Brisbane City Council has stepped up and has a plan to do that. The Brisbane Metro will solve the capacity constraint on the busway, which has been sitting there since 2008. Labor cannot run Queensland Rail, despite inheriting the best running on-time rail system from the LNP. Labor has no transport plan for the future that will fix the public transport busway on my side of town. The Brisbane Metro will be a high-frequency metro network with services every three minutes in peak periods on Wednesdays and five minutes on weekdays between those peak periods. As I said, it will service three of the busway stations in my electorate, at Eight Mile Plains, Garden City and Griffith University.

The other week I met with Deputy Mayor Adrian Schrinner at the Garden City busway platform to look at the layout and to see how this would work. We have discussed it with a number of our local groups, in particular Neighbourhood Watch groups, who are keen to see how it will work in their area.

Not only will it be an effective public transport system for the people of my electorate; it will also mean a great financial return to the people of Brisbane. The cost-benefit ratio of the Metro is 1:1.91. That is an exceptionally high benefit-cost ratio and is an incremental upgrade to the existing infrastructure. It means that, for every dollar the community invests it will get back \$1.91.

In contrast to the government's Cross River Rail project, this is a practical project. It is one which is affordable, which meets existing and future needs and which stacks up financially. The people of my electorate will welcome this and we look forward to further information from our local councillors—Schrinner, Adams and Huang—as to the construction program for the busway and what it will mean to services for the people in my electorate. The people of Mansfield look forward to it and congratulate Brisbane City Council on its initiative.

### Shailer, Mr G

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (8.59 pm): 'The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.' When Nelson Henderson said these words he could have been talking about Glen Shailer, who passed away on 25 August. Listening to his eulogy on Monday was a reminder that all of us who represent our local communities owe a debt of gratitude to those who came before us. Glen Shailer was born in 1918, at the tail end of the First World War. Growing up during the Great Depression, Glen

knew the meaning of hard work. He left school at 13 to work on his parents' farm. Despite his limited education, he was known for his razor sharp intellect and problem-solving ability. More than that, Glen was a man with great foresight who planned for the future with hope and courage.

The eldest of four surviving children, Glen first planted fistfuls of seeds as a toddler on the farm of his parents, Alf and Nanny. For many children, seeing the first pair of baby leaves press up through the soil is exciting, but for Glen it was just the start of something bigger. He soon learned how to sow carefully and plan ahead so that each crop would mature into a high-quality harvest when it was needed in the future. Glen was never just about the here and now; he was always thinking ahead, considering the future and looking out for the people around him.

When the Second World War broke out, Glen left the farm to volunteer with the Australian Imperial Forces. His commanding officer noted his skill as a marksman but also Glen's great concern for the welfare of the soldiers he led. It would have come as little surprise, then, to Glen's family when he stepped forward to serve his community as a local councillor in 1961, which he did until 1985—including becoming the first ever mayor of the City of Logan.

When Glen retired from public life he returned to the farm and delighted in giving away home-grown bananas to friends and family. He continued to actively serve his local community, especially working to conserve the natural environment, including precious koala habitat in and around Daisy Hill. It was very much because of his fearless advocacy and community mobilisation that the eastern tollway was scrapped in the mid-1990s, ensuring the pristine Daisy Hill bushland could be protected for future generations and koalas alike.

After a lifetime of service to his community, Glen slipped away peacefully late on Friday, 25 August 2017 at the age of 99 years. The Logan City that Glen has left behind is a world away from the Albert Shire he was born into almost a century ago. I know that Glen was immensely proud to see his community grow into a vibrant, diverse and prosperous new city. We plant trees not for our lifetimes but for the next, and Glen Shailer was a man who made things grow. Vale, Glen Shailer.

### **Sunshine Coast Suicide Bereavement Remembrance Day**



**Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (9.01 pm): This Saturday I will be attending the Sunshine Coast Suicide Bereavement Remembrance Day at Maroochydore. The event is a gathering of family members and loved ones of those who have taken their own lives. Doves are released, words are spoken by family members and silent memorials are held. I find it hard to explain why going to this event is so important to me. Perhaps it is the sense of the loss of so many lives and the pain of so many people left behind who in many cases had no knowledge of the pain their loved ones were going through and even today wonder if they could have intervened.


I remember describing how I see the world in terms of colour—the blue of the sky, the green of the grass and the gold of the sand—and contrasted that with those who have taken their lives and wondering how and why they went from colour to the dark of their actions. Lifeline figures show that in 2015 the rate of suicide in Australia was 12.6 per 100,000. In 2015, 3,027 Australians took their own life, and for each death Lifeline estimates 30 people attempt suicide.

Let us not forget that at one point attempting suicide was a criminal offence attracting a jail term. Coroner Terry Ryan delivered his findings at inquest on 9 June 2015 into the deaths of JE and JJ. JE and JJ were 16 years of age when they suicided and were Indigenous. The coroner in his findings stated that since 2008 suicide had surpassed traffic accidents as the leading cause of death for young people aged between 15 and 24 years. He also stated that he expected over 700 Queenslanders would take their lives in 2015. He was right. The figure was 746. He pointed out that between 2004 and 2012, 149 children between the ages of 10 and 17 years had taken their own life.

In recent years two taboos have finally been open to public glare, comment and action: domestic violence and institutional child sexual abuse. It was not all that long ago that you would hear the phrase 'what goes on behind closed doors stays behind closed doors', with all the pain it brought. The inquiries into these very sad situations will hopefully deliver outcomes—if not immediate, then over time. There is today a change in attitude towards suicide and finally we are starting to talk about it—not the how but the why—and looking at how we can intervene or understand the signs that should alert us.

As members of this chamber we deal with many matters and people, some good and some tragic. We should do what we can as a collective to assist those contemplating suicide or those left behind. As a member of the House, I acknowledge 10 September as Suicide Prevention Day and understand that in listening to the people who will gather on Saturday many will say the words, 'I had no idea.'

### Ferny Grove-Upper Kedron Neighbourhood Plan

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (9.04 pm): Today The Gap community was sold out. It was sold out by the Brisbane City Council, their local LNP councillor and all LNP councillors who voted unanimously for the new Ferny Grove-Upper Kedron Neighbourhood Plan. This was despite the community making it very clear what their views were about the overdevelopment in our local community and what the impact would be on our local roads, including Settlement Road and Waterworks Road. In fact, when the Cedar Woods development first came to light, more than 1,400 submissions against it were made by local community members. There are some members of The Gap community in the gallery here tonight. They will recall that unanimously our community was deeply concerned about what impact this development would have on our local community.

I promised at the last election that we would call in the development. We called it in because the infrastructure agreement done secretly by the LNP council with the then owner of the land, McAllister, who donated to the LNP—they did a secret infrastructure agreement behind closed doors, completely inconsistent—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, you will have a chance if you want to participate. The minister has the call.

**Ms JONES:** We called it in because the infrastructure agreement, done secretly, without public knowledge, was completely inconsistent with the then Ferny Grove-Upper Kedron Neighbourhood Plan. There was actually green space in there.

**Mr Mander:** So you failed?


**Ms JONES:** No.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. You are warned under standing order 253A, member for Everton. I am keen to hear the minister's contribution. If members continue to interrupt her I will invite her to start again and the clock will restart. You have the call, Minister.

**Ms JONES:** Thank you, but I am sure it is not lost on everyone in the public gallery what I am copping from the LNP tonight because I am exposing their failure. We called it in. We gave them the opportunity to listen to the community and deliver a neighbourhood plan that reflected the community's wishes. Today in the LNP council chamber we saw them unanimously vote for the development of up to 980 additional dwellings in our local community, despite the community making it extremely clear that we do not have the local infrastructure and we do not have the local roads to support this extra development.

Today we have been sold out by the LNP. I call on them to listen to our local community. From an assessment of the documents that cannot be accessed publicly on the internet—one has to physically pick up pages and pages—we think it could be as low as 500. Unfortunately, today in council the LNP said that it would deliver 980 additional dwellings. This is a shameful day for our local community.

### International Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (9.07 pm): Mr Speaker, I acknowledge your comments here at the start of today's sitting of the parliament when you drew to the attention of honourable members that September is, in fact, International Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, prostate cancer being the most common cancer in Queensland men, as you said, with around 3,900 new cases diagnosed in this state every year.

On that note, it is tremendous to see these pins being distributed to all members here today. I look forward to wearing in it the House tomorrow in the wake of celebrating and supporting the great work of the members of the very interestingly named Shag Islet Cruising Yacht Club, affectionately known as 'Shaggers'. What a great weekend it was recently at the top of the Whitsundays, where we raised collectively over \$100,000 at the annual Rendezvous. It is four days of fun and frivolity but for a


very good cause. As I say, it was no mean feat that more than \$100,000 was raised. All up, in the nine years that it has been running, half a million dollars has been raised for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia.

It was tremendous and very humbling to be in the company of Distinguished Professor Judith Clements AC and her partner, Emeritus Professor Adrian Herington. I salute Professor Clements for her wonderful work in trying to find a cure for prostate cancer sufferers. She is no stranger to Cape Gloucester and what is known as the 'hands across the blue', where boaties in tenders and dinghies come together and literally hold hands in formation to create the logo of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. It is a magnificent sight in a magnificent part of Australia, which I dare say is the best part of Australia and the place that I call paradise.

It was tremendous to see the support of His Worship Mayor Andrew Wilcox and the former federal health minister, Peter Dutton. Of course, he no longer holds that portfolio, but in the past Minister Dutton has attended as the federal health minister. It was a tremendous day. Thanks also go to Paul Darrouzet from Abell Point Marina and his hardworking team. He is not only a great benefactor and a great supporter but also a hands-on sponsor. I have to say that the Shaggers would not be at Cape Gloucester without the first couple of the Shag Islet Cruising Yacht Club, Ken and Rhonda Thackeray. Many locals attended.

You do not have to have a boat to be a Shagger. People come from far and wide. There are something like 5,800 members, not only from around Australia but also from 17 countries around the world. Every year in late August at the top of the Whitsundays it is a tremendous sight. Mr Speaker, next year when you are enjoying retirement, perhaps you would like to come to the 10th annual Rendezvous at Cape Gloucester, hosted by us Shaggers.

### **Rats of Tobruk; Mackay Electorate**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (9.11 pm): On Friday afternoon I attended a solemn remembrance celebration for the Rats of Tobruk. The Rats of Tobruk is the name taken by soldiers involved in the siege of Tobruk, which was the longest siege in British and Commonwealth history. It began on 10 April 1941 and ended on 7 December 1941, with the Allies claiming the first defeat of the German war machine in World War II. In their radio broadcasts the Germans had bragged that they had them trapped like rats, which is how the name came about. The epic eight-month siege cost 832 Australian lives. Of those men, 120 were from Mackay. Names can be found on some of our streets and all of them on a memorial erected in Queen's Park.

The ceremony is special because it is organised and run by four Mackay schools, with students and local cadets officiating the whole ceremony. The ceremony is a living memorial to the legacy and service of our service men and women. Len Hanson OAM instigated the service in Mackay in 1991. The schools involved are the Victoria Park State School, St Patricks College, North Mackay State School and the Whitsunday Anglican College. All schools have a connection to the siege. The students of the participating schools need to be commended for the dignified way that they conducted the service.

After the 2015 election it was apparent that the Mackay electorate had been left in a sad and sorry state by the Newman LNP government and under the stewardship of the then treasurer, the member for Clayfield. There were no plans in place to support Central Queensland and its mining communities at the end of the resources boom. Unemployment rose, businesses closed and mental health issues in the communities were a sad reality of the situation. The Palaszczuk Labor government has turned that situation around by supporting the regions.

I can report that the \$28 million project to rebuild the Vines Creek bridges is underway, with earth-moving equipment on the site and cranes and pylon drivers at work. Those bridges will provide two years of work. Local workers are also engaged in the new state-of-the-art fire station. It is great to see local contractors preparing the site and laying the brickwork. Ian McAulty has started his apprenticeship on that build. He received a start in the workforce through the Palaszczuk government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. He was one of the many outstanding participants. Another great project is the Mackay Showgrounds \$4 million refurbishment. This shows that the Palaszczuk government is getting Mackay people back to work.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.14 pm.

**ATTENDANCE**

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, 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