



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

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## WEDNESDAY, 25 OCTOBER 2017

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The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

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

### PRESENTATION OF APPROPRIATION BILLS



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that on Monday, 23 October 2017 I presented to His Excellency the Governor the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) for royal assent and that His Excellency was pleased, in my presence, to subscribe his assent thereto in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty.

### 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 Bill, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, was assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 13 October 2017

A Bill for An Act to amend the Central Queensland University Act 1998, the Griffith University Act 1998, the James Cook University Act 1997, the Queensland University of Technology Act 1998, the University of Queensland Act 1998, the University of Southern Queensland Act 1998 and the University of the Sunshine Coast Act 1998 for particular purposes

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

13 October 2017

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 13 October 2017, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker, the Hon. Peter Wellington, advising of assent to a certain Bill on 13 October 2017 [\[2098\]](#).

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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: 23 October 2017

A Bill for An Act to provide for the expungement of particular historical homosexual convictions or charges and to amend this Act, the Child Protection Act 1999 and the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008 for particular purposes

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

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

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

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

Yours sincerely


Governor

23 October 2017

*Tabled paper.* Letter, dated 23 October 2017, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker, the Hon. Peter Wellington, advising of assent to certain Bills on 23 October 2017 [\[2099\]](#).

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Visitor to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I am informed that we have the former member for Pumicestone, Lisa France, observing our proceedings from the gallery. Welcome.

**Mr Bleijie:** It hasn't been the same since.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I can hear you, member for Kawana.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Yes, it is Wednesday afternoon, member for Glass House.

## PETITION

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, sponsored by the Clerk—


### Cedar Grove, Waste Water Treatment Plant

From 589 petitioners, requesting the House to cease development of the proposed waste water treatment plant at Cedar Grove [\[2100\]](#).

Petition received.

## MINISTERIAL PAPER


### Queensland Law Reform Commission

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.03 pm): I table the Queensland Law Reform Commission report No. 75, *Domestic violence disclosure scheme*.


*Tabled paper:* Queensland Law Reform Commission Report No. 75: Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme, June 2017 [\[2101\]](#).

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Dreamworld, Fatalities

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.03 pm): Today marks one year since four people lost their lives in a tragic incident at Dreamworld, and today our hearts and the hearts of all Queenslanders go out to everyone impacted by that horrific event. I know that today, as Queenslanders go about their day, they would remember where they were when they heard the news about this terrible loss. I know that one year on there is still so much heartache—heartache for the families who lost loved ones, heartache for the staff of Dreamworld who were the first ones on the scene and heartache for the first responders who were there during the days and weeks following this tragedy. I know that everyone in this House will join me in taking time today to remember the four people who were taken too soon: Kate Goodchild, Luke Dorsett, Roozi Araghi and Cindy Low. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with them, their families and their friends.

### Brisbane Cruise Ship Terminal

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.04 pm): My government is determined to grow the jobs of the future by opening up Queensland's new frontiers. This morning, along with the Treasurer, the Minister for Tourism, Kate Jones, and the member for Lytton, I had the opportunity to announce that construction will soon start on the purpose-built mega Brisbane international cruise terminal.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Premier has the call.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The terminal to be built by the Port of Brisbane—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Was that the member for—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, it was not the member for Kawana. We will move on.

**An honourable member** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** I did not hear that either.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The terminal to be built by the Port of Brisbane will be constructed adjacent to Brisbane Airport after being approved through my government's market-led proposal framework. The \$158 million project will see a 9,300-square-metre building built over the next two years, with a 200-metre wharf capable of handling the world's largest liners. The construction phase will support 245 jobs for each of the next two years. Once open, the terminal will support over 1,000 jobs in Brisbane and be a focal point for the cruise industry throughout the state—a billion dollar industry that supports 4,000 jobs across our great state of Queensland.

The number of cruise ship visits to Queensland has doubled since my government was elected and, much to the disappointment of Sydney, Queensland is now Australia's No. 1 cruise destination. In the last year Queensland has been host to 468 visits from cruise ships, both domestic and international. Next year that number will rise to 518—the equivalent of 10 visits per week—with thousands of visitors descending on Thursday Island, Cooktown, Port Douglas, Cairns, Townsville, Gladstone, the Fraser Coast, Mooloolaba, Moreton Island, Brisbane and, for the first time next year, Bundaberg.

In addition to the tourism benefits that flow to the regions from the surge in visitor numbers, an increase in the number of cruise ships to Queensland also brings a huge opportunity for our growing agriculture sector. We have already seen those benefits flow in Cairns, with cruise ships using fresh local Cairns and hinterland produce when they dock. Now we can look forward to the farmers in the Darling Downs, Sunshine Coast and Lockyer Valley having this new market open up to them.

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Baton Bearers

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.07 pm): I was very pleased to attend the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre last week to announce our baton bearers for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. I was proud to represent all Queenslanders at the start of the Queen's Baton Relay in London in March this year, and on Christmas Eve we will see the baton arrive in Brisbane for the final leg of the journey to the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony on 4 April 2018.

As the baton travels around Australia and throughout Queensland, it will be carried by almost 3,800 people, and these people chosen will be a part of history. The Queen's Baton Relay recognises the achievements of Australians from all walks of life, and I know that their stories will inspire others in communities across the country.

Being a baton bearer will be an unforgettable experience, and I was honoured to meet with some Queenslanders who will be part of this momentous occasion. I had the opportunity to meet Marie Bennetts OAM, a long-time volunteer at Kurrawa Surf Life Saving Club and Gold Coast justice of the peace, and the very impressive 17-year-old Harrison Tippett, a recipient of the Macpherson Community Young Achievers Award and the state government's citizenship awards. Marie and Harrison are truly inspirational and strong role models for people of all ages.

Across the broader group of baton bearers, there is a 90-year gap between the youngest and the oldest, coincidentally both Queenslanders. Bill Bruce from Nebo in Queensland is 100 years old and Corbin Easton from Caloundra is 10. In Queensland, there will be more than 1,800 baton bearers, as the relay travels to 83 communities over 33 days. I know that all Queenslanders will join me as we count down to the best Commonwealth Games ever.

## Advancing Our Cities and Regions Strategy



**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (2.08 pm): The Palaszczuk Labor government is focused on diversifying the Queensland economy to create new jobs, strengthen communities and drive economic growth. We are attracting innovation and jobs so that Queensland can continue to compete in the global marketplace.

Queensland already enjoys strong economic advantages in key export oriented industries including knowledge, education, health and creative industries, and our proximity to the growing Asian middle class means we are well positioned for new jobs in the global economy. Our Advancing Our Cities and Regions Strategy is playing a major role in the development of new health and knowledge precincts which are all about encouraging world-class research, investment, international students and high-value jobs.

We have four health and knowledge precincts under development, with one on the Gold Coast, one in Moreton Bay, one in Townsville and yet another in Brisbane near the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. The Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct includes Griffith University and the state-of-the-art Gold Coast University Hospital, co-located with a new private hospital all within the one precinct. Some 9,200 jobs already exist within the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct, with the potential for a further 11,000 jobs once it is fully developed—a true legacy of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

The Mill at Moreton Bay is being delivered by Moreton Bay Regional Council with Economic Development Queensland support and is centred on a full-scale University of the Sunshine Coast campus due to open in 2020. The project is expected to generate up to 10,000 student places, \$950 million in economic activity and up to 6,000 local jobs by 2036. This precinct will also benefit from the improved public transport access that Cross River Rail will deliver for the Moreton Bay area.

In Brisbane, the Herston Quarter will be redeveloped into a world-class health precinct within the existing Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital precinct. As well as the existing world-leading medical and research facilities and the nearby QUT campus, the precinct will deliver a new \$300 million Specialist Rehabilitation and Ambulatory Care Centre. Access to this site will also be improved with the construction of Cross River Rail, which will see an upgraded Exhibition station open all year round, not just at Ekka time.

The Advancing Our Cities and Regions Strategy is also helping diversify our economy in regional Queensland. Under Australia's historic first City Deal for Townsville, Economic Development Queensland is working with Townsville City Council, James Cook University, Central Queensland University and other key stakeholders to support health and knowledge sectors in the local economy. We are undertaking a number of regional town centre revitalisation projects, including Rockhampton, to help attract investment and build up local economies. Off the back of our success to date, councils are asking to partner with us to deliver economic development in their regions. We are keen to keep working with them.

The Advancing Our Cities and Regions Strategy is delivering for Queensland. It is delivering health and knowledge precincts, urban renewal and regional city revitalisation, livability and, most importantly, jobs.

## Brisbane Cruise Ship Terminal; Innovation



**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (2.12 pm): The Palaszczuk government was elected with a platform of innovative policy initiatives to drive economic growth, increase investment, foster more innovation, reintroduce essential training and skilling programs and, most importantly, create jobs now and of course underpin the future prosperity of our state. These policies and programs also represent innovation in the way government works with business in Queensland.

As the Premier announced earlier, it was great to be at the port of Brisbane today with Minister Jones, the hardworking member for Lytton, Joan Pease, and Roy Cummins, the CEO of the Port of Brisbane, to announce the \$158 million Brisbane international cruise ship terminal. The cruise terminal was submitted by the Port of Brisbane as a market-led proposal. Our MLP initiative is itself opening up new frontiers. It is a new way of funding services or infrastructure over and above those delivered by the government. The Brisbane cruise terminal will serve as an important piece of transport and tourism infrastructure not just for Brisbane and South-East Queensland but for the whole state.

I would like to congratulate the Port of Brisbane on the success of their proposal to date and Treasury's market-led proposal team, who have worked hard to get this to this stage. I would also like to acknowledge the support for the project shown by Lord Mayor Graham Quirk, the Brisbane City Council and Queensland Urban Utilities. The terminal could generate as much as \$1.3 billion net expenditure into South-East Queensland's economy and add around 50 new jobs each year over the next 20 years. Once the terminal is operational, the additional cruise ships stopping in Brisbane could also continue their journey up the coast to other destinations in regional Queensland such as Cairns.

Another innovative program is our Business Development Fund. If we are to continue building a strong, growing economy, we need to back our best and brightest and help them turn their ideas and innovations into commercial reality and create new jobs for the future. Importantly, we need to back them with venture capital that can support and invest in their ideas. The BDF does exactly that as part of our \$420 million Advance Queensland suite of programs. It is helping Queensland business operators take their ideas and innovations to markets both here and abroad. Through the fund, the government invests in bright ideas. So far, 16 investments worth \$16.5 million have been made.

The member for Sunnybank, Peter Russo, and I recently visited PERKii, the makers of a low-calorie water and juice based probiotic drink which was developed on home soil at the University of Queensland. After launching just over a year ago, PERKii have made great strides into the local market with drinks already available in hundreds of selected supermarkets, cafes and health stores. The BDF investment of \$1.53 million will help PERKii expand their market share in Australia and look to expand into lucrative overseas markets including the United States and across Asia.


The BDF recently invested \$1 million in Find-Me Technologies, which has created the carer's watch with its unique technology designed in Queensland for the growing number of dementia sufferers and our ageing population. The carer's watch is a wrist worn device that can be used to discreetly locate and monitor patients who wander, which we know can sometimes have serious consequences. It features GPS tracking, a fall sensor, mobile voice communication and medication reminders—all designed to decrease the risks facing some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders.

Another earlier BDF investment is in Tritium, which is Australia's only high-tech manufacturer of electric vehicle charging stations. Following a \$2.5 million grant under the BDF, Tritium has opened their new expanded facility in Brisbane, creating 50 new jobs and increasing manufacturing capacity by 600 per cent. The technology used in Tritium's Veefil electric vehicle charger was designed and built in Brisbane and is now being supplied in over 20 countries all around the world. Tritium was the first ever grant recipient and is the perfect example of the innovative types of businesses the Palaszczuk government is investing in to support local jobs and new technology.

We are also rolling out other new strategies, including our Social Benefit Bonds, to deliver new ways of tackling longstanding social issues. Social Benefit Bonds provide a commercial return to investors if agreed outcomes and financial value for taxpayers are achieved. We have now dispatched bonds in the areas of homelessness, reoffending among young people and disadvantaged Indigenous people.

This government supports and invests in innovation to deliver new infrastructure, new services and new jobs. We are doing that in innovative ways that we know in the long term and the short term will pay dividends for Queenslanders.

### Biofabrication

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.17 pm): The Palaszczuk government is welcoming innovation and new technology across Queensland. Nowhere is that more evident than in the area of health. Biofabrication is an example of innovation at its best. Queensland will lead the biofabrication revolution, with a new institute opening in 2018. The Metro North Hospital and Health Service and the Queensland University of Technology have partnered to create the hospital of the future, with a new Biofabrication Institute at the world-class Herston Health Precinct. It will be Australia's first research institute manufacturing human organs, bones and tissue using advanced technology, including 3D printing and robotics. This new technology has the potential to revolutionise treatment options for patients in the future.

The institute will revolutionise modern medicine, saving lives not just in Queensland but also around the world. The institute will catapult Queensland onto the global stage as a leader in medical innovation and technology that will change the face of health care. It will bring together up to 60 clinicians, scientists, researchers and engineers to focus on developing next generation fabrication




technologies. The vision for health care is that the Biofabrication Institute will open the way for 3D printers to sit in operating theatres, ready to print tissue and prosthetics as needed in our hospitals of the future.

This new dawn in health care is already breaking in Queensland. We are already starting to see the benefits of this type of innovation in our hospitals. Last month, in a world-first, surgeons at Princess Alexandra Hospital transplanted a 3D printed shinbone into a patient. Reuben Lichter had the procedure after developing an infection of the bone which resulted in the majority of his shinbone being destroyed. Conventional treatment for Mr Lichter's condition was an above-knee amputation. However, plastic surgeon Dr Michael Wagels and his team were able to save the leg by inserting a 3D printed model wrapped in biological tissue in an effort to engineer new bone.

Innovative and groundbreaking treatments and technologies such as this world-first surgery offer new hope for Queensland patients. Queensland Health leads the nation and the world in so many ways and this is yet another example of Queensland innovation at its best. The benefits of a strong and innovative health industry flow across the state both in economic terms and for our own health and wellbeing. These advances will lead to lower health costs, improved access to better treatments and, significantly, better health outcomes for individuals and society. The Queensland hospitals of our future are becoming the Queensland hospitals of today.

### State Schools

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (2.19 pm): We will open four brand-new state schools across Queensland from the beginning of next year. Queensland is a growth state and we need to ensure we are building the schools to meet population growth. These primary schools will be located at Caloundra South, Coomera, Yarrabilba and Mount Low in Townsville. I am pleased to report to the House that all four schools are well on track to be open for the first day of school in 2018.


The FKG Group are managing the design and construction of Baringa State School at Caloundra South, Picnic Creek State School at Coomera and Yarrabilba State School. This \$118 million investment is supporting more than 400 construction jobs. Combining the three schools into one contract has enabled the government to achieve efficiencies in design and value for money savings. CPB Contractors are delivering a \$53 million design, build and maintain contract for the new primary school at Mount Low, which will be called North Shore State School. I know that the member for Townsville and the member for Hinchinbrook have both endorsed that name. This investment is supporting 200 jobs.

Our new schools are purpose built for a modern curriculum. They include STEM innovation hubs, interactive screens in every classroom, coding and robotics laboratories as well as music rehearsal and recording studios. We might have a star yet. We are also now in the planning stages for a new high school in Mount Low, which is expected to be open in 2020. These new schools are part of our record investment of more than—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** Do not forget Fortitude Valley? Come on, I will get to you, girlfriend. These new schools are part of our record investment of more than three-quarters of a billion dollars in infrastructure that delivers state schools across Queensland.

### Advance Queensland

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (2.20 pm): The Palaszczuk government is driving a future focused agenda through our \$420 million whole-of-government Advance Queensland initiative. Launched just over two years ago, Advance Queensland is establishing a solid foundation for the Palaszczuk government's long-term vision of diversifying our economy and investing in our innovators as they build more jobs of the future. As at the end of June, we committed more than \$205 million of this investment to back 1,650 innovators across Queensland. Their projects are driving 4,821 jobs. These projects not only have economic benefits; they are also making life better for Queenslanders. This funding is helping make our industries stronger, such as through more efficient sugar mills and improving access to bauxite reserves. We are funding vital new research to deliver greater insight into the health of our iconic Great Barrier Reef. We are preparing our kids for the future—increasing the numbers studying critical subjects in maths and science as well as opening up the possibility of starting their own business. The funding is for projects that transform lives such as tackling cancer and heart disease.


Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas funding, for example, is enabling a Queensland company to complete the final step required before beginning human trials with a revolutionary artificial heart. Queensland engineer Dr Daniel Timms, the CEO and chief technology officer of both Australian and US based BiVACOR, has been working on the BiVACOR artificial heart for more than 15 years. Dr Timms is using the \$250,000 Ignite Ideas funding to develop a wearable controller to replace the carry-on suitcase sized one currently being used. BiVACOR is a game-changing innovation that promises a lifeline to people suffering from heart failure but who are unable to receive a donor heart. With the backing of Ignite Ideas funding, Dr Timms aims to have a prototype controller for preclinical use by the end of next year.

Under the Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas program, this government has so far supported more than 200 Queensland businesses through \$26.5 million of Ignite Ideas Funding over three rounds of the program's merit based assessment process, driving more than a thousand jobs. Advance Queensland has also leveraged more than \$130 million in co-investment from partners outside of the Queensland government. We are committed to making sure that stakeholders have skin in the game. Already more than 4,000 young entrepreneurs have learned the skills they need to pursue those ideas.

Advance Queensland will continue investing in small businesses to help them innovate, thrive and survive. We will continue to work with local entrepreneurs, small business operators, business leaders, councils, universities and communities across the state to foster innovation. We are attracting start-ups from around Australia and the world through the Hot DesQ program. I am excited by the high calibre of international and interstate start-ups being introduced into our start-up ecosystem under this program. In addition, the \$40 million Industry Attraction Fund is supporting projects in traditional and emerging industries such as advanced manufacturing, defence and aerospace, and mining equipment.

The Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland investment has put in place the foundation so that Queenslanders, both young and old, can take advantage of every opportunity available in a global knowledge economy. We know the world is changing fast. We also know Advance Queensland is enabling Queenslanders not just to keep up but to stride ahead.


### **TAFE Queensland, Aviation Australia**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.24 pm): Today I rise to speak about an important initiative undertaken by the Palaszczuk government in the VET sector in Queensland. This measure is the acquisition by TAFE Queensland of the industry-leading training provider Aviation Australia. Aviation Australia was established by the Queensland government in 2001 to provide specialist training for the local and international aviation and aerospace industries through a range of pilot, cabin crew and aircraft maintenance engineering programs. This will allow the smaller team of Aviation Australia to do what it does so well, and that is to provide quality training in the aviation sector with job outcomes in a sector that we know will be vital for Queensland's future.

Thanks to the hard work of ministers such as Minister Jones, there has been a large increase of flights into Queensland and recent announcements such as those by Qantas in relation to the maintenance of the Dreamliners in Brisbane show the potential of the sector in Brisbane. This move will also allow Aviation Australia to use the networks, scale and contacts that TAFE Queensland possess across emerging markets such as South-East Asia, Latin America and others. Aviation Australia already has a strong presence in the Middle East and there are also opportunities to grow in that market. Aviation Australia is already a market leader domestically and this will enable that to continue, with students coming to study in Brisbane from right across the country as well as training delivery occurring at workplaces across the nation. TAFE Queensland has demonstrated that they have the capability and capacity to respond to changes in what can be a turbulent training market. This acquisition of Aviation Australia will allow TAFE to sustainably grow Aviation Australia in the coming years and create further career paths.

It is important to note that through this process Aviation Australia will continue to operate under their existing name and students will continue to be enrolled and managed through them. Given the expertise in the sector that Aviation Australia possesses, it is also entirely appropriate that Aviation Australia management will remain in place, reporting to the TAFE Queensland board and reporting to the Minister for Training and Skills. This move is a further sign of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to training and skills in Queensland. It is this government that is delivering certainty and stability in the aviation training sector into the future through this acquisition, which will allow TAFE Queensland and Aviation Australia to benefit Queenslanders in the years ahead.

## Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (2.27 pm): Queensland's diverse power grid of gas-fired, solar, coal-fired, hydro and biomass is expanding due to our unprecedented renewable energy boom. That is because this government had the vision and the right policy settings to grow Queensland's renewable energy sector to create regional jobs to put downward pressure on prices and act on climate change. Before we were elected there was a renewable energy blackout in Queensland under the previous LNP government. Not one large-scale renewable energy project was built under the anti-renewable LNP and 1,300 renewable energy jobs were lost.


Today a whole new industry is underway in Queensland. There are 22 renewable energy projects confirmed, totalling 1,900 megawatts of powers, with 18 under construction as I speak. That is \$3.6 billion in new Queensland investment and over 2,900 construction jobs mainly in regional Queensland. This represents an unprecedented level of investment in the state and has established Queensland as the nation's new renewable energy investment leader, with 47 per cent of the nation's new energy infrastructure coming into our state due to it being much cheaper to build than a new coal-fired power station. It is no wonder our unemployment rate has a five in front of it now when we look at the clean energy boom going on with jobs.

When these projects come online in the next couple of years, renewables will amount to 17 per cent of Queensland's electricity generation output, which is more than double the level in 2015 while still maintaining our status as the most secure and robust power grid in Australia. In July this year Queensland's newest solar project, the 15-megawatt Sunshine Coast Solar Farm at Valdora, commenced operations. The project is an initiative of the Sunshine Coast City Council and is projected to save ratepayers \$22 million. A number of other projects, such as the 10.8-megawatt Lakeland Solar Farm in Far North Queensland with battery storage integrated, are nearing completion and will soon start feeding electricity into the network. Beyond Lakeland the 100-megawatt Clare Solar Farm, the 50-megawatt Kidston Solar Project, the 14-megawatt Hughenden Solar Farm and the 5-megawatt Normanton Solar Farm are all expected to be online by this summer. The future prospects for Queensland's renewable energy industry remain strong, with over 8,000 megawatts of solar, wind, biomass and hydro projects under consideration.

Over the coming years we can expect more of these projects under the leadership of the Palaszczuk Labor government. As part of the Powering Queensland Plan announced in June 2017, the Palaszczuk government reaffirmed its commitment to a 50 per cent renewable energy target for Queensland by 2030. The Powering Queensland Plan includes a range of initiatives that will ensure investment in renewable energy in Queensland to support that commitment and includes facilitating the next wave of diversified renewable energy through the Renewables 400 reverse auction—in which there has been a huge level of interest—that includes 100 megawatts of energy storage; investing \$150 million to develop strategic transmission infrastructure in a North Queensland clean energy hub; and investing \$100 million to support the development of a hydroelectric power station at the Burdekin Falls Dam.

The Palaszczuk government has a clear vision of a new renewable energy industry in Queensland. We are delivering on this vision after the lost years of the Newman government with the opposition leader as Treasurer.

## Advance Queensland Innovation Partnerships


 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (2.31 pm): Anyone who visited the AgFutures Innovation and Investment Conference in Brisbane last November will understand that advanced technology promises to transform food production and create new market opportunities for Queensland farmers. The Palaszczuk government's aim is to position Queensland as a place where great ideas are turned into commercial products and businesses. The government continues to support research and development to maintain Queensland's reputation as an innovator and producer of world-class, high-quality safe and sustainable food. Some of the new varieties pioneered by DAF researchers are increasing productivity and profitability for our growers as well as enhancing our stellar reputation. We are also front and centre when it comes to emerging technologies. The Advancing Regional Innovation Program is contributing \$500,000 to innovation in each of 12 regions across the state to drive innovator led economic growth. Our support to assist agtech innovation takes many forms.

Today I can announce that an initiative to greatly enhance Queensland's beef industry has been awarded \$250,000 in funding from the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland Innovation Partnerships program. This research into improving tick resistance in beef cattle by the University of Queensland, James Cook University and the Nindooindah Pastoral Company could be a global game changer. Production losses caused by heavy tick burdens have been estimated at \$160 million annually in Australia and globally in the vicinity of up to \$30 billion. This research into improving the identification and selection of beef cattle resistant to ticks will provide significant benefits to the beef cattle industry here in Queensland and eventually around the globe. This is exciting news given that Queensland is the main producer of beef in Australia, being responsible for 60 per cent of the nation's beef production. Current treatment methods such as pesticides are failing in the war on ticks, as ticks are increasingly becoming resistant to the chemicals used. Some cattle, however, are naturally able to prevent ticks from infesting them.

The multi disciplinary team assembled between researchers aims to identify naturally tick-resistant animals by examining exosomes. It is hoped that evaluating the content of the exosomes derived from naturally resistant animals may provide biomarkers for the identification of tick resistance and enable the development of prospective tests for selecting animals that are naturally resistant to ticks. If successful, the flow-on effects of this project for the beef industry will save millions of dollars in the fight against cattle ticks. The findings could also be applied to other industries such as pigs, sheep and dairy, where ticks are also an issue.


The Advance Queensland Innovation Partnerships program boosts productivity growth and the competitiveness of existing industries, accelerates the development of emerging industries and increases the speed and scale of translation of our science and research into new products, services and business models that can help drive economic and jobs growth in Queensland. This research is just one of 23 initiatives funded under two rounds of the Advance Queensland Innovation Partnerships program totalling more than \$16.7 million.

### Carbon Farming

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (2.35 pm): According to a new report released today, Queensland's emerging carbon-farming industry could generate billions of dollars for our economy by 2030. The Energetics report identifies that the estimated value of carbon farming in Queensland under current settings is \$4.7 billion, but with the right policy settings the sector could be worth up to \$8 billion in 15 years. There is a big opportunity for the carbon market in Queensland, and this government will lead the way. In some cases carbon farming can be an alternative to land clearing, providing a new source of revenue for landowners and boosting family incomes. The Energetics report also points out that, in addition to significant direct financial value to the state's economy, activities associated with creating carbon offsets deliver a range of co-benefits, particularly to the environment. This includes maintaining biodiversity, landscape production and water quality improvements, productivity enhancements to agriculture, and income for Indigenous communities.

We have already invested \$8.4 million in the Carbon Plus fund to develop the carbon-farming market, with \$5 million to purchase government offsets. Part of this work includes developing a new methodology that places a value on the social and cultural benefits Indigenous communities derive from participating in carbon-farming projects. Queensland's land mass and natural assets make our state a potential leader in the emerging domestic and international carbon markets. The Queensland government is seizing this opportunity by collaborating with the carbon-farming industry, represented by the Carbon Market Institute, to develop a national industry road map for this emerging industry. The road map will outline a strategic industry development framework for carbon farming to reach its full economic, environmental and social potential. The Palaszczuk government is committed to expanding the carbon-farming industry to realise its economic potential, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support farmers and traditional owners right across the state.

### Corrective Services

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.37 pm): I will begin by updating the House about Damien Kennedy, a person who is subject to a supervision order under the Dangerous Prisoner (Sexual Offenders) Act. I am advised that Mr Kennedy has today been arrested in New South Wales and will appear in a Queensland court tomorrow. I take this opportunity to thank the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Corrective Services, New South Wales police, the community and the media for their assistance with this matter.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to a community safety outcome now and into the future. That is why I am so pleased that one of the Queensland Police Service's most distinguished officers, Deputy Commissioner Peter Martin, will soon be leading Queensland Corrective Services. Dr Martin has committed 38 years to the community as an outstanding police officer and will continue that dedication to the safety of all Queenslanders as our new Corrections commissioner.


Throughout his career serving the people of Queensland Dr Martin has performed both key operational and corporate roles throughout the state. Dr Martin is a highly decorated officer, having been awarded the National Medal, the National Emergency Medal, the Queensland Police Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. In addition, he was awarded the Australian Police Medal on Australia Day 2008. Dr Martin is also an adjunct professor at the University of Queensland; he is a researcher and a prodigious author.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Acting Commissioner Kerrith McDermott for her hard work since former Corrections commissioner Mark Rallings finished in the role. Dr Rallings led Queensland Corrective Services with intellect, dedication and energy, and I take this opportunity to thank him for his service. Under his management the Palaszczuk government has delivered Queensland's first earn or learn prison, Borallon Training and Correctional Centre. The recommissioned Borallon Training and Correctional Centre opened with a unique emphasis on education and employment, and he oversaw a program of upgrades to security and infrastructure right across the state.

Borallon Training and Correctional Centre is a prison designed to address the causes of crime by focusing on education, training and employment outcomes for prisoners. As at 30 September 150 prisoners were engaged in employment, with some prisoners exposed to real-life work experience opportunities through Australian Framing Solutions. Australian Framing Solutions is a part of Queensland Corrective Services' workRestart initiative, a prison program that focuses on building relationships with firms to enable them to conduct their business both within prisons and outside. In another Queensland first, TAFE Queensland has established an on-site campus within the prison, delivering education and industry trade training, with courses in horticulture, engineering and welding.


I am pleased to be part of a government ensuring the safety of Queenslanders while driving innovation and evidence based initiatives that reduce reoffending and keep Queenslanders safe.

## ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.40 pm): I wish to advise the House that the Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland is absent from the House today due to ill health.

## HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

### Reports


 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.41 pm): I lay upon the table of the House the following reports of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: report No. 48 titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 14 June 2017 and 8 August 2017*; and report No. 49 titled *Annual report 2016-17*. I commend these reports to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 48—Subordinate legislation tabled between 14 June 2017 and 8 August 2017 [[2102](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 49—Annual Report 2016-17 [[2103](#)].

## NOTICE OF MOTION


### Energy Supply

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.41 pm): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for its increasing reliance on intermittent power and not supporting a new reliable, high-efficiency, low-emission coal-fired power plant in North Queensland which would increase supply, reduce prices and support more jobs.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Palaszcuk Labor Government, Unions

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.42 pm): Just like *The Empire Strikes Back* in my favourite movie franchise *Star Wars*, today we have the 'rorter from Redcliffe' striking back. The 'rorter from Redcliffe' has a history and reputation in this place for changing the electoral law donations—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It took her 10 seconds! I thought it would take her five seconds, but it took her 10.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I take personal offence at those comments. They should be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, will you please withdraw?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. Last year, with 18 minutes notice she changed the electoral laws, in an act of pure political opportunism and self-interest, in an attempt to rig the next state election. On top of that, today's headline states 'D'Ath Raider'. I table a copy.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 25 October 2017, titled 'D'Ath Raider' [\[2104\]](#).

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you are aware of the issues over props.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I just tabled my prop for all members.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. We have just heard a clear admission of defiance of your ruling and previous rulings. I think you should counsel the member for Kawana on his behaviour.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Kawana and I might have a quiet chat outside later on. What do you reckon, member for Kawana?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Today's headline reads 'A-G caught up in cops' strike on unions'. Who else does it involve? None other than the AWU and Bill Shorten. The Attorney-General's response indicated ignorance: 'It was the party. I had no idea.' There was more finger pointing from the Labor Party. Isn't it funny that when we talk about union royal commissions, union corruption and union criminality—threats by the CFMEU to rape children—the Premier gets up and says, 'If there are any issues the police should deal with them. Let the police handle these matters.' Of course, now that the Australian Federal Police is handling these matters it is a political witch-hunt! At first Premier Palaszcuk says, 'Refer it to the police.' Then when matters get referred to the police it is nothing but a witch-hunt! Why do those opposite say that it is a witch-hunt? It is because in the last three years the AWU has given nearly \$400,000 to Anastacia Palaszcuk's Labor government.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I remind members to refer to other members by the appropriate title.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The AWU gave the Queensland division of the Labor Party \$400,000. There has been \$4.2 million in union donations in the past three years. Those opposite say that they are for the workers! I think \$4.2 million could be better spent than on the Queensland division of the Labor Party.


We know that the AWU hates the CFMEU. The CFMEU hates the Old Guard. We know one thing they all have in common: they all hate the loony leftie Deputy Premier's left-wing green agenda. We know that they all hate the left-wing agenda.

Last week the Premier did not condemn the CFMEU for its threats to rape children. All the Premier said was that it is unacceptable. She borrowed a wet lettuce from the member for Bundaberg's veggie patch and she slapped the CFMEU. Threats to rape children are much greater than just unacceptable. The LNP will not tolerate it.

The ACTU president has come out today wanting members to donate money so that they can campaign against the Australian Federal Police. Queenslanders cannot afford another three years of Labor.

*(Time expired)*

### Political Donations

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.47 pm): The academy award for the biggest rant goes to the member for Kawana! What a surprise it was not the shadow Attorney-General. No-one rants better than the member for

Kawana. If members want to talk about donations, I am happy to talk about donations. The exposure of this donation from the AWU to the Labor Party for the Petrie campaign is so secret that it has been on the public record, on the AEC website, for almost 10 years. Surprise!

It might come as a surprise to those opposite, but 10 years ago the union movement and the Labor Party came together to support each other for the biggest and most important campaign in this country—that is, Your Rights at Work against Work Choices—a campaign I was proud to be part of. I am proud to stand up for workers in this state and to fight LNP governments at the state and federal level that do nothing more than attack workers' conditions.


The reason those opposite hate unions so much is that they know they stand in the way of them stripping away wages, conditions and penalty rates. Even when the LNP were in government at the state level the last time—the now Leader of the Opposition was the treasurer—they sought to take away people's common law rights when they were injured at work. They attacked public servants. They sacked public servants. We saw the member for Kawana come in late at night to reverse his laws around unions and ballots as they were about to be overturned by the High Court because they were not constitutional. He snuck in here at night, having to reverse his own faulty, dodgy laws with which he was trying to attack unions.

If we want to talk about political donations, it has been 902 days since the Palaszczuk government changed the political donation thresholds that required those on the other side to disclose their donations. \$100,000 of donations, 902 days and what have they done? They would rather spend as much money as they possibly can on lawyers in the courts to make sure they hide those donations. If they want to talk about transparency and disclosure, they should say where the \$100,000 came from. If Malcolm Turnbull wants to chase political donations, then change the laws, reduce the threshold and bring in real-time disclosure, and the Palaszczuk government will give him the assistance to do it. We will tell him how to set it up because we did it. We brought the laws in, we changed it and we brought the threshold down. Malcolm Turnbull will not. Tim Nicholls certainly will not as Leader of the Opposition. They are all about attacking wages and conditions and attacking unions. Those on this side support the workers and support their—

*(Time expired)*


**Mr SPEAKER:** I remind members of the importance of referring to members by their correct title.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (2.50 pm): Yet again today we have seen more evidence that Labor's do-nothing approach is hurting Queensland's economy and hurting Queensland families. This morning we saw the Premier and the Treasurer desperately trying to make it appear as if their failed market-led proposal policy was working, with an election eve announcement at the port of Brisbane. The government has sat on this project for two years and, with an election fast approaching and the Premier desperate for some good news, it finally makes a decision on the new cruise ship terminal at the port. This morning's announcement makes it two projects approved through the MLP framework in almost three years—a market-led proposal with two projects in almost three years! Well done, Premier! What a great achievement that is! Before this morning her success rate was less than one per cent. After today's announcement it is slightly more than one per cent. What an achievement, Premier!

This is nothing more than a stunt from a government desperate to convince the electorate that it has been doing something over the last three years, but Queenslanders are not buying it. CommSec is not buying it either. CommSec now has the Queensland economy ranked in sixth place—behind South Australia and even behind Tasmania. The small and medium sized businesses surveyed by Sensis are not buying it either. Almost nine out of 10 businesses say that the Palaszczuk government's policies are either working against them or doing nothing to help them grow their businesses. The 15,000 young Queenslanders who have lost their full-time jobs during this government's watch are not buying it either, and nor are the more than 230,000 underemployed Queenslanders. They are not buying it either. An unemployment rate that is the second worst in the country is nothing to celebrate, but Labor tells us, 'You've never had it so good.' The Queensland families who are being taxed through the nose because this government cannot manage the budget are not buying it either. New figures released today from the ABS show a headline inflation rate in Brisbane of 1.5 per cent. This government is increasing fees, taxes and charges at 3.5 per cent. There are record electricity prices and massive hikes in registration. This government uses families in Queensland as cash cows. Only the LNP will put downward pressure on electricity prices, freeze family car registration and stop treating Queensland families like cash cows as the ALP does.

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games; Crisafulli, Mr D

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (2.53 pm): Talk about being hit by a lettuce leaf, and I thought they were against green energy! In fact, last night I had a great conversation with Ali King, the Labor candidate for Maiwar, about how the former green leafy guy from Indooroopilly has walked away from his commitment to renewable energy. Every single voter in Maiwar knows that he has turned his back on a policy that he had for a very long time. I certainly would not want to have to defend that policy in the seat of Maiwar, but good luck to you, Scotty!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** Today I rise to speak about a great announcement that is coming to Queensland. We know that it is 161 days—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, I am having difficulty, believe it or not, hearing the Minister for Education. If I cannot hear her, I might invite her to start again. I am in your hands, members.

**Ms JONES:** There are 161 days to go until the Commonwealth Games, and everybody on this side of the House is really excited about that because the benefits will be huge.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** Thank you for that. Thank you for your—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I could not hear him. What did he say?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, you are running pretty close. I know we are all in good spirits, but I think you were trying to distract the minister in her contribution.

**Ms JONES:** It is quite fitting that I am being interjected on by the member for Everton, because he also wants to be the leader of the LNP. Let us talk about another guy who wants to be the leader of the LNP. I was talking about the great training opportunities that will be a legacy outcome of the Commonwealth Games. In fact, the volunteers will undertake more than 360,000 hours of volunteer training through TAFE Queensland. Whilst talking about training companies, there are some students on the Gold Coast who will not get the opportunity to complete their training because a company called Set Solutions/Southern Edge Training went into liquidation. Unfortunately, this is a Victorian registered company but it did operate in Queensland. In actual fact, there were students who were affected in Bracken Ridge, Mackay and Nerang on the Gold Coast. This company went into liquidation in June 2016. Guess who walked away from the board of this company in April—on 1 April 2016?

**Mr Dick:** April Fools' Day?

**Ms JONES:** April Fools' Day, but he was no fool: David Crisafulli cut and ran because he knew that the company that he was a director of was going into liquidation. This is a man who cuts and runs. It speaks to the character of the man. He cut and ran in Townsville. He cut and ran in this business—

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! We are not going to have a shouting match. No, we are not. We will wait.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms JONES:** A man who abandons a company weeks before it goes into liquidation is the kind of man that David Crisafulli is and someone that they think is fit for parliament. It is a disgrace! This is also a man who kicked the member for Broadwater, Verity Barton, from her seat because he will cut and run on anyone. It talks to the character of the man. Do not worry, Timmy: you're next on his list!

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.58 pm): Cut and run—the member for Mount Coot-tha, the member for Sandgate, the member for Woodridge! Talk about cut and run! Another day, another far-reaching probe into grubby union donations and dodgy political bedmates,



this one now embroiling the federal Labor leader and the first law officer of the Palaszczuk Labor government. This is yet more evidence of the sordid alliance between the unions, the Labor Party and guerrilla green groups.

This noxious weed of allegiance has run riot here in Queensland. The unions have taken control of this Labor government and this Premier lock, stock and barrel. How else do we explain a Premier who has failed to break ties with the vile CFMEU thugs who fund the Labor Party while threatening to rape children? Two weeks after news of this sickening behaviour, we have a Premier who still refuses to condemn the CFMEU, will not return the union's \$180,000 of donations to the Labor Party and plans to keep taking their grubby money. That is not the leadership that Queenslanders are looking for. It is spineless and, frankly, disgusting. It is because this Premier is owned lock, stock and barrel by the union movement.

The Premier appointed the member for Yeerongpilly, a former ETU member, as the Minister for Energy. That minister is clearly the union's man in the cabinet lock, stock and barrel. Queenslanders know that the minister has been lobbied by the ETU to stop a \$13 billion superannuation fund merger to protect union jobs on boards. Queenslanders know that the minister has been lobbied by the ETU to provide pay increases to electrical workers above the government's own wages policy that applies to teachers, nurses, police and ambulance officers. Queenslanders know the price: they have never paid more for electricity than they have under this Premier and this Labor government.

In light of today's revelations, clearly, the Premier's Attorney-General now has questions to answer in relation to the electoral donations from the Australian Workers' Union. There are questions for the Premier, too. Does this Premier back Labor's smear of independent hardworking Australian Federal Police officers as being somehow compromised? Will she today deal with the one real and stark compromise that has rendered her a puppet Premier of the unions? Will she ban union donations? Queenslanders know that the alternative—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, the time had run down. You had called time—

**Mr Seeney** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, you will have a chance to make a submission.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, the clock had run down. You had called time. It is understandable. We all hear members complete a sentence, but the Leader of the Opposition turned his back to you and he continued to start a new statement. It was in defiance of your direction that it was time and that he should resume his seat. I ask that you make sure that all members follow your guidance and direction.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. I had turned the member's microphone off so the comments that he made after time had expired certainly will not be recorded in *Hansard*. I have used that a number of times during my time as your Speaker. We will now commence question time. Question time will finish at two minutes past four this afternoon.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### Political Donations

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (3.03 pm): My first question without notice is to the Premier. Yesterday, the Australian Federal Police raided the AWU. Today, reports in the media—and I table a copy of the front page of the *Courier-Mail* with that report—suggest that the raids were to recover and preserve evidence of Bill Shorten donating \$25,000 to the Attorney-General allegedly without proper authorisation. How has the Premier satisfied herself that the Attorney-General was not complicit in a scheme to benefit from unlawful donations of union money?

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 25 October 2017, titled 'D'Ath Raider' [\[2105\]](#).

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Let me make it very clear: I will never have anyone in this House make any suggestion about anything improper about this Attorney-General. Absolutely not. As the Attorney-General said very clearly, nothing at all has been substantiated.

For that question to come from the Leader of the Opposition sums up the opposition as a whole. The opposition members do not want to talk about the issues that affect Queenslanders. Queenslanders are talking about jobs and this government is delivering jobs.

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of government business, Leader of Opposition Business, I invite you to step out of the chamber and have your conversations and return when you are ready.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Attorney-General has stated very clearly that that donation was disclosed and it has been on the public disclosure record for 10 years—unlike that of those opposite. Where is the missing \$100,000 that has not been disclosed, that is not on the public record? They were secret donations being hidden by the LNP hierarchy and this leader. If there were any leadership opposite, the opposition would disclose on the public record the missing \$100,000. That is what we are not seeing.

This Attorney-General has brought in the most fundamental change to disclosure laws in this state. It was the first piece of legislation that I am very proud was introduced in this House by this government. That legislation brought down those thresholds to \$1,000. What did the opposition members do when they were in government? One of the first acts of that government was to increase the threshold to over \$12,000 so that more donations were hidden from the public view.

I am more than happy to write to Malcolm Turnbull and say to him that he should adopt our laws, because they are accountable. We also have real-time disclosure. I find it absolutely ridiculous that, in this day and age, this leader would ask a question about donations when Labor declares its donations, the unions declare their donations, business declares their donations and, over there, they do not.

### Political Donations

**Mr NICHOLLS:** My second question is also to the Premier. I again refer the Premier to the Australian Federal Police raids of the AWU to seize evidence of possibly unlawful donations to Queensland Labor and, hence, the Attorney-General. Will the Premier confirm that she will make all Queensland police resources available—

**Mrs D'ATH:** I rise to a point of order. There is no statement in any media reports about allegations against me—no allegations whatsoever. These questions and this imputation is offensive and I seek that they be ruled out of order or withdrawn.

### Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you. I am advised that the question contains an imputation and I rule it out of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, if you believe that it contains an imputation—and I accept your ruling—I ask you to outline the imputation and how you believe that that offends against the standing orders.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have ruled the question out of order. I will consider the *Hansard* later this afternoon and I will report to the House. If you want to move a dissent from my ruling I am happy for you to do so.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I rise to a point of order. Given the limited circumstances of question time and—  
**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, one moment. I have made my ruling. If members do not agree with my ruling and they want to dissent from my ruling, they can take the appropriate action.

### Queensland Economy

**Mr CRAWFORD:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on what steps the state government is talking to grow the Queensland economy by helping businesses find new markets overseas?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Barron River for that very important question. On this side of the House we want to do everything that we can to grow the Queensland economy and that is what we do. We are standing on our record. Just recently we have seen record export figures for Queensland.

**Mrs Smith:** Still no ag minister!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Who is the shadow agriculture minister? I do not even know who that is. Who is the shadow agriculture minister?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Thank you, members. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I can hear you. The Premier has the call.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Kawana.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** What we are seeing are record exports for Queensland, record lower unemployment and the creation of more than 122,500 jobs—a stark contrast to what we saw in the years of Campbell Newman and Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, when he was the treasurer of this state when they axed 14,000 jobs in their first budget.

Last week I was very pleased to attend the Premier's Export Awards. The member for Barron River would be very pleased to know that the education and training winner was Cairns College of English & Business. They are seeing even greater growth in the number of students. Their latest growth in students is not just from Japan, China and Korea but now from a host of countries across Latin America. Once again, that is a great Cairns story about growing the Queensland economy.

I want to update the House about some of the other winners. The overall exporter of the year was Jeff and Fleur Anning from Evolve Skateboards on the Gold Coast. What a great story. Two years earlier they were the winners of the business achievers award. They have gone from strength to strength and are employing more people. I am looking forward to visiting them in the very near future. The agribusiness winner was AGT Foods from Toowoomba. The manufacturing winner was Noonan Race Engineering from the Gold Coast, which sells 94 per cent of its high-end products to NASCAR teams in the United States. The regional winner was Dynamics G-Ex, a maker of explosives for the mining industry, and the defence winner was TAE Aerospace from Ipswich. Businesses right across our state are doing an incredible job growing the Queensland economy, which means growing even more jobs.

### Political Donations

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My question is to the Premier. Given the Australian Federal Police investigation into the AWU, including donations made to support the Queensland Attorney-General's campaign, will the Premier immediately cease taking donations from the AWU until the matter is fully investigated?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The answer is no. What I do want to know from those opposite is where is the \$100,000 from? All of our donations are declared.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Did you have anything further?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, Mr Speaker. I think there is a real question to be asked here as well about why there were media outside the premises. There is a very serious question to be answered by the federal government about what they knew about this. Let me make it very clear that on this side of the House we will always support workers and everything that workers stand for. One only has to go back to the term of those opposite in government to see the damage they did to workers' rights across this state. The person who was mainly responsible was that man sitting over there, the member for Kawana, the enemy of the worker.

Those opposite took away common law rights for injured workers. That was one of the first things they did. They loved workers so much they sacked 14,000 people in their first budget. They also put workers' lives at risk by barring access to workplaces without 24 hours notice. They stripped the hard-won conditions and entitlements out of awards, except for the local government award.

**Honourable members** interjected.

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

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A. That is not appropriate.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Who is your sparring partner over there?

**Mr Bleijie:** The Minister for Employment.

**Ms GRACE:** I rise to a point of order. I was merely correcting the inaccurate statements of the member for Kawana.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I find that you were both involved in a bit of a melee so you are both now warned. I warn all members to cease their interjections otherwise I will start naming a lot more. We have two members, the member for Kawana and the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, on their first warning under 253A.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Those on that side of the House are no friend of the worker in this state. Every single day I have been trying to get people in this state into work. We will continue to do everything we can to grow the economy and stimulate even more work. I think that was exemplified today with the announcement of the mega cruise ship terminal for Queensland.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We heard laughing on that side. They do not support jobs. They do not support the mega cruise ship terminal. All we hear is negativity. Nothing has changed from when they were in government to when they are in opposition: they are still arrogant, still out of touch and still rude.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. Thank you, everyone. I think you have answered the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** And they treat workers with disrespect.

### **Business Confidence**

**Ms LINARD:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier outline how the Palaszczuk government is assisting to build business confidence in Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Nudgee for that very important question. We have seen some very good news that has just been released. The latest Sensis Business Index provides further proof that our investment in Queensland business is working. In fact, Brisbane is now the most confident capital city in Australia.

**Mr Emerson** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We will continue to work with small business and grow the small business economy. Why will we back small business?

**Mr Emerson** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Because small business employs people.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. One moment, Premier. I might consider asking you to restart your answer because the member for Indooroopilly has not stopped talking.

**Mr Emerson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You have a chance to ask a question. I find you are trying to speak over the top of the Premier to try to interrupt the Premier in answering the question. You are now warned under standing order 253A and if you persist I will take the appropriate action.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I look forward to coming out to the new electorate of Maiwar. I am more than happy to go out there in the very near future to visit the good people of Maiwar.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I have been to Kingaroy and the member's electorate is next. I might even go to Clayfield as well.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** From those interjections, it is very clear that they do not support the tourism industry in this state. They are criticising the mega cruise ship terminal and making jokes about a billion-dollar industry that will create thousands of jobs for Queenslanders. They are laughing about jobs in this state. The Leader of the Opposition is not fit to be the leader of his party, let alone anything else. He is not fit at all.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! I urge you to address your comments through the Speaker.

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Callide. I can hear you loud and clear.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. The member for Callide has, I would trust, the ability to get himself on the question list and he can ask that question next, if he wishes to.

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

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I am happy to sit here and let the clock wind down and there will be no questions from anyone if we do not have some order.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We cannot have that, Mr Speaker. I have said very clearly that I want to see the start-up sector grow further in Queensland. We have overtaken Victoria and we are now second after New South Wales when it comes to the start-up community. In fact, on a recent visit the Duke of York visited the TC Beirne Centre in Fortitude Valley with the minister and me. He was very impressed at the innovation that he saw and the jobs that are being created in Queensland. That Fortitude Valley precinct is creating a brand-new ecosystem. At the moment we have 18 anchor tenants, but all around the precinct more and more start-ups are happening.

**Ms Jones:** Campbell Newman is there.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection: Campbell Newman is also a tenant in the TC Beirne Centre in Fortitude Valley.

**Ms Trad:** Have you been to visit him?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I do not think they have, Deputy Premier.

**Mr Dick:** They communicate via Twitter.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right, only via Twitter. We will continue to support the small business community—

*(Time expired)*

### Political Donations

**Mr EMERSON:** My question is to the Premier. Given the Australian Federal Police investigation into the AWU and donations made to the Queensland Attorney-General's campaign, what advice has the Premier sought about the apparent conflict of interest with both the Attorney-General being responsible for electoral donation laws and her campaign being the subject of an investigation concerning an electoral donation?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. There is no conflict. I am very concerned about this line of questioning. The allegations are not backed up by any evidence. It is a personal attack on the first law officer of this state. If they had any guts they would state it outside and see what action comes from that.

### Cross River Rail

**Mr BROWN:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier please update the House on any milestones for the Cross River Rail project and whether there is any emerging risk to its delivery?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Capalaba for that question. He understands the importance of better public transport infrastructure and services for the people of his community. It means faster commutes for the people in Capalaba and those using the bay services and it means a true rail express service for the people of South-East Queensland.

I am very pleased to advise the House that demolition work has started on the Goprint site at Woolloongabba. I am also pleased to advise the House that a local company, Caylamax Demolitions, has been awarded the \$330,000 contract to demolish the Goprint building at Woolloongabba. That means real jobs for local people. Soon, two 30-tonne excavators will be on site to remove the roof in a series of sections and a rock breaker will be used to collapse the slabs, pillars and walls. The demolition work is expected to be completed by January next year. Once the site is cleared, it will be the station for the new boring machines that will start the important tunnelling work for this critical No. 1 infrastructure project for our state. I look forward to that work beginning.

Of course, there is one real and significant threat to this critical infrastructure project for South-East Queensland and the entire Queensland economy, and it is those opposite. We know that when the member for Clayfield was last in power and treasurer of this state he cut the project. From those opposite, we have seen no commitment to Cross River Rail, our No. 1 infrastructure project. Without that commitment, the people of Queensland can look only to their track record. They have cut it once and they will cut it again. That means cutting thousands of jobs, which is what those opposite have in their DNA. They hate workers, they hate jobs and they hate public transport.

At the next election, it will be abundantly clear that there is only one party that believes in building this state and in building the infrastructure and the services that Queenslanders need. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government is prepared to commit to building this state for the people of Queensland, whether they are on the Gold Coast, in Cairns, in Townsville or in Brisbane. Only Labor builds the state and only those opposite cut, sack and sell.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth, you now join the list for a first warning under standing order 253A. I find that your interjections were designed to disrupt the speaker when answering the question. If you persist I will take the appropriate action.

### **Attorney-General**

**Mr WALKER:** My question without notice is to the Attorney-General. Will the Attorney-General tell the House what advice she gave before the Palaszczuk government withdrew from the joint police task force into union corruption?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for the question. No advice.

### **Jobs**

**Ms PEASE:** My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. I refer to the government's job creation efforts and I ask: will the Treasurer advise of any outcomes from government programs aimed at giving young people a job, training and a start to their careers?

**Mr PITT:** I thank the honourable member for the question. One of a number of initiatives under our economic plan has been to ensure we focus our attentions clearly on creating more jobs and also making sure that we are getting the skills necessary for the future, including having a focus on apprentices and trainees.

Our government—and this goes to the point that has been made on numerous occasions today—is a government for all of Queensland. We are a government that wants all people, no matter where they live in Queensland, to share in the benefits of this economy. We want inclusive growth. That means that we will not have the future growth of our economy held hostage by skill shortages. That is why we value skilling and training and apprentices and trainees so much.

The payroll tax rebate that we brought in as an election commitment was a 25 per cent payroll tax rebate on top of the 100 per cent that is already offered to those employers who have a payroll tax liability for apprentices and trainees. This was doubled in the 2016-17 budget. I can report today that since its introduction almost 4,400 businesses have taken up this offer, to the tune of around \$39 million of savings for their businesses. This is substantial. What it means is that these businesses now have the confidence to hire and we have the added benefit of people being skilled for the future. That is a great outcome for Queensland.

How does this compare to the actions of those opposite? We know that famously in their first budget the member for Clayfield dispatched 14,000 jobs, hurting the economy. We also know that one of the first things they did when coming into government was to get rid of the very successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. We know that for every dollar invested in this program it returned around \$8 to the Queensland economy.

Then through ineptitude or deliberate action they failed to continue the payroll tax rebate in 2012. By not amending the Payroll Tax Act before 30 June 2012 the initiative effectively expired. We have come through and we have done the right thing. We have not only brought this back to 25 per cent; we have increased it to 50 per cent.

When it comes to doing the hard yards on job creation, we know that we are chalk and cheese when it comes to the actions of our government and those of the former government. The record of those opposite was 29,100 jobs. We have created four times that number of jobs—that is, 122,500 net new jobs for the benefit of the member for Clayfield who cannot seem to tell the difference. That is the outcome under this government.

We know that they are lazy. We know that they are many things. They are simply incapable of managing the economy. They are simply incapable of job creation. That is demonstrated in the ABS data. We are proud of our apprenticeships. We are going to continue to ensure that this government focusses on skilling and training well into the future.

### Political Donations

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Attorney-General. When was the Attorney-General first advised of the Palaszczuk government's intention to withdraw from the joint police task force into union corruption? Was that before or after she was advised of the Australian Federal Police investigation into the AWU donation of \$25,000 to her campaign?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Firstly, can I say that the Australian Federal Police have never advised me about any investigations in relation to any donations in relation to any of my campaigns. We have all seen the media reports. The AFP have not spoken to me at all and there have been no allegations of impropriety in relation to me.

In relation to the question on the joint trade union task force, I was not advised and I was not briefed. The Attorney-General is not responsible for this area. It is a Queensland Police Service matter. If the shadow police minister had any idea he would be aware of the statement that was released by the Queensland Police Service in January 2017 that explained who made the decision.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I ask the member for Pumicestone to ask his question, I urge members, notwithstanding how provocative some questions might appear, to allow the questioner to ask their question in silence.

### Health, Research

**Mr WILLIAMS:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister please advise the House on the importance of research in improving health outcomes for all Queenslanders?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Pumicestone and all members of the government for their support for high-quality health and scientific research to build Queensland's economy. Last month I launched a new strategy aimed at advancing health related research and innovation across Queensland's public health sector. Advancing Health Research 2026 is a road map that will ensure that Queensland Health's research investment decisions and actions over the next decade are clearly focused on improving health outcomes. That is why we have committed an additional \$10 million over four years to support that project specifically.

What did Professor Ian Frazer, one of Australia's and the world's leading scientists, say about the strategy? He stated—

Involvement in research prepares our current healthcare providers for future advances in service delivery, assists with training the next generation of leaders in clinical practice, and ensures world class health care for our population now and in the future.

We are seeing results. Earlier today I talked about the 3D shinbone that was recently implanted into a patient at the PA hospital. That is the first time that has happened anywhere in the world. In late breaking news, I can inform the House—and members of the LNP will be delighted to know—that Queensland Health scientists are working on biofabricating an artificial backbone. I do not make this offer regularly, but I am delighted to offer the Leader of the Opposition to be the first participant in the clinical trial. I can assure the Leader of the Opposition that the hardworking scientists in Queensland Health are ensuring absolutely that the design of this backbone will be completely resistant to One Nation infection. We do not even have to sell it to him. We are very happy to offer it to him on a 99-year lease if he so wants it. This is a government committed to scientific and medical research.

What did the Leader of the Opposition do in his first budget? He cut \$50 million from the science and innovation budget. Over the entire term of the Newman government—when the Leader of the Opposition was treasurer—there were 14 scientific and research fellowships, the lowest in Queensland in a decade. Under the leadership of our Premier and the minister for science and innovation, there have been more than 100. They cut biosecurity labs in Toowoomba and Townsville.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** If I were the Leader of the Opposition I would not be interjecting. He is the one who needs the One Nation resistant backbone. That is what he needs.

Our government will continue to invest. Why? It is because science and research makes a difference to Queensland. It makes a difference to our economy. We cannot trust the Leader of the Opposition with the Public Service, with public finances and with public trust. People can always trust Labor with science and research.

*(Time expired)*

### Political Donations

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Attorney-General. In light of yesterday's Australian Federal Police raids of AWU offices in connection with a donation of \$25,000 to the Attorney's election campaign, will the Attorney tell the House how she intends to deal with the clear conflict of interest of her handling of Queensland's political donation laws?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. There is no conflict of interest. There are no allegations against me personally. I have had no contact with the AFP. I am happy to talk about political donations with the member for Kawana any time.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will wait. I am trying to hear the Attorney-General.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I will hold my credibility up against the credibility of the former attorney-general for scrutiny by the people of Queensland any day. We only need to look at the Queensland audit reports and the procurement processes of the former attorney-general to know what sort of person he was around transparency and accountability. They did not believe in transparency. It was the LNP, with Tim Nicholls, the Leader of the Opposition, as treasurer, who oversaw the increase in the political donation threshold so that anyone could walk into their offices any day of the week and give a donation of \$12,000 and no-one in Queensland would know where that came from.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take the interjection from those opposite. Federal Labor governments sought to bring the threshold down. It was the Liberals who opposed it because they do not like transparency. They do not like disclosures. They are showing how much they oppose transparency when they are willing to spend thousands of dollars in legal fees in the Supreme Court to fight disclosing who they got their \$100,000 of donations from. It has been over 900 days since that legislation passed and they still will not tell the people of Queensland where that money came from.

This line of questioning from the opposition is desperate. It shows that the Leader of the Opposition has no policies, has no strategies and wants to go into the next election as the smallest target possible because he knows—and I am sure their polling shows—that the people of Queensland do not have any faith in that man sitting on that side because they know that he sacked thousands of Queenslanders. They cut health services. They cut education services. They cut domestic violence shelters. That is their record. The people of Queensland know what those opposite believe in: it is cut, sack and sell. That is what they will do if they get back in. That is what they believe in. All of this today is a way for them to try to divert attention from the fact that the LNP has no strategies, has no policies and certainly has no plans for the future of Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** I remind members to refer to other members by their appropriate title.

### Tourism Industry

**Mr WHITING:** My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's efforts to secure direct flights between Queensland and key tourism markets?



**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for that question. Before I answer, I would like to table a document. It is an ASIC extract of David Frank Crisafulli's personal details, highlighting that he was a member of the board of the company Southern Edge Training that went into liquidation on 30 June 2016. It shows that he was on the board until 1 April 2016. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* SAI GLOBAL Property - ASIC Personal Current & Historical Extract, dated 7 August 2017, regarding David Frank Crisafulli [2106].

I am happy to talk about direct flights because this is something that our government is very proud of. In fact, 740,000 more seats are flying into Queensland because of the extra money that we put on the table to deliver tourism jobs in Queensland. We saw those opposite laughing before. I felt like I was back with my children, who are three and seven. They were laughing about the fact that we have announced a mega cruise ship terminal for Brisbane. The response from the LNP is to giggle about it. Anyway, I will let Queenslanders judge that. We do know that they would like that distraction because their record when it comes to tourism was Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, ripping \$188 million out of the forward estimates for tourism. They said it was a pillar, but it was a pile of not much at all—sticking to the theme.

In the last few months we have announced that Hainan Airlines and China Southern Airlines will fly directly into Cairns. Because of our Connecting with Asia funds, these are the first all-year-round direct flights into Cairns. We also have the jewel in the crown, which is a direct flight from Beijing to Brisbane that will start in December. No longer do people from Beijing have to go via Sydney or Melbourne to get to Queensland. They will be able to fly directly to Queensland.

There are other people who are looking for a flight at the moment, trying to run away from their track record. It is laughable to come in here and say that the LNP is the only party in the country that is currently in the Supreme Court of Queensland for failing to disclose \$100,000 worth of donations. They are in court. The Minister for Health was very generous earlier. You know me, Mr Speaker, I am a very generous, friendly person. I have this offer for the Leader of the Opposition: this weekend—I always work weekends—I am happy to go to the LNP office and go through all the files and receipts with him because maybe it is just that he is too lazy to find the receipts. If that is the excuse, I will volunteer my time. I will get down on my hands and knees and go through those boxes for him. I will do that for the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr Nicholls:** I tell you what: you let me come and have a look through your files and we'll do it!

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! I think we might move on.

**Ms JONES:** No. I am still going, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No. Is it relevant?

**Ms JONES:** You are squirming in your seat. Leader of the Opposition: come clean. Where are your \$100,000 worth of secret donations? Which property developers are you protecting? Why would you rather spend more money in court hiding your donations—

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

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, one and all. We will wait.

## Jobs

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice is to the Premier. From 2013, the Newman government cut 14,000 Public Service jobs which decimated rural communities. Can the Premier guarantee that those jobs have been equitably returned throughout the state, particularly in rural and regional areas, and not concentrated in metropolitan areas?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Dalrymple for that very important question.

**Mrs Smith:** Another CFMEU supporter.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is the member for Mount Ommaney.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, we can wait. I am happy to sit here and wait.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Dalrymple for that—

**Mr Mander:** Comrade!

**Ms Jones:** You're Pauline Hanson's comrade, aren't you?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes.

**Ms Jones:** She wants you as leader. What have you promised her, Tim?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Ms JONES:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I want to note that the member for Everton poked his tongue out at me. I do not know what he meant by that. I do not know if I am offended or—

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is totally offensive and I ask for her to withdraw.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, we will have some order. I am in your hands. First, member for Everton, you are warned under standing order 253A for your inappropriate interjection. I call the minister to withdraw.

**Ms JONES:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you. Now, who is answering what, please?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Dalrymple for that very important question because he was sitting in this parliament when we saw the devastation that was inflicted on this state by the Leader of the Opposition when he was treasurer of Queensland. What did we see? In his first budget we saw 14,000 jobs axed across Queensland. Mr Speaker, I will tell you where that was felt the hardest—and that was in rural and regional Queensland. Why do I say that? When you take out a doctor or a nurse, or a teacher or a teacher aide from a small rural and regional community, it has flow-on impacts across those communities. It means that people are no longer shopping at their local grocery store. It means that they are not able to take their children on a holiday.

**Mr Springborg** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is great to hear the member for Southern Downs interjecting because he cut over 4,000 health workers across this state. That had the biggest impact on health across this state. What have we done? We have been slowly but surely restoring front-line services across the state because—

**Mr Springborg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. There are too many people speaking at the same time.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I firmly believe that no matter where you live in this state you should have access to good-quality health services and you should have access to good-quality education services. I also firmly believe that there is dignity in work. There is absolute and fundamental—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I was about to ask you to do that very thing, Deputy Leader of the Opposition—to go out—but I will not. I am very tolerant.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There is fundamental dignity in work. What the Leader of the Opposition did when he was treasurer of this state was destroy that dignity. He destroyed people's dignity. He destroyed the basic fundamental premise of getting up in the morning, going to work and coming back safely at night to your family and having the dignity of a job. I am prepared to remind Queenslanders every day of the broken record and the broken promises of this man who is the Leader of the Opposition. I am prepared to do that every single day. When they come in here and they criticise tourism jobs, it is a complete and utter—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. We will wait.

### **Manufacturing**

**Mr STEWART:** My question is to the Minister for State Development. Will the minister advise the House of how the Palaszczuk government is growing jobs in Queensland's \$20 billion manufacturing sector? Is the minister aware of any alternative policies?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for Townsville for his question. The member for Townsville knows the value of manufacturing in Queensland and how valuable it is for North Queensland as well. I am proud to be supporting the Queensland manufacturing sector with a \$20 million matching grants program, the Made in Queensland program, because we are generating advanced manufacturers here in Queensland. We are assisting them to become not only the best manufacturers in Australia but the best in the world. We are also growing jobs in the advanced manufacturing sector—hundreds of jobs, but part of the 122,500 jobs generated by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

As I travel around Queensland working with these people and these factories, I see where these jobs are. They are all highly skilled jobs in advanced technology. King Springs springworks on the Gold Coast received a \$1.14 million matching grant for the latest technology to build a new plant, new factory and new equipment so that kids can aspire to having high-skilled, high-tech jobs that are generated by our wonderful universities and TAFE systems. They can go straight into these jobs in advanced manufacturing.

They are also supported by a 10-year advanced manufacturing road map. With the advanced manufacturing road map we recognise how important this sector is. There are 170,000 jobs in advanced manufacturing. It is a \$20 billion industry for Queensland. What did those opposite have? It was not a pillar of their programs. There was not a policy on advanced manufacturing. They ignored this sector completely in their three years of government.

I have seen how this sector can work. On the Sunshine Coast we have assisted Epicurean—a factory that manufacturers agricultural produce into batch systems and sells around the world—to halve their production times with a \$500,000 grant. I was up in Toowoomba at Stahmann Farms, which has received a \$70,000 grant for market research. They are now exporting around the world, including to China. Toowoomba Engineering, a precision seed planter, received a \$240,000 grant. It is exporting around the world. Obadare is exporting drilling rigs around the world with our assistance. We have had 86 applications and 260 companies benchmarked. We are driving the advanced manufacturing sector in Queensland so that it can be the best sector in the world, and we are driving it because it brings jobs to Queenslanders.

### Fire Ants

**Mr LAST:** My question without notice is to the Acting Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members.

**Mr LAST:** I refer to the delay between identifying and treating fire ants most recently in the Rocky Point sugarcane-growing area between Brisbane and the Gold Coast where local landholders are concerned and angered by the four- to eight-week delay for nests to be poisoned after identification. When identification is a simple process, why are fire ant nests not being treated at the time of inspection? When will this government bring some common sense to managing this program and stop the nonsense that risks even further spread of this exotic and damaging pest?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I am sorry I took Bill's moment, because this is the first question ever asked. I apologise to Bill. What a superhero for agriculture is the member opposite, with his amazing superpower of invisibility! What a superhero! I am glad he is talking about ants. I was out there last week with the member for Ipswich West talking about the Queensland fire ant program—

**A government member:** A delayed program.

**Dr LYNHAM:** A delayed program because of them. While we are talking about ants, let us talk about the yellow crazy ant program, which those opposite axed. A couple of weeks ago I was approached by the member for Burdekin who asked me what we are doing about yellow crazy ants. We are doing something about yellow crazy ants. We are doing something about fire ants. We are pouring in money for the eradication of fire ants in South-East Queensland. If it were not for the Labor government initiatives of the past, fire ants would be down in Sydney by now. We have them contained in South-East Queensland, and now it is our chance to eradicate them in South-East Queensland.

We have sniffer dogs, helicopters, quad bikes and people out there. We have a nine-month campaign for eradication starting now. This is our best chance. Fire ants can have disastrous effects on agriculture—some estimate up to \$30 billion if they spread throughout Australia. We are out there eradicating fire ants and yellow crazy ants—we will get to that, member for Burdekin.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have had a pretty good go all afternoon. The minister has the call.

**Dr LYNHAM:** The Queensland Palaszczuk Labor government has done more for agriculture in its two and a bit years here than they ever did over there at any time. The hypocrisy of those opposite to cut biosecurity, to cut agriculture, to cut support for our farmers. We have the Labor Party above rhetoric working to support the agricultural sector. I have just given two examples today—fire ants and yellow crazy ants.

Can I say again—I am sorry, Bill—how amazing it is that we hear for the very first time from the shadow minister for agriculture. It is true hypocrisy from those over there. They could not give a damn about agriculture in Queensland. It is always left up to the Labor Party to support the agricultural sector and regional Queenslanders.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Ipswich West, I am going to mention the member for Gregory for your interjections, which I find were designed to disrupt the minister in the answer to that question. You are now warned under standing order 253A, and if you persist I will take the appropriate action.

### **Advance Queensland, Ignite Ideas Fund**

**Mr MADDEN:** My question is to the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas Fund is boosting growth and supporting new jobs in the Ipswich region?

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the honourable member for Ipswich West for his question. I know that he is a powerful advocate for innovation in his area. Just last month the member for Ipswich West and the member for Ipswich joined me in Ipswich for the announcement of the Advancing Regional Innovation Program, which is an incredibly important plank in our Advance Queensland initiative.

On this side of the parliament, we are absolutely committed to ensuring that we are diversifying our economy for the future to ensure that the dignity of work is something that our children and their children will experience into the future. That is why our Ignite Ideas Fund—which is an Advance Queensland innovation and jobs initiative—is about helping businesses get products to market faster, which boosts business growth and creates jobs for Queenslanders. Unlike those opposite, this government is about turning ideas into actions by investing in research and technologies, attracting new investment, building global partnerships and encouraging businesses to start and grow in Queensland.

I recently announced 85 successful Queensland applicants who were independently assessed in a highly competitive process who shared in the latest round of Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas funding totalling \$10 million. The Palaszczuk government has so far supported more than 200 Queensland businesses through \$26.5 million of Ignite Ideas funding over three rounds, driving more than 1,000 new jobs.

One recipient is a family owned Dinmore business, established more than 30 years ago, which has been awarded \$100,000 in Ignite Ideas funding. This business, Claypave, has developed new technology for creating long format clay bricks. This business already employs more than 50 people and provides quality clay bricks and pavers for residential and commercial construction. Their Ignite Ideas grant is expected to create 12 more jobs over the next year, and that number is set to double within three years of the project's completion.

The Palaszczuk government is providing innovative businesses like Claypave with opportunities to break into new markets. We are supporting these businesses to develop new and improved products and processes, helping to strengthen our existing industries and create new opportunities and jobs. Claypave's managing director, Dr Allan Andersen, says they are looking forward to being able to intensify their marketing efforts domestically and in key overseas markets, such as Japan.

The Palaszczuk government has been committed to innovation and research and science in this state. In just over two years, Advance Queensland has invested three times the amount that we saw under the former Newman-Nicholls government when the member for Clayfield was the treasurer of this state. We have supported 33 times the number of jobs as a result of our investment. We are supporting innovation in this state because we know that that is where the jobs of the future are and that is how we will support jobs in this state for generations to come.

### Youth Bail Houses

**Mr CRANDON:** My question without notice is to the Attorney-General. Can the Attorney-General confirm whether any part of the Jacobs Well Environmental Education Centre or any land adjacent to it will be used as a so-called youth bail house as part of Labor's plan to put alleged youth offenders into Queensland suburbs, or does my community not get the same special treatment as that afforded to the South Brisbane community?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the Attorney-General for one minute.

**Mrs D'ATH:** If we cannot talk about unions, then we will talk about youth justice, won't we? Here we go again, with scaremongering in communities. We have released, as we promised to do, our list of proposed locations. It does not include the education facility at Jacobs Well. We will not be releasing the specific addresses for the very reason that those on the other side are deliberately trying to scaremonger in communities.


We will consult with communities but we are not going to allow this sort of scaremongering when what we are seeking to do is to make communities safer by stopping offending and recidivism by young offenders by ensuring we provide supervised bail accommodation. We will do it based on evidence, with consultation with key stakeholders. We will do it right and we will make sure that what we do is actually about—

*(Time expired)*

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

## MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES (FINANCIAL PROVISIONING) BILL

### Message from Acting Governor

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (4.03 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Acting Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency recommends the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES (FINANCIAL PROVISIONING) BILL 2017

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, HUGH BARRON FRASER, Acting Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intitled—

A Bill for an Act to establish a financial provisioning scheme to deal with the environmental impacts of resource activities, and to amend this Act, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Right to Information Act 2009 for particular purposes


(sgd)

ACTING GOVERNOR

Date: 25 October 2017

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 25 October 2017, from His Excellency the Acting Governor, recommending the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2017 [\[2107\]](#).

### Introduction

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (4.04 pm): I present a bill for an act to establish a financial provisioning scheme to deal with the environmental impacts of resource activities, and to amend this act, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Right to Information Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2017 [\[2108\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2017, explanatory notes [\[2109\]](#).

The mining and resources industry has a proud history in Queensland. It makes a significant contribution to the economy, creating employment, growing our regions and contributing much needed royalties to help fund essential government services such as health, education and policing. However, with economic development there can sometimes be a cost where companies fail to deliver their project as planned and this in turn can impact our environment.

Of course, the Palaszczuk government takes our environment and environmental management very seriously. Any cost to the environment is ultimately a cost to government and to the whole community—and this is what needs to be effectively managed. The vast majority of mining and resource industry operators do the right thing and contribute in a very positive way to local communities over the long term. Unfortunately, in a small number of cases mines or other resource projects close earlier than projected for a variety of reasons, leaving the state and Queensland taxpayers to pick up the tab for environmental management and site rehabilitation.

To ensure these outcomes are minimised and risk is managed, the Palaszczuk government is introducing a suite of financial assurance reforms to both increase protections for the environment and reduce the potential cost to government and the community when a resource company defaults on fulfilling its environmental obligations. The Palaszczuk government is committed to the continued health of Queensland's resource industries, and this bill strikes the right balance by improving the protections to government, the community and the environment from the risk of defaulting resource companies while also ensuring the continued development of our important resources sector. This bill is the key component of a package of reforms to improve the environmental management of the mining and petroleum and gas industries, particularly around the rehabilitation of sites used for resource extraction, as well as managing legacy mines sites.

The bill introduces two major reforms. The government requires financial assurance from resource companies, to use as a last resort, when a company does not meet its environmental obligations. The first reform in this bill establishes an improved scheme for managing this risk. The bill establishes a financial provisioning scheme, with its key feature being a pooled rehabilitation fund built from annual contributions by resource companies.

The new scheme is innovative as it presents a tailored approach to financial provisioning for the resources industry, the first of its kind in this country. Companies with resource projects which the scheme manager assesses to have a very low, low or moderate risk of defaulting and transferring the costs of rehabilitation onto the state will be required to make an annual contribution to a pooled fund. Thresholds apply to the pooled fund to ensure its financial integrity. Contributions will be calculated for each project by applying their assessed risk based rate to the total cost of rehabilitating their current level of disturbance. Higher risk projects must provide surety for the full cost of rehabilitating their site. The bill also expands the range of surety options to include prescribed insurance bonds as well as bank guarantees and cash.

The second reform in the bill is the introduction of a requirement for mining companies with site-specific environmental authority approvals to have an approved progressive rehabilitation and closure plan for their mine with enforceable milestones. The progressive rehabilitation and closure plans will drive innovation in the mining industry through improved mine design and engineering and encourage regional job opportunities in the developing mine rehabilitation industry.

The bill delivers amendments to the Environmental Protection Act 1994 which ensure land disturbed by mining activities is rehabilitated to a safe and stable landform that does not cause environmental harm and can sustain an approved post-mining land use. Progressive rehabilitation and closure plans must be included in site-specific environmental authority applications for mining leases. This will streamline the legislative requirements and deliver administrative efficiency.

In addition to ensuring rehabilitation standards are met and progressive rehabilitation is planned for, the system delivers on transparent community engagement processes and a robust audit and reporting mechanism to track rehabilitation performance. These two major reforms work hand in glove to ensure mining and resource projects progressively rehabilitate their sites during the life of the project while also providing an improved scheme to reduce the risk of the state incurring additional costs to rehabilitate sites left by companies which have defaulted on their environmental obligations. As part of the broader package of financial assurance reforms, the government will also introduce a range of interrelated measures, including expansion of the abandoned mines program and clear systems and processes for the residual risk regime.

More information will be provided on these measures in coming weeks and months. The policy underlying the reforms in this bill is based on an extensive review by the government of the existing financial assurance laws which have benefited from independent research and financial modelling undertaken by Queensland Treasury Corporation. The government has benefited by observing the lessons from approaches taken in other jurisdictions and developed a sophisticated, risk based approach, rather than applying a one-size-fits-all approach. Subject to the passage of this bill, the new financial provisioning scheme and rehabilitation requirements will commence mid-2018, with a three-year transition period for existing operations.

In a sign of the significance of this bill, the government has consulted widely on these proposals and received submissions from over 400 individuals and organisations on the related discussion papers. I would like to thank the community, industry reference groups, individual resource companies and environmental organisations for their constructive and useful feedback throughout this reform process. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of a number of Queensland's public servants in the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and Queensland Treasury. I certainly want to thank my colleagues for their cooperation and goodwill, Minister Anthony Lynham and Minister Steven Miles, who have ensured these important reforms are robust and will serve Queensland well.

This bill would not be possible under a different kind of government. This is a government that consults with Queenslanders. It is a government that gets outcomes because we are collaborative and we listen to stakeholders. The Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2017 reflects how positive engagement between the government and stakeholders from diverse backgrounds can produce legislative reforms which will have long-lasting benefits for Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (4.10 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 Agriculture and Environment Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee.

### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (4.11 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Agriculture and Environment Committee report to the House on the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2017 by 8 December 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

## HOUSING LEGISLATION (BUILDING BETTER FUTURES) AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 24 October (see p. 3239), on motion of Mr de Brenni—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (4.12 pm): I proudly rise today to make a contribution to this debate on the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017. This bill seeks to create a fairer system for those who live in retirement villages and relocatable home parks. This bill, if passed, will change lives for the better. The seniors who are the residents of retirement villages and relocatable home parks in my area have been screaming for this for a long time and hopefully today we can give them some comfort.

We had a residents forum in Burpengary a few months back to listen to residents' concerns. In attendance were Minister de Brenni, Minister Miles, Minister Ryan, my colleague the member for Murrumba and me. Judging by the reactions from the large audience in attendance, this issue did need addressing. We heard many stories about unfair rental increases coupled with market reviews so that some residents had more than one increase a year, some only months apart. We heard a lot about

residents not having enough protection around resales and exit entitlements. Anyone who saw the *Four Corners* report recently on this topic would have heard similar horror stories about the inequity and imbalance that occurs in some of these facilities.

We on this side of the House fundamentally believe that everybody has a right to a safe, affordable and secure place to live and that they should be able to live without being financially exploited. Our seniors have worked and paid taxes their whole lives and in their retirement they should be able to kick back and enjoy what they have instead of feeling constant pressure.

The former government in which Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, was the treasurer and 'cuts man' conducted a review in 2012. The LNP accepted only half of the recommendations and did not implement them anyway. After they sat on their hands for three years they are accusing us of rushing these reforms. We have consulted widely over the past 18 months and, as we have found not only from our community forums but also from our public hearings, our communities' expectations are not being upheld in these places.

This bill also seeks to adopt minimum standards for rental accommodation. In their statement of reservation, the opposition says that having minimum standards will drive up rental prices. As I said earlier, I think every person has a right to live in accommodation with locks on the doors that work, floorboards that are not rotten and some minimum hygiene standards. If those opposite are happy for Queenslanders to live in squalor and not do anything about it, let it be on their head. When we sell a car, we are required to have it checked to make sure it meets minimum standards before sale. A qualified mechanic must do this work. Our housing should be given some minimum standards as well. After all, most of us spend more time in our homes than we do in our cars. Real estate agents will tell honourable members that, due to a lack of enforceable minimum standards, their professional indemnity insurance costs are going up. This change is not only good for renters; it also helps business.

Local governments support minimum standards. Just recently the LGAQ passed a motion to lobby the Queensland government to grant regulatory powers to enforce building maintenance on residential properties to an acceptable standard. As I mentioned previously, our Public Works and Utilities Committee held public hearings with stakeholders on this bill in locations where the majority of stakeholder concerns were located. We had one in the Logan area in Bethania, one central in this place and we also held one in my electorate of Kallangur. We listened to the concerns of the stakeholders and came up with a number of recommendations. I am pleased to see that the minister has adopted most of these, and I will go through a few of them.

The first was that the bill be passed—a good one. We also recommended that the minister consider amending clause 32 to clarify the intent of which costs the seller would be liable to pay. This was in response to concerns that a buyer could pull out of a sale and the buyers' costs would have to be picked up by the seller. We heard a hypothetical example of the cost of a buyer's interstate flights having to be paid for by the seller. I am glad that the minister has agreed to clarify this and that the seller will be required to refund only any amount paid to the seller and not expenses.

We also recommended that the processes applicable to increasing site rent ensure the transparency of the rent review calculations in relocatable home parks. That was in answer to the many concerns we heard from stakeholders about unfair and inequitable rent increases. We heard from stakeholders like Barb Bowtell, the secretary of the Burpengary Pine Village Home Owners Committee. A few in this place know Barb well. She is a tireless campaigner for change. Barb said—

We all bought into these parks with the expectation of enjoying our retirement years without intimidation or interruption of a quiet peaceful life. It just does not happen. The biggest concern for home owners is site fee increases, especially the farce of the market review. We are in fact being priced out of our own homes. The majority of park operators work in conjunction with each other. They all use the same valuers to conduct market reviews and the same law firm when cases go to QCAT. In this way, one park—let us call them park A—conducts a market review and increases their site fees. Then another park—park B—compares their park to park A and increases their site fees. This is like a dog chasing its own tail. It goes on and on, year after year, and is never ending.

Park operators deliberately inflate the market review increases, knowing that home owners can only claim that the increase is excessive. The act in its present form does nothing to address how these market reviews are conducted or require the park operator to prove that the parks are comparable. Amenities and services differ considerably between all parks. The last amendments to the act were introduced back in 2010 and very little has changed. Not many of us have another seven years to wait.

Our recommendation on that situation has been answered and supported. The government's response is that the bill contains a number of provisions that work to ensure the transparency of the calculation of site rent increases. I am sure Barb will be happy with that. This includes a requirement that the owner ensure that the site agreement states the basis for working out the amount of an increase in site rent and that site rent increases under a site rent agreement may only be calculated using one




basis at a time. They cannot use CPI and market review together; they can only use one at a time. In addition, the government will develop communications material to support and assist residents in understanding the process for site rent increases.

Another recommendation was to address concerns about park owners not passing on pensioner rebates to residents. The residents will be happy that this recommendation was also accepted.

I would like to finish by thanking the members of the Public Works and Utilities Committee as we have had a pretty heavy workload—thank you, Minister de Brenni and Minister Bailey—over recent months and have put in a lot of time. We have dealt with tow trucks, solar rebates, this bill and the subcontractors bill. I would like to thank the members for Murrumba, Lytton, Redlands, Southport and Whitsunday for the largely collegial way we have worked through these bills.

I cannot thank the committee without mentioning the hard work that the secretariat staff put in. Thank you Kate, Rachelle, Lyn and Michelle for your tireless efforts. Thanks to Greg for coming on board to help out with this particular bill. This is a bill that shows what our government is about and how we listen and act to help those in the community who need it most. I proudly commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.20 pm): I am pleased to rise in the House this afternoon to speak to the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill. As we heard from the chair of the committee, there is no doubt that this has been a very rigorous and complex review of the proposed changes. The legislation before the House today seeks to amend the Housing Act 2003, the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003, the Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 and the Retirement Villages Act 1999. The three days of hearings that the committee conducted were very informative. At times they were somewhat controversial and they were challenging. There were groups within the public briefings that had very different perspectives on matters. The matters considered within this legislation are, at the very least, significantly complex.

I would like to begin with the comments of one submitter who I will not name, but it is a matter of public record. He described certain aspects of retirement living arrangements, and he said that the biggest mistake he ever made in his life was to buy into a home park. He went on to say that he felt that the place he resided had been granted a licence to rip him off and was a form of legalised elder abuse. He also went on to say that the act introduced by Peter Beattie favoured park owners. He was referring, of course, to the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003. I share that not to particularly embarrass any side of government but to highlight the depth of passion and the broad concerns of people. That is why it is so important that we get this bill right.

Another submission we received from Associated Residential Parks Queensland Inc stated—

Having reviewed the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017 that was introduced into the Queensland Parliament ... by the Minister ... we must conclude that the admirable objectives outlined—

within the bill—

(which we fully support) simply cannot be met by the Bill in its current form.

They went on to say—

This is because the review of the Act as contained in the Bill is far too limited in its approach and totally misses the point in that it fails to address some of the fundamental flaws, inequities and biases (in favour of Park Owners/Operators) that are embedded in the current Act—

the act of 2003—

and which seriously undermine the very protections and rights of seniors that the statements made above refer to. Some of these are covered in our submission.

They lodged a fairly significant submission. They also presented very passionately, and I think they may have been in the chair's electorate at Kallangur when they came to see us the day we were there. They went on to say—

However, we consider that the Bill in its current form does not introduce the essential reforms to ensure seniors' rights are adequately protected. We believe that the major change promised cannot be achieved through the minimalist approach adopted.

We therefore urgently request that the Bill be withdrawn to facilitate a further and fundamental review so that the above matters can be fully addressed and the "*major shake-up of the industry*" (including limitations on rent increase and the simplification of contracts) as promised actually achieved.

The committee made some 18 recommendations, and I was very pleased to hear the minister yesterday speak directly to many of those recommendations. I am pleased to hear that the minister on many levels is listening; however, I still have some overarching concerns about the bill. As the chair

mentioned, some time ago the previous LNP government initiated a significant review of these particular matters, and with the change of government the incoming Labor government effectively sat on these issues for some time. In the review that was presented to our committee in the first year of this government's term one very clear message was delivered to us by the department and those that commented on the review in respect of retirement village living, manufactured homes and home parks, and that is simply the overarching need of people to heed the old adage of buyer beware.

At that time there were a number of brochures produced and, as members, we were encouraged to put them in our offices. They have been distributed to many state government department offices around the state, and I believe that the department of housing also provided that information online and to constituents across the state of Queensland. The overarching concern—and I think it is still a matter of concern—is that if you are considering moving into a retirement village, or if you are contemplating purchasing a manufactured home, or if you are planning to purchase a mobile home in a mixed-use park like a caravan park, then it is absolutely imperative that family members get good advice and they fully consider entry and exit costs and matters like the actual rent that needs to be paid.

On one occasion I visited a particular park on the Gold Coast. The residents there were principally pretty happy with the arrangements; in fact, I would say they were very happy. It was the village at Harbourside near Harbour Town shopping centre. I must confess that, as a member of parliament, I was a little surprised to learn the amount of fees that people in these parks pay on a weekly basis. I always thought that body corporate fees in high-rise apartments or apartment blocks could be expensive, but site fees or body corporate fees—whatever term you want to use—range from as low as \$80 or \$90 a week to over \$200 a week. If you go to a manufactured home park of a more luxurious style where people are absolutely paying for a lifestyle, they are significantly higher. For some average Queenslanders those fees are almost akin to paying rental for a property outright.

I think the message from the department—and the significant message that came out of the review that the LNP conducted previously—is simply that the buyer absolutely does need to beware and people need to make considered decisions. That is why some of the proposed changes in this legislation are so important. One of those is to simplify the contractual arrangements, to provide a template and to introduce a cooling-off period so the agreement cannot proceed if there is either no legal advice or if the purchaser does not sign some sort of formal agreement to waive their rights after a minimum period. I am pleased that the minister has listened to the committee's recommendations in that regard, and I am pleased that those provisions have been included in the legislation.

One of the concerns that I have about the legislation—and I did touch on this in my statement of reservation—is that the one-size-fits-all approach that has been adopted with these changes is not really consistent with the recommendations that came out of the review. I simply want to highlight to the House that, sadly, I think we will have to revisit this legislation again in the future. While there are some good fundamental changes proposed in this legislation and it is important to protect the rights of consumers, my concern is that we have not gone far enough and we have not gone deep enough in considering some of the challenges.

I will provide one example. Some people purchase luxury homes in manufactured home parks where the price tag is upwards of half a million dollars and in some cases over a million dollars. They are moving into a lifestyle resort and they are fully aware of what they are doing. While the dwellings are by definition a manufactured home or a mobile home, they could best be described as fairly permanent. Compare that with people living in a mobile home or manufactured home in an old caravan park. As we read in one submission, many of these mobile homes were either towed in or craned in 20 or 30 years ago, the wheels were removed, they were mounted on some better blocks and they were connected to power with an extension cord plugged into the side that runs across into one of those typical power towers that you see in caravan parks. There is a significant difference between that type of manufactured home or mobile home park and the more modern versions we are seeing.

I am concerned that those two styles of park, and some variations in between, are being considered in the same section of the act. They are different. We heard from some submitters, and I visited one of the parks on the south side of Brisbane. We heard concerns around the safety of residents in some of these older homes—that some of these older mobile homes that had been towed in or dropped in do not meet current safety standards and the wiring is not always what it should be. In fact, one of the concerns expressed by a park owner was that when many of these homes were established in these mixed-use parks the demand on power was perhaps for a single television and a few small appliances and there may or may not have been an air conditioner attached to those dwellings, but as time moves on the air conditioners and televisions are getting bigger and the other demands in terms of devices and lifestyle are drawing more on power. For those mixed-use parks there are concerns

about the adequacy of the safety switch devices in the towers or in the homes themselves. There are also concerns around the embedded network that provides the power. In some parks—many of them have already done this—there is a need to upgrade those embedded networks to meet the modern demands of mobile home park dwellers.

Other issues were highlighted in terms of mixed-use parks. I very briefly discussed one concern with the chair of the committee just yesterday and he made the point that it is probably not relevant to the legislation, but I believe it is a concern that needs to be highlighted. That is, many mixed-use parks were not set up to accommodate or deal with people as they age in place. The exit provisions in these environments may not deal with the fact that an elderly person passes on, leaving a child with a disability or other issues living in that park environment. The operators of one park I visited gave me some fairly concerning examples of day-to-day issues they were having to manage. Tourists were coming in and going out of an afternoon or evening but some permanent residents in the park presented challenging behaviours. Both permanent and short-term residents deserve to have the amenity and a lifestyle they can feel comfortable with, but on occasions they are confronted with the challenging, or even in some cases criminal, behaviour of other residents. Unfortunately, this legislation does not deal with how mixed-use park owners can address those issues. I am not sure that any other legislation really deals with that, either.

I am largely pleased with the minister's response in terms of the recommendations made by the committee. The amendments circulated by the minister seek to address about 70 per cent of the recommendations made by the committee. One area of concern that I still have—opposition members feel quite strongly about this—relates to the minimum housing standards. We are not for one moment suggesting that there should not be minimum housing standards, but our concern relates to the vagaries of what those standards will be. We did receive a very robust submission from the Property Owners' Association of Queensland. We also heard from the REIQ and a number of other organisations. The submission of the Property Owners Association of Queensland submission states—


Whilst we agree that all rental properties have sanitation, drainage and be of suitable standards for renting, the proposed minimum standards as outlined in this Amendment Bill go beyond that. We consider that some of the standards suggested are an upgrade of the property.

I will not go on and read the other comments—I am conscious of time—but they are all there in the submissions. I had hoped that the minister in his second reading speech would provide us with a clear set of proposed standards. I note that he said there will be further consultation on that issue. He has maintained that position throughout the last few months as we have considered this bill and we have made requests of the department and others for further clarification. What concerns me, however, is that, because those standards will be determined under regulation, the first time the parliament will have an opportunity to review those standards will be after they have already come into effect. We will only get to see them through a subordinate legislation report to the committee and then it may well be too late.

I know that others on the other side of the House have suggested that we are being a little paranoid. Good housing supply is critical for all Queenslanders. While I understand the need for minimum housing standards, I also understand that imposing higher standards on landlords and on the providers of accommodation, whether they be not-for-profit organisations or private investors, results in cost impacts flowing through to the consumer—to the tenants—and eventually that leads to higher rents.

Housing standards need to be practical and fair, but the concern of opposition members is that those standards should not be onerous. At one point there was some discussion that there may be minimum room sizes set, for example. I believe in freedom of choice—and freedom of speech, for that matter. For all sorts of reasons people make choices about the cost of rental accommodation and where they live. When we purchased our first house in Broken Hill some 30-odd years ago—some members may well laugh and I will sound like an old-timer telling this story—we purchased an old miner's humpy with a dirt floor in the kitchen, no hot-water system and a very basic shower in the shed out the back. We did that for a reason. We wanted to spend a bit of time renovating it. We put some basic equipment in to meet our minimum housing standards, but living in that particular dwelling for a couple of years gave us the opportunity to put money aside for our first home and helped to set ourselves up. We chose a lesser housing standard for a very strategic reason in our lives. I think that right across Queensland—possibly near the beach, in regional centres or on cattle properties—some people will choose, for financial reasons or because they love that lifestyle, what some of us may see as an inappropriate housing standard. It is important that we do not go so far with these standards that we start to limit the supply of affordable housing across the state.

There is so much more that I want to say about this issue, but I am out of time. We are supporting this legislation, but we do have reservations about whether it goes far enough. I look forward to subsequent reviews proposed by the minister.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.39 pm): Today I rise to speak to the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill. I want to make a couple of comments with regard to the contribution made by the member for Southport, who spoke very passionately about tenants in manufactured home parks. What a shame you did not stand up and make representation on their behalf during the Nicholls-Newman era.

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Ms PEASE:** The Nicholls-Newman government defunded CAMRA, which provided advocacy and advice for residents in manufactured home parks. That was a disgrace—an absolute disgrace! Some of the most marginalised people in our communities were impacted and devastated.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Lytton, I ask you to direct your comments through the chair please. Member for Southport, please do not debate across the chamber.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I would ask for your protection then because the member is not debating the bill; she is just having a go at me about the past.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Ms PEASE:** I will continue my contribution to the legislation that we are debating today. In terms of minimum standards, we are talking about rental properties, not investment or purchased properties. I say that as a reminder. I often speak in this place about good Labor values, and this Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017 is another example of good Labor values and reforms that protect vulnerable people in our communities, because that is what Labor people do. The Palaszczuk government's Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-2027 was released in June 2017 and a key action under the housing legislation 2017-2020 action plan was to ensure consumers are protected and to reform and modernise Queensland's housing legislation framework.

The Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017 delivers key objectives of the Housing Strategy and action plan. The bill amends the Housing Act 2003, the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003, the Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002, the Retirement Villages Act 1999 and the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008. These amendments will ensure that vulnerable community members are supported to sustain tenancies in appropriate and secure housing that facilitates social, economic and cultural participation and support a fair and responsible housing system through reforms to legislation and regulations that enhance the safety and dignity of all Queenslanders, because that is the core of Labor values—that everyone has the right to a safe, secure and affordable place to live and that that home should be safe and secure from financial exploitation and that rental accommodation should meet minimum standards. I reiterate: rental properties should meet minimum standards to again ensure safe, secure and appropriate housing.

For most of us, including me, we have at one time or another been a tenant. In fact, more than one-third of Queenslanders live in rental accommodation and many raise their families in rented homes. My first experience of renting a property was in 1976 in a house at Kangaroo Point. This house had been flooded and had a quick touch-up job to get it back on the rental market. It was not great, but it was affordable. I was on a low income and could not afford anything fancy. After living there for a period of time, I realised that fancy this was not. The house had been split into two and my room was under the front veranda. I had to go outside to access my room and had to go back outside to get into the bathroom. I could not stand up due to the height of the ceiling and, as members can imagine, my room and, in fact, the entire house was full of unfriendly and unwelcome visitors—insects, rats and people from the street due to its location. However, for me and my fellow tenants, it was all we could afford. As members can imagine, I did not extend my lease and neither did my fellow tenants!

The Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017 will enable new minimum standards to be set around ventilation, cleanliness, protection from damp, the dimensions of rooms, laundry and cooking facilities, privacy and security, amongst other issues. Perhaps if this had been in place in 1976 I may still have been living in Kangaroo Point. These minimum standards are serious. In fact, they can be a life or death matter. Members may remember that in 2010 a Yeppoon father walked on to the front balcony in his rented home while holding his seven-week-old daughter in his arms. A rotted floorboard gave way under his foot. He fell forward and his baby girl tragically fell to her death. The Coroner in her findings recommended that Queensland law be amended to ensure that verandas are checked and found to be safe before homes are placed on the rental market.

The Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act establishes the rules for residential and rooming accommodation in Queensland and sets out the rights and obligations of tenants, lessors and agents. In 2015 the Queensland government committed to prescribe minimum housing standards for private rental accommodation that will be extended to social housing as an equity measure. Amendments to the act are required to allow the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Regulation 2009 to prescribe the minimum housing standards for rental accommodation. This will ensure a consistent standard of rental properties, thereby improving access to safe and secure housing. Minimum rental standards are good for tenants and they are also good for business. Local governments support minimum standards. In fact, just last week on 18 October the Local Government Association of Queensland passed a motion to lobby the Queensland government to grant regulatory powers to enforce building maintenance on residential rental properties to an acceptable standard.


I know firsthand of the issues that residents of manufactured homes face. During 2012 I worked for the Caravan and Manufactured Home Residents Association, which provided advocacy and advice for residents of caravan parks and manufactured homes. I worked there until this important service, like so many others, was defunded under the Newman-Nicholls government. Some of these families who live in manufactured homes are amongst the most vulnerable members of our communities. Sadly, sometimes some park owners make life very difficult for residents, with unscheduled site rent increases, the reduction of services or amenities, general bullying and other tactics. The objective of the amendments to the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003 is to increase transparency in the relationship between park owners and home owners and strengthen consumer protections to provide more security and confidence to home owners. Increasing transparency in the relationships between park owners, staff and home owners will be achieved through improved precontractual disclosure processes and will provide clear, enforceable behaviour and management standards for park owners and home owners. It will also provide a process for in-park dispute resolution before matters are escalated to QCAT.

Consumer protections will be strengthened by providing more security and confidence to home owners by limiting rent increases under the site agreement to one per year and to increase the transparency of market rent review calculations. These amendments will address concerns for home owners who may have entered site agreements without fully understanding their rights and obligations and provide improved precontractual disclosure processes to introduce a two-stage process prior to the final execution of the site agreement. This will mean that disclosure of the home owner information document and site agreement is made progressively and precontractual disclosure documents will contain strong recommendations to seek legal advice. The department will also produce fact sheets and a series of videos to help people understand what is involved in buying into a residential park.

We must ensure that our Queensland seniors can enjoy peace of mind in their retirement years by giving them stringent consumer protections that they need and deserve. Our seniors and retirees have given so much to Queensland over their working lives. It is only fair and proper that they and their families should be able to retire with peace of mind and security. The amendments to the Retirement Villages Act 1999 will increase transparency in the relationships between operators and residents and provide greater security and confidence to residents and provide protections against potential financial exploitation.

Many of the amendments also address residents' and consumer advocates' concerns raised recently in the media and with government across Australia about issues in the retirement village industry, and these include improved precontractual disclosure to ensure prospective residents understand the costs of entering, living in and leaving the village; mandatory payment of exit entitlements 18 months after the resident leaves the village, except in cases of operator hardship; enforceable behaviour standards; and the introduction of standard form contracts and improved financial transparency. These reforms will bring peace of mind to not only residents but also their families. Indeed, these amendments are important to each and every one of us. We have family, friends and constituents who will all benefit from these sensible reforms.

I would like to thank everyone who lodged a submission and those who attended our public hearing. I thank the chairman, the member for Kallangur; the secretariat; and my fellow committee members. This legislation is yet again another example of the Palaszczuk government delivering important reforms that will ensure that Queenslanders—seniors, families and tenants—can enjoy peace of mind either in their retirement or in their tenancy by giving stringent consumer protections that we all need and deserve. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (4.50 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017. To care for and protect the vulnerable and elderly in our community is an intention that we can all applaud. I think we can all agree that the

availability of safe, functional and affordable housing defines our society. I want to note that, yesterday, the minister considered the 18 recommendations in sequence. He has responded to all of them and taken action on most of those recommendations in terms of amendments to this legislation.

As many aspects of this legislation have been well articulated already, I will focus on the amendments that the bill makes to the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act and outline my concerns, and those of my community, about them. Clause 82 refers to prescribed minimum housing standards. It proposes an amendment to chapter 1 part 3 of the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act to allow a regulation to prescribe minimum housing standards for all residential premises and/or inclusions that are covered by the RTRA Act under a residential tenancy agreement, moveable dwelling agreement, or a rooming accommodation agreement. The regulation may also prescribe minimum standards for facilities in a moveable dwelling park.

The explanatory notes advise the following—

The minimum housing standards aim to ensure residential premises, inclusions and/or moveable dwelling park facilities meet identified standards to ensure they are fit for human habitation.

We have no idea what these prescribed minimum standards will be. The bill proposes that those standards cover sanitation, drainage, cleanliness and repair; ventilation and insulation; protection from damp and its effects; construction, condition, structures, safety and situation of the premises; the dimensions of rooms in the premises; privacy and security; the provision of water supply, storage and sanitary facilities; laundry and cooking facilities; lighting; freedom from vermin infestation; and energy efficiency.

The explanatory notes further advise—

The individual matters listed may or may not have standards prescribed in the regulation, and the list does not preclude a regulation from establishing a standard about another matter not listed.

In essence, the legislation is an open book on what the minimum standards will be and they can be delivered through a head of power under regulation. There is no scrutiny by this parliament of those minimum standards. As I see it, the problem is that the bulk of the rental market is provided by private investors. We are saying to the market, 'You are going to have to change the minimal standards on a whole host of things that are yet to be described.' For me, that means that there will be significant investor risk. Under those circumstances, I would not consider investing in a rental property.

These circumstances will never change. This legislation embeds that minimum housing standards can change at any time for any reason and those changes will not be scrutinised by this parliament until they appear in a regulation, in which case we all know that any challenge to that change in the regulation will not succeed.

I have grave concerns about what these minimum standards will mean for our private rental market. A number of stakeholders raised the following concerns about the proposed amendments: additional lessor costs associated with compliance may result in increased rents and impact on housing affordability; tenants should not be able to demand an upgrade of the property during a tenancy; when prospective tenants view a dwelling they take into account the amount they can afford to pay and the standard of the property and there should be no need to set an artificial benchmark that could well be higher than reasonable user expectations; tenancies may not be renewed and there may be a possible reduction in properties available for rent, putting more pressure on public housing and community housing; the point at which a premises is to be let is not clearly defined and could lead to confusion as to which residential premises the amendment would refer to; most of the issues the regulation intends to address are already covered to some extent by existing building legislation and if there are deficiencies the building legislation should be amended so as to retain consistency in standards regardless of who is the occupant; and the minimum housing standards should refer only to items that are not currently covered by existing building codes and regulations.


To me, much of that seems like common sense. The following further concerns were raised by stakeholders: minimum housing standards should be consistent with the objectives of the Housing Strategy and not extend to matters beyond this scope, such as energy efficiency; the inclusion of the dimensions of rooms in the premises, along with privacy and security, are of concern—many existing properties may not be able to meet these standards and some, such as character houses and heritage properties, may not be able to be modified; more detail is required and consultation should be undertaken on the draft regulation; the regulation should reflect the current diversity and status quo of premises and not impose unachievable obligations on lessors; the proposed regulation will lead to an increase in disputes between lessors and tenants resulting in an explosion of costs for the Residential

Tenancies Authority, QCAT and the Magistrates Court; transitional provisions must ensure smooth implementation and fact sheets should be developed that state clearly when and how the minimum standards apply; there are monitoring and enforcement issues, including recommendations that independent oversight is required; and the existing framework, processes and staffing bodies be used to reduce the cost of regulating, monitoring and evaluating.

I want to reflect on my own experience, which did not involve buying a property but moving into a property that likely did not meet any of those standards that have been prescribed. It was a shack in a fishing village located halfway between River Heads and Tin Can Bay. There was no insulation and several leaks in the roof. I lived in the boatshed out the back of the property, which had a gap of about a foot at the top of the barn doors and a half-foot gap at the bottom. We had to walk outside to the dunny. Sometimes, when we did that we got a bit of a shock from the water tank, which had the lighting cable from the shack to the dunny on it. For much of the time I was there we had only cold water. When it rained heavily, the water would come up and go across the concrete floor from the front door and out the back. There was one bedroom. My sister slept on a bunk bed in the lounge room.

Without that opportunity to rent a place that was clearly very, very cheap we would likely have stayed in a domestic violence situation. I think this House ought to consider that, if there is any risk of private investment failing the rental market, affordability going up and availability going down, it will have wide-reaching implications for our community. I think that this part of the bill that has been put in at the last minute is ill considered, ill conceived and gives no comfort to the biggest part of the rental investment sector in Queensland.

I have little faith in Labor leading this process. Labor does not know a bureaucracy that it cannot bloat; it does not know a private enterprise that it cannot kill with regulation. I would implore the government to reconsider this aspect of the bill, to take it out of this bill and to treat it as a separate legislative entity in and of itself. I think it is too important to leave it as it is. With those comments I will conclude my contribution. Thank you.

 **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) (5.01 pm): I am pleased to rise in support of this important piece of legislation. These long, overdue amendments will provide much needed protections for residents of retirement villages, manufactured homes and residential services. These amendments will support vulnerable Queenslanders and bring some much needed transparency to this sector. It is a particularly fantastic result for our seniors who can now feel more secure in their homes. These amendments will increase transparency and fairness in the relationship between park owners and home owners and strengthen consumer protections to provide more confidence to home owners. These amendments strengthen consumer protections and give more rights and power back to our home owners.


I particularly commend the amendments to the Manufactured Home (Residential Parks) Act. Around 25,000 Queenslanders now live in manufactured homes. In my own electorate there are 1,103 manufactured homes. I know from listening to many of these residents that they have felt vulnerable and exploited under the current legislation. These residents came to me upset as unforeseen additional site fees had left them struggling to live off their fixed incomes: their pensions. They came to me concerned for their safety as ambulances were unable to access their homes. I am proud today to be supporting amendments that address these issues. I am so proud to stand up today as part of a Palaszczuk Labor government in support of our seniors.

These amendments include limitations on rental increases, prohibiting additional fees around utilities and meter readings, behavioural standards for park owners, a new staged precontractual disclosure process—so important—and safeguards to ensure emergency services and health workers have access to our residential parks. They also provide opportunities for issues and disputes to be resolved without engaging the formal tribunal system. These are such important changes that will give more power back to our home owners, creating a fairer system.

I particularly acknowledge the work of my community of Waterford and all they have done in the campaign for these amendments. This is a win for all of the residents of Palm Lake Resort, Regal Waters, River Glen Haven and Active Lifestyles Bethania who joined me and Minister de Brenni at multiple community forums to discuss the issues facing residents of manufactured home parks. I want to thank the minister and his department for their commitment to listening and supporting residents in my electorate.

One of the first events the minister, the member for Springwood, attended in his role as the Minister for Housing was a community forum at the Bethania Community Centre to hear from residents about the exploitation they faced under the current legislation. He promised them that the Palaszczuk government would deliver much needed reform to improve the rights of home owners and today I am proud to join him in support of this legislation.

I acknowledge the work and perseverance of Beryl Dwyer, Paul Miller, Noel Wright and many others in my electorate for their role in campaigning for these amendments. This is important legislation that will support vulnerable Queenslanders and, importantly, gives more power to home owners. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (5.04 pm): I rise to speak on the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017. I say at the outset that the LNP finds it very difficult to support the minimum standards sections of this bill as they currently stand. Whatever the merits of this bill, the reality is that the people of Queensland have been denied them because this government has done nothing about the reform process initiated by the previous LNP government.

I would like to spend most of my time in my short presentation speaking about the retirement village aspects of this bill. There are many people in the Noosa electorate who are potentially affected by this legislation. The groundwork for a review of retirement living regulations was laid down more than four years ago. Back then questions were asked, consultations held, assessments made and recommendations formulated. Unfortunately, the current government chose to ignore the considerable volume of work done by the parliamentary committee back in 2012. This has left the issue unresolved and dangling in the wind, along with the valid concerns of thousands of Queenslanders who live in retirement villages or in residential parks.

The second reality is that, even if the bill is passed in whatever final form, it is completely unlikely to be enacted because we could very well find ourselves into an election campaign before it receives royal assent. The government can say whatever it likes, make whatever promises and give whatever assurances it will, but it will all in that case mean nothing to those people whose lives are affected by this legislation.

After more than three years of doing nothing this government wants to give the impression that it is actually doing something. This is the same government that tried this week to win over voters with a \$50 per year electricity rebate. One cannot buy much for 96 cents nowadays, not even a state election. Nothing in what the minister has said during this debate, and the few amendments he has proposed, has eased the grave and well-founded concerns held by the LNP members of the Public Works and Utilities Committee. I support the contention of the committee deputy chair, the member for Southport, in his statement of reservation that this bill is—


... poorly thought through. It holds real potential to do way more harm than good and from the overwhelming feedback from key stakeholders it's clear our views are not just those of Members of the Opposition.

The minister in his second reading speech exhorted the House to treat this bill with a sense of urgency. He said—

This House must progress this bill so that the community can have confidence in their choice of accommodation, especially in their retirement. It is about fairness and security for Queenslanders who have put their money and their faith in the forms of accommodation outlined under this bill.

I say at this point that I think the minister does deserve a bit of a pat on the back for working so quickly on the 18 recommendations that were put forward. I also welcome those elements of the bill that will make retirement village residential contracts simpler and more transparent.

The annoying thing for many retirement village residents in the Noosa electorate is that the improvements could have been made three years ago. The minister openly acknowledged that many Queenslanders find themselves subject to rip-offs and dodgy residential agreements and that many families struggle to help elderly parents whose retirement savings have been whittled down by unfair fees and hidden charges. The ultimate insult to Queenslanders and this House is not the minister's inaction during the past three years; it was delivered during his second reading speech in which he tried to blame the federal government for the fact that there are now more people renting than buying houses in Queensland. This bill is not up to the standards required by the Queenslanders who are impacted by it.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (5.09 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak on this bill, which we know colloquially as the home parks and retirement villages bill. For a long time, this has been a very personal issue for me. I came across the issues relating primarily to home parks in 1999,



when I first ran for council in the Caboolture area. I went to Bindawalla Gardens to talk to the residents about the issues that they had. I saw what we needed to do to make their lives better. In fact, I think that one of the things that brought me to this place was that drive to improve the quality of life of those residents. For me, resolving the many issues faced by those residents has been personal.

This bill aims to deliver protections and security for older Queenslanders who have invested a lot in parks and villages. People have told me that they regard themselves as co-investors in the parks, considering the amount of capital they have spent buying or renting houses and their rental fees. They are significant contributors to the capital. This bill ensures that they have a real say in determining things such as rental increases. It ensures that residents of retirement villages have a greater degree of consumer protection. The bill ensures that the setting of fees is transparent and that, at the end of the tenancies, they or their families face a fairer process to protect their investment in the retirement villages.

Having heard from many residents' associations at the hearings, it was clear to me that they thought that the bill was necessary and they liked where we are going with it. John Tucker from Halcyon Landing Home Owners Committee said—

In broad terms, we from our side are happy to see this amendment bill brought forward generally as it is.

Stanley Stutz from the Palm Lake Resort in Deception Bay in my own community said—

Firstly, I would like to commend your committee on the work done. It is very welcomed by residents ...

Ray Toomey, also from Palm Lake Resort, said, 'The document we now have is far superior to what we have been working with.'

I put on the record my very deep personal thanks to all of those hundreds of residents of home villages and retirement villages who have spoken to me about their lives not only over the course of this bill but also over many years. They know that their lives in the villages, their rights and investments could be better protected and they have looked to the government to help provide them with that protection. At the end of this debate, I hope to be able to tell them that we have delivered that.

However, this is not about only the residents; it is also about creating security for the industry. It is crucial that we create a stable environment for owners of home villages and retirement villages. The product that they supply to the housing market is critical for the housing mix that we have in Queensland. They provide affordable housing for many of our older Queenslanders. The owners told me that they cannot improve their villages unless they attract investment or get a bank to lend them money. To do that, they need security and stability. We recognise the importance of the industry and we want to create an attractive environment to deliver stability and security so that owners can reinvest in their villages and make them better for older Queenslanders.

I will look specifically at some of the reforms that the bill delivers. On the issue of disclosure, park owners must give new residents 21 days to examine the documents before they sign the agreement. If a new resident waives that right, still there must be 14 days and they must have a form from their lawyer saying that they know what they are doing. I foreshadow that some amendments will be moved on these issues.

I think the dispute resolution procedure for home parks is a great addition. It is now a three-step process. It has been taken from the retirement villages. The first step is sending a letter, the second step is getting a mediator from QCAT and the third step is going off to QCAT, which is a much better process than going straight to QCAT as happened previously. The bill contains more recognition of the home owners committees, which is a great addition. 'Park liaison committee' or 'interested entity' are recognised now in many parts of the bill, specifically in amended section 81 or amended section 69D. I think that is a great step forward for those bodies that represent the home owners.

We heard a lot about the issue of site rent increases. It has been a very vexed issue for many years. One of the greatest things that will be very much appreciated and welcomed by residents is that, under the bill, there will be only one site rental fee increase per year that must be based on either the CPI or a market review of the rent, but not both. How the rent is increased must be set out in a document. It includes all sites and it happens on the same day every year. The bill will clarify the process and make it so much fairer for many people.

We heard a bit about the issue of valuations. If a rent increase is done on the basis of a market review, the park owner or their valuer must consult with the interested entities 63 days before the increase. The park owner must give each home owner 35 days notice before any increase is made.

The bill ensures that valuers are properly qualified and independently registered, which will help prevent inaccurate valuations and deliver some rigour to the process. Park owners have expressed concern that residents could keep asking for valuations if they are not satisfied. I believe that there is enough in section 70A to prevent that. A dispute would have to come before the tribunal, which would have to be satisfied that the increase is legitimate and fair. I note that park owners have pointed out that it is hard to get an experienced valuer who knows the parks. I recognise that just saying there has to be an independent valuer may not fix the problem. I do recognise their problems.

Charging an administrative fee for reading an electricity meter is prohibited. That is very welcomed by the residents of home parks. We will have a new code of behaviour between park owners and home owners. I think this is a great addition and it will be very much welcomed. People should look at that code of behaviour and see that they are protected.

For retirement villages we will be delivering a lot more transparency, especially in regard to financial matters. There will be more transparency for residents when they first sign up, and also in relation to what they will pay during their tenancy and what they will get at the end of their tenancy. I think we have dealt very well with the issue of reinstatement. A former resident must leave the home in the same condition as it was in when they started occupying it, apart from fair wear and tear. That will not apply to a current residential contract.


The bill contains a lot more new disclosure provisions relating to, for example, the funds that the scheme operator is required to keep, the retirement village facilities and whether the resident and the scheme operator are to share any capital gain or loss. All of those things will be set out in documents. I look forward to seeing those documents come forward. The bill also ensures that an exit fee must be paid within 18 months of the termination date. We have talked about the issue of buyback. I believe we have come to a good place on the issue of buyback. I note that, if an issue arises, the scheme operator can take it to QCAT. The bill also states that the home owners committee must give their assent to any redevelopment.

There is so much more that I want to talk about, but I will touch on just a few more issues before I finish. I want to rebut some of the things we have heard today. I clarify that we have not sat on our hands for two years. I acknowledge Minister Leeanne Enoch, a former minister for housing, who made sure that the ministerial working party was on task. It took many months of negotiating the many issues, such as section 99A in relation to electricity, to come to the right place. I note that the ministerial working party was a continuation of the one that met for a number of years under the former government. Therefore, it is inaccurate to say that we have sat on our hands. I know that the ministerial working party has worked through the two acts to get to a position where industry and home owners can both agree.

We are clarifying taxation issues relating to mixed-use parks. As the minister said, we know that more works needs to be done on this issue and I know that it will be done in the future. We have talked about the issue of rental standards. This bill is not about imposing bureaucracy. Around half of all Queenslanders live in rental properties. It is incredible to think that, in this day and age, we have not set standards for the homes that people rent.

Finally, I say to the residents who will be listening to this debate that this is not the end of the road in terms of the reform process for this industry. In fact, it is the beginning of the process. There is a lot of review built into this bill. I thank the minister for all his tremendous work on this bill. He has pointed out that there will be more changes down the track for the regulatory systems because the industry is growing and evolving.

Different building products will come onto the market. Retirement villages and home villages will look increasingly the same. There will be new financial models and new operators. We will keep on with the process of delivering reform and making sure consumer protections are delivered to Queenslanders. It gives me great pleasure to see this bill debated in the House. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.20 pm): I rise to address the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017. I do so on the basis that the Glass House electorate is fortunate to be the home of a number of manufactured home residential parks, and why wouldn't it be! It is a fantastic place to live. Obviously our older citizens, our senior citizens, choose to retire in the electorate of Glass House, whether it be in places like Beerburum, the Glass House Mountains or on the Blackall Range at Maleny.

One of the frustrations that I have heard from many of them was that the great work that was started under the LNP government in reviewing the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003 and the Retirement Villages Act 1999 was not continued and was not picked up. A submission to the Queensland parliamentary inquiry into the adequacy of protections for financial arrangements for seniors by the National Seniors, one of the peak bodies, recommended that the government continue to review and implement those changes to ensure that adequate consumer protections are in place. Like a lot of things with the Labor Party, it took a *Four Corners* program for them to do anything about this. Unfortunately, they only react to what the unions demand of them or what *Four Corners* dictate to them.

I want to concentrate my comments on the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act. In passing, I mention that my family had personal experience of what we are trying to address with these amendments to the Retirement Villages Act 1999. It is ironic that both my father and mother have had longstanding careers in the retirement village industry, yet they were caught out by a situation presented to them on the death of my grandmother. We are seeing some sensible moves in this area. There are concerns, which I will come to in a moment.

The amendments to the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act look to increase transparency in the relationships between park owners and home owners and strengthen consumer protection to provide more security and confidence to home owners. The reforms include a new staged precontractual disclosure process, limitations on rent increases, prescribed behavioural standards for park owners, staff and home owners and other related measures.


Whilst there is some good in this bill, the LNP committee members did put in a dissenting report. They noted from a number of stakeholder submissions that there could be potential for significant unintended consequences. Many stakeholders described the bill as poorly conceived and regulatory overreach that would do little to redress genuine concerns in residential and mobile parks. Many said it had the potential to cause a flight of investment in the private rental sector and lead to a shortage of rental accommodation. Higher compliance costs would also be passed on to tenants. As a number of my colleagues on this side of the House have said, a key area of concern is the government's failure to specify the minimum housing standards in either the bill or any accompanying regulation. This was again noted by many stakeholders.

I want to pick up on part of the dissenting report where it spoke about the one-size-fits-all approach within this legislation in respect of manufactured homes. It says that it does not adequately address the significant unique differences between modern newer manufactured home villages and older style accommodation found in mixed use caravan parks. That was very obviously the case at Sunstone Gardens in Maleny. Previous reviews have recommended separate sections of the act be proposed to deal with these unique differences. The dissenting report says that the LNP opposition is concerned that the proposed legislation fails to address legitimate safety concerns raised in respect of many manufactured homes in mixed-use caravan parks and nor does it adequately address the rights of home owners or park owners in respect of exit provisions.

I conclude my comments by reflecting on that a bit more. I recently attended the LGAQ conference in Gladstone. At that conference I met Michelle Weston from the Caravan Parks Association of Queensland and we got talking about this bill. She drew my attention to their submission. She said that one of the points that does not appear to be addressed in the committee's report on the bill relates to those manufactured homes that many years ago were placed in parks as relocatable homes and long before legislation covered these types of structures. These structures were not built to a building code and were designed for medium-term accommodation only.

As the peak body representing mixed use parks in Queensland they recommended that, in the first instance, a separate site agreement be in place for these style parks. Having a different site agreement would allow park owners to have these structures removed when a home owner chooses to leave the park rather than having them assigned. If this recommendation does not meet with the desired outcomes, they recommend that the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003 have a clause included that requires that a home meet the building code before an assignment can take effect. This change would protect the existing resident while also protecting the park and ensuring the safety of the resident. I think that is a sensible suggestion. I understand there may be some changes made through amendment. I hope that is one of them. Michelle also pointed out that the Caravan Parks Association of Queensland also had concerns with clauses 69, 70, 71, 87, 99A of the bill. Like the LNP, they have concerns around the inclusion of a prescribed minimum housing standard.

I think there are some positives in this bill. It has taken too long to get here. There are also potential unintended consequences and a few gaps that remain. I look forward to hearing from the minister when he sums up the debate and during consideration in detail when he potentially addresses some of those concerns through amendments.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (5.26 pm): I rise to speak on the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill. On Thursday, 3 August 2017, 210 people attended a forum I hosted in Buderim regarding the retirement living sector. It was somewhat overwhelming to get the level of feedback I received on the issues affecting them. My constituents are my best researchers. A number of them, who are residents of retirement villages, have dissected the minister's bill with us. I thank them for their efforts. As one of my constituents stated—

Being the last residence that they purchase before nursing home or death, their working accumulated life savings have been contributed to the scheme operator of the Retirement Village to ensure a secure, safe and economically viable life plan for later years. This is particularly so when they are no longer capable of being as well informed as they were in their prime.

The Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill was introduced into parliament on 10 August 2017. At that time, Minister de Brenni stated—

This bill will introduce a regime of fairness to the retirement living sector in Queensland, making Queensland the national leader in consumer protection for older Australians.

Sadly, this does not appear to be the case. The amendments in this bill have been described to me as 'fiddling at the edges'. My constituents have identified a number of critical failings within the bill in terms of providing a balanced and fair approach to retirement living. These failings include, but are not limited to, failing to simplify contracts across the sector. I understand from feedback that a standard form contract, whilst being standard, will not always apply to a particular type of scheme in its entirety thereby leaving it up to residents to work out which parts apply. It is simply not the case that one size fits all.

Contracts are drawn up to allow the bleeding out of people's equity in their homes over time, with exit fees ranging from 25 per cent after eight years up to 35 per cent after only three years. I have even seen one which states in black and white, 'You will not participate in any capital gain but will participate in capital loss.' I note that the committee report states—

With regard to the Manufactured Homes Residential Parks Act and the Retirement Villages Act, the explanatory notes advised that manufactured home owner groups and seniors' groups generally supported the amendments as important steps to improve consumer confidence in these industries, however there was a general view that more needs to be done, much of it at the national level ...

As for trying to push responsibility onto the federal government, that is just a cop-out. These are Queenslanders living in environments which are regulated at a state level and the state should be addressing the issues in totality, not just fiddling at the edges. My constituents are telling me that a hell of a lot more needs to be done.

A number of the recommendations in the report call for the minister to report back in 12 months. These problems have been around for decades and they need to be fixed sooner rather than later. I have noted from the public hearing on 13 September that one scheme operator made reference to one of their contracts having a 40 per cent exit fee after only two years.

The bill fails to make provision for the introduction of a state ombudsman to provide oversight of the retirement living sector. Retirement living communities are operated and regulated under state legislation, so a state based, industry funded ombudsman is what is needed—yes, an industry funded ombudsman. Before anyone gets too excited, the scheme operators should not and would not be passing on the funding costs for the ombudsman to residents.

The bill allows for the general services charge payable by residents to be decided by the scheme operator. Under certain circumstances, an increase to the general services charge can be over and above the CPI. Section 113F(3) of the bill allows the scheme operator to override any residents' special resolution rejection of a 'redevelopment' plan simply by applying to the chief executive for an approval which rejects the residents' decision. Its present form virtually removes any real consumer protection for the residents despite that being a primary objective of the Retirement Villages Act. No criteria are given which the chief executive is required to use in making this decision; nor is there any provision for the chief executive to form a balanced view. The only information relating to the scheme operator's request comes from the scheme operator. There is no provision for the residents to present their rationale for their rejection of the proposal.

The bill fails to address the issue of non-contract services being diluted as time goes on. I am told that people enter into contracts with scheme operators on the basis that certain services are used in marketing the village to attract prospective residents, such as an in-house handyman or registered nurse medical care suddenly disappear without explanation. The scheme operators justify their actions because these services are not specifically mentioned in the contract. Many have provided feedback to me regarding the mandatory buyback period of 18 months stating that this should be reduced to nine months. Existing contracts should be included in the nine months mandatory buyback when they sell. The parliamentary Public Works and Utilities Committee heard evidence that—

... if the government truly intends to shift the balance of power in these industries then significant changes are needed to challenge the status quo, which still favours operators' profits over the needs of vulnerable residents. Further reform is needed to abolish exit fee charges and shorten the time frame for payout of exit entitlements, make it mandatory to obtain legal and financial advice before residents enter into retirement village contracts and introduce significant penalties for operators' noncompliance with behavioural standards.


What I have learned over the past few weeks about this bill tells me that it does not offer enough genuine support to the elderly and sometimes vulnerable people in retirement living communities. One of the most complained about issues that I hear is the complexity of retirement living legislation.

I was going to move a number of amendments today but after meeting with the minister I have to say that he has moved a lot with regard to what I spoke about earlier, and I greatly appreciate the work and effort that his staff have put in. They met with my residents of the Buderim community. They have listened to what they had to say. I am still not happy that we are not going to get an ombudsman and there are other issues that have to be changed, but time will change those things. This is a step in the right direction. It is moving forward to give better outcomes for those people living in retirement villages, and they are my people. I have a very large retirement village community in my electorate.

If One Nation holds the balance of power in government, we will introduce a less convoluted bill into parliament within the first 100 days of government to address the above failings of this bill and the current legislation. We would also be wanting to introduce a state based, industry funded ombudsman. By putting people before politics, I commit to ensuring that people will get a fair go in retirement living.

I think both parties have tried to come together to do the very best they can. I know they are limited by what they can do and I know the retirement village operators have a lot of pull out there in the public arena because they fund many election campaigns. The truth of the matter is that we have to do better. We represent those people and they are in their later years in life. We have to do whatever we can to legislate to make life better for those people.

I would like to have put forward an amendment today relating to putting an ombudsman in place, but I was informed that I was unable to do that: it would have to be a bill by itself. Minister, I hope parliament continues for a lot longer. Maybe the election will be called on Sunday—who knows? It is just a rumour going around the House. If we do come back in February, let us look at what we can do about having an ombudsman. Again, I genuinely thank the minister for what he has done. I will be supporting the bill today.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (5.34 pm), in reply: I want to start by thanking all members who have contributed to today's debate—in particular, members of the House who have referred to their own communities and particularly those members who have taken me to their communities to give me an opportunity to sit down with residents of retirement villages and manufactured home parks, and renters. In particular, I refer to the members for Kallangur, Murrumba and Waterford. I also want to acknowledge the member for Buderim, who has been dealing with me with a great degree of integrity and honesty on this particular issue in recent days.

It has been a very good debate on what are important reforms for many Queenslanders. The member for Burnett finished his speech by commending the bill, and I think that is admirable. I thank the member for Burnett. It is a good bill that will protect vulnerable Queenslanders, particularly our seniors, from rip-offs and exploitation. The shadow minister's support for the bill highlights though the deep divisions that still persist within the Liberal National Party in Queensland because, out of the committee, it looked like the member for Southport was gearing up for the mother of all scare campaigns. His statement of reservation was full of hyperbole, saying—

The LNP Members of the Public Works and Utilities Committee hold grave and well-founded concerns with this legislation proceeding.

He went on to write—

Should it be passed, it will not be responsible for *Building Better Futures*.

This one is my personal favourite—

Sadly, the Minister's response to amend the Housing Act 2003, Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003, Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002, Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008, and Retirement Villages Act 1999 is rushed, ill-conceived and highly likely to push up accommodation costs for our most vulnerable residents.

This is yet another classic example of the LNP trying to walk both sides of the fence. It is a very dangerous endeavour.

**Mr Hinchliffe:** It'd be very uncomfortable.

**Mr de BRENNI:** It would be very uncomfortable. They look very uncomfortable. I take the interjection from the member for Sandgate, the Leader of the House. It is a dangerous endeavour for anyone but especially for an opposition that is renowned to have such a lack of dexterity.

What is clear though is that in the committee a cabal of those opposite had a clear plan to set up a scare campaign. I can see it now: 'Labor and de Brenni are going to push up rents,' the ads would have read. 'Palaszczuk to regulate grannies into homelessness,' would have been the billboards. That is all bunkum. I am very happy that the member for Burnett's team seems to have won this fight—congratulations to the member for Burnett—over the member for Southport's team.

It is worth taking a moment to unpack some of the claims that the opposition were looking at using for this scare campaign. The first one I want to talk about is minimum standard provisions for rental accommodation. I understand we will get to talk about this in more detail later on. We are at the highest mark ever of human civilisation. No-one in human history has had it as well as they do today in this state and in this nation. Given our highly developed standard of living, I do not think it is too much to suggest that Queensland should enshrine a minimum standard of accommodation.

**Mr McEachan:** What are the amendments then?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I do not think it is too much to ask that rental properties should be sanitary, that they should have floor coverings, that they should have working locks and that their toilets should work, to answer the member for Redlands' question. They are some simple examples.

Can I deal with this minimum standards scare campaign on character homes, first of all? I have said it many times and I will say it again: we will undertake an extensive consultation and it will take the issues raised into account including issues for character homes, but it is outrageous to run a scare campaign against basic standards.

**Mr McEachan** interjected.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Just listen for a minute, member for Redlands. It is outrageous to run a scare campaign against basic standards being introduced by raising a furphy on minimum standards.

**Mr McEachan** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Linard): Order! Member for Redlands, he is not taking your interjections. Can you please listen quietly and allow the minister to make his contribution?

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I encourage the members to listen.

Two other arguments have been raised against this proposition. The first one was cost. I have to say quite simply that I do not believe our rental market is predicated on there being a massive number of substandard homes out there. It is simply not true. The cost of these standards is not and will never be a major pressure on the housing market. It is simply not true. The second argument raised by the member for Burnett in debate yesterday was enforcement and the cost of enforcement. I think that is a legitimate question to raise. I am very confident that minimum standards can be enforced and there is significant support for this.

Last week another member raised this in debate earlier. I am advised that the LGAQ conference passed a motion to lobby this state government to grant regulatory powers to local governments to enforce building maintenance standards in residential rental properties. I think it is a proposal that, on the face of it, contains merit. I will be happy to sit down with councils and the LGAQ to commence those discussions.

In terms of consultation on what the minimum standards should be, I have always been determined to see significant and broad consultation with all Queenslanders on that issue. The Palaszczuk government is a government that listens. We are a government that is renowned for quality,

deep and broad consultation. This bill is a direct result of that consultation. I always find it somewhat galling to hear the opposition call for more consultation in one breath and then scoff at the idea of consultation taking too long in another, and they consistently do it. During his budget reply last year the member for Burnett stated—

It is interesting to note that a significant number of the items refer to reviews, and of course these are on the final page of the document: A Retirement Villages Act; a full review of housing policies; a review of findings of the Senate Inquiry into Affordable Housing; a review of security-of-payment laws; and a review of government procurement practices.

Let us tick them off. Retirement villages—we have dealt with this in the bill before the House tonight. A full review of housing policies—that has been implemented over the term of this government including reversing the LNP's harmful rent settings in particular on those people living in our community with a disability. Housing affordability—in June we launched our landmark \$1.8 billion Housing Strategy including the construction of 5½ thousand social and affordable homes. A review of security of payment laws—we have a historic bill before the House as we speak. A review on government procurement practice—Queensland businesses up and down our state are enthusiastically embracing our Buy Queensland strategy. I reported on 2½ thousand Queensland businesses attending our information sessions.

I want to address some of the other issues raised by the member for Burnett in respect of the 18-month payment of exit entitlements. The provisions for the payment of exit entitlements after 18 months go a long way to providing new protections for residents. They do give certainty to residents and will serve as a safety net for residents relying on these exit entitlements to fund their next place of residence such as aged care or nursing care.

The amendments and the 18-month time frame balance residents' calls for earlier payment with operators' concerns around financial and viability impacts. To ensure that these new provisions strike the correct balance between consumer protection and industry viability, I can inform the House that we will consider an amendment which provides for an independent statutory review of the 18-month time frame provisions. The review will commence within two years of the commencement of the act and will determine the impact on residents, former residents, their families and the industry—the retirement village operators.

I want to address the issue of retrospectivity. In his response to my second reading speech, the member for Burnett stated that it is not reasonable for the provisions to apply retrospectively to residents' contracts entered into prior to the commencement of the bill. While the amendments will apply to existing residents, they will apply with a prospective focus. This means that for residents who have already left a village but who have not sold their unit the 18-month period will commence from the date of assent of the provision, not their termination date. This prospective focus will allow operators time to transition to the new arrangements, which is fair. If the exit entitlement provisions were not retrospective, it would create different protections depending on when a resident entered a village. Operators would likely focus on resale of units to which the payment obligation applied, which would further disadvantage existing residents. If the payment of exit entitlements would cause an operator undue hardship, they may apply to QCAT for an extension or alternate payment arrangements.

I want to touch on the commencement of the 18-month period. The member for Burnett stated that it was only fair and reasonable that the 18-month period for payment of a former resident's exit entitlements should commence on the last to occur of the termination date, the vacation date, the date an agreement on value is reached or the date reinstatement is complete. These issues were raised by the Property Council Australia in their submission to the committee which was considered. As the majority of units sell within 12 months, it is considered that the 18-month period allows sufficient time to reach agreement on the resale value as well as complete reinstatement and renovation works. Further, the operator has primary responsibility for obtaining valuations where agreement cannot be reached about the value of the unit as well as completing reinstatement and renovation works. Any disputes about the reinstatement or renovation process may progress straight to QCAT to ensure a faster resolution and enable the resale of the unit to consider. On this side of the House we consider it is neither fair nor reasonable to allow operators to delay repayment further at the expense of vulnerable seniors.

These are good reforms. They are sophisticated reforms. As another speaker on this side of the House indicated, they are just the start. These reforms are what good government is about. You make commitments, you consult properly on those and you implement good policy, and that is what this legislation is doing. As I said, I will be moving a number of amendments during consideration in detail

including amendments that address matters raised in the committee report. In particular, the member for Buderim has raised several matters with me including bringing residents into parliament to meet me, and that engagement has assisted to progress and refine the reforms.

In closing, I thank the staff of the Department of Housing and Public Works and all officers involved in this bill for their diligence and commitment in preparing the bill. Once again, I thank committee members, committee staff and parliamentary staff. The amendments contained in this bill will build better housing futures for seniors, tenants and vulnerable Queenslanders. 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 81—



**Mr de BRENNI** (5.48 pm): I seek leave to move the following amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I move the following amendments—

**1 Clause 2 (Commencement)**

Page 14, after line 22—

*insert—*

- section 147A;

**2 Clause 19 (Replacement of s 29 (Park owner to give disclosure documents to prospective home owner))**

Page 22, lines 24 to 31 and page 23, lines 1 to 10—

*omit, insert—*

- (2) Subject to subsection (3), the park owner must give the prospective home owner—
  - (a) the documents mentioned in schedule 1, part 1 (the **initial disclosure documents**) for the site at least 21 days before entering into the site agreement (the **default notice period**); and
  - (b) the following documents (the **supplementary disclosure documents**) for the site at least 14 days before entering into the site agreement (also the **default notice period**)—
    - (i) the documents mentioned in schedule 1, part 2;
    - (ii) 2 copies of a proposed site agreement.
- (3) If, under section 29A, the prospective home owner waives the right to be given the initial disclosure documents and the right to be given the supplementary disclosure documents for the site in the default notice period, the park owner must give the prospective home owner the documents at least 7 days before entering into the site agreement.

**3 Clause 19 (Replacement of s 29 (Park owner to give disclosure documents to prospective home owner))**

Page 23, line 11, 'initial disclosure'—

*omit.*

**4 Clause 19 (Replacement of s 29 (Park owner to give disclosure documents to prospective home owner))**

Page 23, line 16, after 'documents'—

*insert—*

and the right under section 29(2)(b) to be given the supplementary disclosure documents

**5 Clause 19 (Replacement of s 29 (Park owner to give disclosure documents to prospective home owner))**

Page 23, lines 25 to 28—

*omit, insert—*

- (ii) agrees to receive the initial disclosure documents less than 21 days but at least 7 days, and the supplementary disclosure documents less than 14 days but at least 7 days, before entering into the site agreement; and

**6 Clause 20 (Amendment of s 30 (Obtaining independent legal advice about site agreement))**

Page 24, line 3, "agreement"—

*omit, insert—*

'a site agreement'



7 **Clause 20 (Amendment of s 30 (Obtaining independent legal advice about site agreement))**

Page 24, line 5, before 'agreement'—

*insert—*

a site

8 **Clause 22 (Amendment of s 33 (Cooling-off period))**

Page 24, lines 19 to 21—

*omit, insert—*

- (2) The home owner may, within the cooling-off period, terminate the site agreement by giving a signed notice of the termination to—
- (a) the park owner; and
- (b) if the home owner has granted a person a security interest in the manufactured home positioned on the site—that person.

9 **Clause 23 (Amendment of s 34 (Automatic ending of sale agreement))**

Page 25, after line 4—

*insert—*

- (1) Section 34—

*insert—*

- (4A) Subsection (4B) applies if the home owner has granted a person (a **financier**) a security interest in the home and the financier has been given notice of the termination of the site agreement under section 33(2) or otherwise knows about the termination.
- (4B) The financier must, within 7 days after the ending of the sale agreement under subsection (2), give the park owner a notice stating the amount owing under the security interest.

- (2) Section 34(5), from '14 days' to 'subsection (2)'—

*omit, insert—*

the refund period

10 **Clause 23 (Amendment of s 34 (Automatic ending of sale agreement))**

Page 25, line 5, before 'Section'—

*insert—*

- (3)

11 **Clause 23 (Amendment of s 34 (Automatic ending of sale agreement))**

Page 25, after line 7—

*insert—*

- (4) Section 34(5)(a), from 'person' to '(Cwlth)'—

*omit, insert—*

financier under a security interest in the home

- (5) Section 34—

*insert—*

- (5A) For subsection (5)(a), the amount owing under the security interest is the amount stated in a notice given by the financier to the park owner.

- (6) Section 34(7), definition *refundable amount*, paragraph (b), before 'the amount'—

*insert—*

if the park owner did not give the home owner the disclosure documents for the site as required under section 29—

- (7) Section 34(7)—

*insert—*

**refund period** means the period—

- (a) if subsection (5)(a) applies, starting—

- (i) when the financier gives the park owner the notice as required under subsection (4B); or
- (ii) 7 days after the ending of the sale agreement under subsection (2); and

- (b) ending at the end of the day that is 14 days after the ending of the sale agreement under subsection (2).

- 12 **Clause 32 (Insertion of new pt 7, divs 3 and 4)**  
Page 31, line 4, after 'interest'—  
*insert—*  
in the site agreement for the site
- 13 **Clause 32 (Insertion of new pt 7, divs 3 and 4)**  
Page 31, lines 5 to 7—  
*omit, insert—*  
(2) The buyer may, within the cooling-off period, terminate the assignment agreement by giving a signed notice of the termination to—  
(a) the park owner; and  
(b) the seller; and  
(c) if the buyer has granted a person a security interest in the manufactured home positioned on the site—that person.
- 14 **Clause 32 (Insertion of new pt 7, divs 3 and 4)**  
Page 33, after line 13—  
*insert—*  
(4A) Subsection (4B) applies if the buyer has granted a person (a **financier**) a security interest in the home and the financier has been given notice of the termination of the assignment agreement under section 51A(2) or otherwise knows about the termination.  
(4B) The financier must, within 7 days after the ending of the sale agreement under subsection (2), give the seller a notice stating the amount owing under the security interest.
- 15 **Clause 32 (Insertion of new pt 7, divs 3 and 4)**  
Page 33, lines 14 and 15, from '14 days' to 'subsection (2)'—  
*omit, insert—*  
the refund period
- 16 **Clause 32 (Insertion of new pt 7, divs 3 and 4)**  
Page 33, lines 18 to 20, from 'person' to '(Cwlth)'—  
*omit, insert—*  
financier under a security interest in the home
- 17 **Clause 32 (Insertion of new pt 7, divs 3 and 4)**  
Page 33, after line 25—  
*insert—*  
(5A) For subsection (5)(a), the amount owing under the security interest is the amount stated in a notice given by the financier to the seller.
- 18 **Clause 32 (Insertion of new pt 7, divs 3 and 4)**  
Page 33, lines 27 to 33—  
*omit, insert—*  
**refundable amount** means the amount paid to the seller, or at the seller's direction, under the sale agreement.
- 19 **Clause 32 (Insertion of new pt 7, divs 3 and 4)**  
Page 33, after line 33—  
*insert—*  
**refund period** means the period—  
(a) if subsection (5)(a) applies, starting—  
(i) when the financier gives the seller the notice as required under subsection (4B);  
or  
(ii) 7 days after the ending of the sale agreement under subsection (2); and  
(b) ending at the end of the day that is 14 days after the ending of the sale agreement under subsection (2).
- 20 **After clause 55**  
Page 70, after line 27—  
*insert—*  
**55A Amendment of s 166 (Variation of site agreement on assignment to allow site rent to be increased in accordance with market review)**  
Section 166(4)(a), from 'a copy' to '45(2)'—  
*omit, insert—*  
the disclosure documents for the site to the buyer under section 45A(1)

- 21 Clause 56 (Insertion of new pt 21, div 4)**  
Page 71, line 22, after '29(1)(a)'—  
*insert—*  
and (b)
- 22 Clause 56 (Insertion of new pt 21, div 4)**  
Page 72, lines 6 to 13—  
*omit, insert—*  
(a) section 29(2)(a) and (3), to the extent it relates to waiving the right to be given the initial disclosure documents, does not apply to the park owner; and  
(b) section 29(2)(b) and (3) applies to the park owner as if each reference in the provisions to the supplementary disclosure documents for the site were a reference to the previous disclosure documents for the site.
- 23 Clause 57 (Insertion of new sch 1)**  
Page 77, line 24, 'sections 29(2) and (3)(a)'—  
*omit, insert—*  
sections 29(2)(a) and (b)(i)
- 24 Clause 58 (Amendment of schedule (Dictionary))**  
Page 80, lines 20 to 23—  
*omit, insert—*  
***default notice period—***  
(a) for giving the initial disclosure documents—see section 29(2)(a); or  
(b) for giving the supplementary disclosure documents—see section 29(2)(b); or  
(c) for giving the disclosure documents under part 7, division 2—see section 48A(a).
- 25 Clause 58 (Amendment of schedule (Dictionary))**  
Page 80, line 28, after '2'—  
*insert—*  
and 2 copies of a proposed site agreement
- 26 Clause 58 (Amendment of schedule (Dictionary))**  
Page 81, line 10, 'section 29(2)'—  
*omit, insert—*  
section 29(2)(a)
- 27 Clause 58 (Amendment of schedule (Dictionary))**  
Page 82, after line 12—  
*insert—*  
***security interest***, in a manufactured home, means a security interest registered for the home under the *Personal Property Securities Act 2009* (Cwlth).
- 28 Clause 58 (Amendment of schedule (Dictionary))**  
Page 82, after line 15—  
*insert—*  
***supplementary disclosure documents***, for a site, see section 29(2)(b).
- 29 Clause 60 (Amendment to s 4 (Meaning of residential service))**  
Page 82, line 25, 'to'—  
*omit, insert—*  
**of**
- 30 Clause 69 (Amendment of s 41 (Meaning of accreditation decision))**  
Page 86, line 23, "accreditation'—'—  
*omit, insert—*  
'accreditation'—

**31 Clause 72 (Amendment of s 70 (Death of sole service provider))**

Page 88, line 14, 'or'—

*omit.*

**32 Clause 76 (Amendment of s 179 (Register of residential services))**

Page 90, line 1, 'to'—

*omit.*

**33 Clause 76 (Amendment of s 179 (Register of residential services))**

Page 90, lines 18 and 19—

*omit, insert—*

(3) Section 179(2)(a)(ia) to (iii)—

*renumber* as section 179(2)(a)(ii) to (iv).

**34 Clause 77 (Insertion of new s 180A)**

Page 90, line 23, after '3'—

*insert—*

—

**35 Clause 78 (Insertion of new pt 16)**

Page 91, line 23, 'services'—

*omit, insert—*

**service**


I table resupplied explanatory notes to my amendments.

*Tabled paper:* Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017, resupplied explanatory notes to Hon. Mick de Brenni's amendments [\[2110\]](#).

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 81, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 82—

 **Mr BENNETT** (5.49 pm): Minimum housing standards have been canvassed a lot in this debate. Our concerns are long and continue to be resonated on this side of the House. I acknowledge the minister's explanations. I acknowledge that this will be talked about by the department in consultation. I acknowledge that this is by regulation. All of that being said, a lot of us on this side of the House have real concerns about where that will end up.

I have not heard an explanation about what this could mean to residential tenancy across Queensland. Some 500,000 people buy homes and have them tenanted out at any one stage. We do not know what the financial implications will be or whether that will be passed on to tenants across Queensland. I do not know if it is fair and reasonable for Queenslanders to instil their trust in this minister to be able to deal with these standards going forward.

I have heard a lot today about this particular clause. The minister just admitted that the Local Government Association has a lot of roles and responsibilities in providing standards that are fair and reasonable, whether that is cleanliness, workplace health and safety or a lot of other things. Our big concern is duplication with other acts, regulations, building codes and fire safety codes—the list goes on and on.

If we are going to do this, it is only fair that a definitive list be put in the legislation. If that had happened, everyone could have debated it, the committee could have done its due diligence and we could have even done a regulatory impact statement. Now we are asked to pass the minimum housing standards tonight but there are too many questions on this side of the House. We could go through them all again, but I did articulate them last night during the second reading debate.

I just say again that the opposition cannot support the minimum standards section of the bill as it currently stands. I ask the minister to provide the House with some absolute clarity and at least acknowledge the opposition's concern in this space. I know that a lot of members have articulated a response. We are concerned about tenants and those people who have invested. We are concerned about the retrospectivity and what it could mean financially and for tenants across Queensland. We will not be supporting this clause.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I will be brief. Clause 82 does set out a list of the prescribed minimum standards that can be regulated. I want to make it clear to members opposite that dirt floors are not okay in rental properties in 2017, that not having protection from damp and its effects is not okay because the health impacts are well known, and that not having safe stairs or decks is a risk to people. Members on this side of the House are not prepared to put people's safety at risk. As for freedom from vermin infestation, it is extraordinary that members opposite would have Queensland kids live with rats and cockroaches. If this is the vision of members opposite for affordable housing, I can assure them that Queenslanders do not want their vision. Every LNP speaker has said that they originated from some sort of substandard home, that 'It's okay. One day you'll be handed a higher paying job and you can move out of your dirt home.'

**Mr McEachan** interjected.

**Mr de BRENNI:** That is not the reality for all Queenslanders, quite frankly, member for Redlands. I cannot believe the hypocrisy of those opposite who support cuts to wages yet turn around and then say, 'One day it will be okay when you get a well-paying job.'

Queenslanders know how hard it is to get a loan to own their own place. In 2015, we committed to prescribe minimum housing standards for private rental and rooming accommodation. What we are simply doing tonight is providing a head of power to allow that regulation to be made. The standards would focus to ensure that rental properties are safe and fit, and that they work in combination with, not in lieu of, existing property owner obligations. As I said, a broad, deep and sophisticated consultation process will be undertaken with all stakeholders.

I will conclude my remarks in relation to this clause by saying that we believe that all people should have the right to be able to access at least a minimum standard of housing. The consultation that we have undertaken on this bill, through the development of the Housing Strategy and the consultation the committee undertook, demonstrated across-the-board support for the principle of introducing minimum housing standards. The likes of the REIQ are seeking certainty that can be provided by the introduction of minimum housing standards. I find it extraordinary that the opposition is that out of touch with the property sector, with community sector organisations like QCROSS, with renters and with landlords alike. As I said before, we are at the highest mark ever of human civilisation, yet here we have an opposition resisting the introduction of minimum standards to rental properties. I commend the clause to the House.

Division: Question put—That clause 82, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 42:**

**ALP, 39**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**KAP, 2**—Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Dickson.

**NOES, 39:**

**LNP, 38**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Gordon.

Pairs: Farmer, Sorensen, Lauga, Janetzki; O'Rourke, Costigan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 82, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 83 to 151—



**Mr de BRENNI** (6.01 pm): I seek leave to move the following amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I move the following amendments—

**36 Clause 99 (Insertion of new ss 40 to 40G)**

Page 105, after line 3—

*insert—*

- (3A) Before deciding the application, the chief executive must—
  - (a) give each resident of the retirement village a written notice stating that—
    - (i) the scheme operator has applied for approval of the proposed closure plan; and
    - (ii) the resident may make submissions to the chief executive about the proposed closure plan in a stated way and by a stated day; and
  - (b) if a resident of the retirement village requests a copy of the proposed closure plan—give a copy of the proposed closure plan to the resident; and
  - (c) have regard to any submissions made to the chief executive by the residents in the stated way and by the stated day.

**37 Clause 99 (Insertion of new ss 40 to 40G)**

Page 105, after line 10—

*insert—*

- (4A) The chief executive's decision must be made within 90 days of the later of—
  - (a) the day the application is received; or
  - (b) if the chief executive reasonably requires further information for the purpose of making the decision and asks the scheme operator for the further information—the day the information is given.

**38 Clause 99 (Insertion of new ss 40 to 40G)**

Page 106, after line 11—

*insert—*

- (9) If the chief executive fails to decide the application in the time required under subsection (4A), the chief executive is taken to have approved the proposed closure plan.

**39 Clause 101 (Insertion of new pt 2, div 5)**

Page 111, after line 4—

*insert—*

- (1A) The chief executive's decision must be made within 90 days of the later of—
  - (a) the day the proposed transition plan is received; or
  - (b) if the chief executive reasonably requires further information for the purpose of making the decision and asks the existing scheme operator or the new scheme operator for the further information—the day the information is given.

**40 Clause 101 (Insertion of new pt 2, div 5)**

Page 112, after line 15—

*insert—*

- (7) If the chief executive fails to decide whether or not to approve the proposed transition plan in the time required under subsection (1A), the chief executive is taken to have approved the proposed transition plan.

**41 Clause 114 (Insertion of new s 67A)**

Page 125, lines 20 to 27—

*omit.*

**42 Clause 120 (Amendment of s 86 (False or misleading documents))**

Page 138, lines 15 to 26—

*omit, insert—*

**120 Replacement of s 86 (False or misleading documents)**

Section 86—

*omit, insert—*

**86 Misleading or deceptive conduct**

- (1) This section applies to a person who is—
  - (a) a scheme operator; or
  - (b) a representative of a scheme operator.

- (2) The person must not, in relation to the operation of a retirement village scheme, engage in conduct that is misleading or deceptive or is likely to mislead or deceive.

*Example of conduct that is misleading or deceptive or is likely to mislead or deceive—*

Giving false or misleading information (orally or in writing) to—

- (a) the chief executive; or
- (b) a resident or prospective resident.

Maximum penalty—200 penalty units.

- (3) In this section—

**representative**, of a scheme operator, means—

- (a) an employee or agent of the scheme operator; and
- (b) if the scheme operator is a corporation—an executive officer of the scheme operator.

**43 Clause 130 (Amendment of s 104 (Working out and paying charges for general services for former residents))**

Page 144, line 5—

*omit, insert—*

**general services charges and maintenance reserve fund contributions**

**44 Clause 130 (Amendment of s 104 (Working out and paying charges for general services for former residents))**

Page 144, lines 9, 13 and 17, after 'charge'—

*insert—*

and maintenance reserve fund contribution

**45 Clause 131 (Amendment of s 105 (General services charges for unsold right to reside in accommodation units))**

Page 144, lines 20 to 22—

*omit, insert—*

- (1) Section 105, heading, after 'General services charges'—

*insert—*

**and maintenance reserve fund contributions**

- (1A) Section 105(1), after 'charges'—

*insert—*

and maintenance reserve fund contributions

- (1B) Section 105(2)—

*omit, insert—*

- (2) The scheme operator must pay the amounts payable under subsection (1) into the general services charges fund and maintenance reserve fund respectively.

**46 Clause 138 (Insertion of new pt 5, div 10)**

Page 152, after line 23—

*insert—*

- (3A) Before deciding the application, the chief executive must—

- (a) give each resident of the retirement village a written notice stating that—
  - (i) the scheme operator has applied for approval of the proposed redevelopment plan; and
  - (ii) the resident may make submissions to the chief executive about the proposed redevelopment plan in a stated way and by a stated day; and
- (b) if a resident of the retirement village requests a copy of the proposed redevelopment plan—give a copy of the proposed redevelopment plan to the resident; and
- (c) have regard to any submissions made to the chief executive by the residents in the stated way and by the stated day.

**47 Clause 138 (Insertion of new pt 5, div 10)**

Page 152, after line 30—

*insert—*

- (4A) The chief executive's decision must be made within 90 days of the later of—

- (a) the day the application is received; or
- (b) if the chief executive reasonably requires further information for the purpose of making the decision and asks the scheme operator for the further information—the day the information is given.

**48 Clause 138 (Insertion of new pt 5, div 10)**

Page 153, after line 31—

*insert—*

- (9) If the chief executive fails to decide the application in the time required under subsection (4A), the chief executive is taken to have approved the proposed redevelopment plan.

**49 After clause 147**

Page 162, after line 26—

*insert—***147A Insertion of new s 225**

After section 224—

*insert—***225 Review of operation of s 63(1)(c)**

- (1) A review of the operation of section 63(1)(c) must be conducted, under this section, to determine the impact of the provision on the following persons—
- (a) residents;
  - (b) former residents;
  - (c) the families of residents or former residents;
  - (d) scheme operators.
- (2) The review must be conducted by a panel of not more than 4 appropriately qualified persons appointed by the Minister.
- (3) The Minister must prepare, and give to the panel, terms of reference to guide the conduct of the review.
- (4) The review must start no later than 2 years after the commencement.

**50 Clause 150 (Insertion of new pt 15, div 3)**

Page 166, lines 10 and 11—

*omit, insert—*

resident, in—

- (a) a current public information document; or
- (b) a document mentioned in section 84(1).

**51 Clause 150 (Insertion of new pt 15, div 3)**

Page 168, after line 12—


*insert—***237OA Non-application of pt 2, div 5 to existing contracts**

Part 2, division 5 does not apply to the transfer of control of a scheme's operation under a contract executed before the commencement.

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 83 to 151, as amended, agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (6.02 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. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (6.02 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.



## MOTION

### Energy Supply

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.02 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for its increasing reliance on intermittent power and not supporting a new reliable, high-efficiency, low-emission coal-fired power plant in North Queensland which would increase supply, reduce prices and support more jobs.

There is no doubt at all that every policy this failed Labor government has around electricity is causing higher electricity prices. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* nailed it yesterday when they included this cartoon in the middle of their paper. I table that for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'How the State Government is saving money on electricity' [\[2111\]](#).

That cartoon shows how the state government is saving money on electricity. It shows a bureaucrat asking the Premier, 'Should we stay up all night trying to come up with a way to reduce power bills?' The Premier responds, 'Stuff that. Just buy their votes with 50 bucks or something. I'm going home!', as she flicks off the light switch in the room. That absolutely sums up what the Labor government thinks about electricity prices.

Flicking off the switch is exactly what has been happening in South Australia. They have a history there of the lights going out and it is all because of the headlong rush, the ideologically driven rush, to a 50 per cent renewable energy target in South Australia. South Australia lost power for a whole day because of their reliance on wind power. Anybody who reads the report into that particular incident will understand that the lights went out in South Australia well before any infrastructure was lost. It was clearly because of their overreliance on that particular power source.

Last night we heard during the debate that an analysis by the Climate Change Authority shows a 50 per cent renewable target by 2030 will cost families on average \$192 a year more and will lead to the closing of 15 power stations. Before the minister, the Deputy Premier and the member for Gladstone get up and start rewriting history in this state and start misleading the people of Queensland about what is happening with electricity, why do we not go on a bit of a myth-busting tour? The Labor government has been using electricity as a hidden tax in this state. Honourable members have only to look at their budget to see that the income from their generators has gone up by \$410 million. That is exactly how much electricity has gone up in this state. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Budget Strategy and Outlook 2017-18' [\[2112\]](#).

The Labor Party will not follow our policy to freeze the bonuses of executives in our state owned corporations because they want to see more money come from the generators—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members! Thank you, Minister. Thank you, everyone.

**Mr HART:** They want to see this hidden tax continue. That is why they want to see the bonuses for their power executives continue. I am sure the minister will tell honourable members that their 50 per cent renewable target is not going to lead to an increase in electricity prices. However, they have only to look at the credible pathways analysis from their expert panel's report. Page 68 states—

*The Base case (and Linear and Ramp pathways) therefore assumes a proxy carbon emissions reduction cost ...*

They have a hidden carbon tax in their expert report in every pathway for their 50 per cent renewable target. I will table the two relevant pages.

*Tabled paper:* Extracts from Queensland Renewable Energy Expert Panel Final Report, pages 68 & 75 [\[2113\]](#).


The minister will no doubt tell honourable members that Queensland has had the cheapest spot price since March. That is not true, either. On average, in September Queensland had the second highest price in the nation.

**Mr Bailey:** That is one month.

**Mr HART:** Okay. That is one month. However, in October—this month—Queensland has had the highest spot price in the nation. I will table an extract from AEMO's data dashboard today to prove that.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Source: AEMO Data Dashboard' [\[2114\]](#).

A 50 per cent renewable target needs to be ditched and this government should support the construction of a new HELE coal-fired power station in North Queensland.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (6.07 pm): I obviously rise in opposition to the motion and what was an extraordinarily pathetic effort. Even for today's standard of performance from those opposite, this motion from the LNP is unquestionably pathetic. It is such a blatant pander to One Nation for dirty preference deals. That is clearly what it is.

Let me say quite clearly that this week in all of our discussions about energy not once have those opposite committed to match the Palaszczuk Labor government's commitment to cap electricity price increases for consumers throughout Queensland. They come into this House and they put forward stupid motions like this when they should be saying whether or not they will match the Palaszczuk Labor government's commitment to cap increases in electricity prices to inflation rates. However, they will not because last time they were in government we saw electricity prices increase by 43 per cent. That is their track record.

Let us address this high-efficiency, low-emission—or emissions, as it was submitted—coal-fired power plant. Let us talk about what people think about this concept, and I will start with the federal Liberal Treasurer, Scott Morrison. He does not support one. He admitted that it would not bring prices down. He said—

... we shouldn't kid ourselves a new high-efficiency low-emissions plant would bring down electricity prices anytime soon.

He went on to say that 'new cheap coal is a bit of a myth'. That is what their colleague the federal Treasurer says about their idea of a high-efficiency low-emissions plant. Why don't we just go to the respected Chief Scientist, Alan Finkel, who did a great job on behalf of Australians with regard to the future of energy supply for Australians right throughout the country? What did those opposite do at a federal level? They ignored it and made up their own plan. What did the Chief Scientist, Alan Finkel, say? He did not support one either. He said—

The actual cost of bringing on new coal in this country per megawatt hour is projected to be substantially more expensive than the cost of bringing on wind or solar.


Just this morning Matthew Warren from the Australian Energy Council said plain and simple—

The least useful place to build a large brand new coal-fired power station is North Queensland. North Queensland has a surplus of existing generation that is not being utilised.

But let us not listen to experts and let us not listen to scientists; let us just listen to ourselves. That is the plan the LNP have in terms of governing Queensland. Let us talk about renewable energy, because I am enormously proud of the fact that when we came to government there was not one single large-scale solar, wind or renewable energy project in this state. There was absolutely nothing, because in this country and in this state there was no stability in terms of the policy setting around renewable energy and integrating a mix of different forms of energy into our energy market. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government we have stabilised that. We have led this nation. We have introduced—and quite proudly so—a 50 per cent renewable energy target generation by 2030. That is not ambitious; that is clearly achievable, as our own energy expert panel said.

We need to do this because fundamentally we need to get back to basics. We have a planet that is heating up. We need to find lower-emission electricity generation so we can ensure that we pass on to our children and their children's children a planet that is safe and not damaged by soaring temperatures because of climate change. I am incredibly passionate about tackling climate change and taking action on climate change. Quite frankly, those opposite need to come to the party and start acting like leaders who care about the future and they need to work—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.13 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by my colleague the member for Burleigh. I am sure there will be a lot of furious Queenslanders out there tonight when they hear that the Deputy Premier stood up in this place and labelled our motion calling for increased supply, reduced prices and more jobs a 'stupid' motion. I am sure they will be absolutely furious with that comment from the Deputy Premier. What a disgrace to get up in this place tonight and pour scorn on the motion moved by my colleague the member for Burleigh.

I have stood in this place on a number of occasions and voiced my support for a high-efficiency low-emissions coal-fired power station in North Queensland. Do we need affordable and reliable power in North Queensland? Absolutely we do. The fixation of this government on pursuing a 50 per cent renewable energy target will shut down power stations and threaten thousands of jobs. Let me reiterate from the debate last night that analysis of modelling prepared for the federal Climate Change Authority

reveals that 75 per cent—or up to 15—of the nation's existing power stations will close under Bill Shorten and Anastacia Palaszczuk's crazy green energy target. That should be sending shock waves through every community in Queensland with a coal-fired power station.


Then, to rub salt into the wounds, we found out this week that Labor's 50 per cent renewable energy target would push up Queenslanders' power bills by another \$200 a year. What did the government do? They offered a measly 96 cents a week rebate which will be totally eclipsed by the \$200 a year hike in bills that the report forecasts. Is it any wonder that North Queenslanders are up in arms? The resources and agricultural sectors in North Queensland, not to mention heavy industry, are doing it tough because of spiralling electricity prices. They are being punished, demoralised and undermined by this government, which has put profits above people and a green ideology before jobs.

Yesterday the energy minister was furiously tweeting on social media that the LNP had voted against jobs. Minister, perhaps you would like to stand up in this place tonight and tell us how your relentless pursuit of a 50 per cent renewable energy target will reduce power prices. While you are going about it, how about you enlighten us on how many jobs will be permanently created when these solar and wind farms are completed. It is very easy to stand up and say that they are creating hundreds of jobs while they are being constructed. It is not so easy to stand up when they are completed and say there are four or six jobs.

A new base load coal-fired power station in North Queensland would create hundreds of permanent jobs, and could we not do with that in the north at the moment? Coal is used to fuel base load power stations which run continuously and provide reliable, uninterrupted power outputs. Renewables cannot provide that base load power because of their intermittency. You cannot power a smelter or a refinery from solar or wind power because if the sun is not shining or the wind is not blowing you cannot turn off the smelter or refinery until the weather improves.

This Labor government has repeatedly failed to deliver funding for vital infrastructure that will regenerate the north and help its residents get back on their feet. I have canefarmers coming into my office with six-figure power bills who, in their desperation for relief at spiralling power prices, are now turning to diesel pumps. This side of the House is doing something about that. We have reformed the agriculture and energy council and we are working with farmers and industry groups to look at ways we can put downward pressure on power prices to give them some relief.

The Premier has stood in this place on a number of occasions and espoused her government's agenda to drive economic development and create jobs in the north. After three years we are still waiting. Fundamental to this growth is the cost of power, and whilst this Labor government is content to put out their hand each week and get a big fat cheque from the energy providers, North Queensland residents, small business owners, farmers and manufacturing firms continue to wither on the vine because of crippling power prices. The choice at the next election could not be clearer: vote for the LNP's real plan to bring down power prices or vote for Labor's electricity con, where they take with one hand and give you back crumbs with the other.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (6.18 pm): I rise to speak tonight against the LNP's misconceived motion. I would like to clear up a couple of things the member just said: (1) is he a bit of a hypocrite because they shut down the Collinsville power station in his own electorate; and (2) solar panels produce power while it is cloudy.

'Queensland has a diverse mix of coal and gas-fired generation complemented by renewables, including hydro. We are the powerhouse of the nation. Our diversity of generation means that we can manage the transition to a higher integration of renewable generation without compromising security of supply in Queensland.' That was the finding of the Renewable Energy Expert Panel—an independent team of business, energy and environment experts chaired by Colin Mugglestone, investment banker and former head of energy and utilities at Macquarie Group.

It is also consistent with recent findings of the Australian Energy Market Operator that in Queensland there is no material unserved energy risk expected across the 10-year assessment period and that the reliability standard is projected to be met in Queensland under all scenarios. To be clear for those opposite, the Australian Energy Market Operator factored in increasing renewable energy generation and the 50 per cent renewable energy target in this assessment. This is just more fearmongering by an opposition ideologically opposed to renewables and unwilling to face facts on power.

The reality is that energy is undergoing transformational change in the way it is generated, transported and used in Queensland. Unlike the LNP, who prefer to stick their heads in the sand on this issue, the Palaszczuk government is planning for this change into the future.

It was under the Newman-Nicholls government that the last coal-fired power station was shut in Queensland. In fact, it was in Collinsville. It was under the LNP that two units at Tarong Power Station in the South Burnett were put in cold storage. It was under the LNP that 385 megawatts of secure dispatchable supply from Swanbank E was put offline at the height of their asset sales frenzy.


It is the Palaszczuk government that is powering Queensland. Our Powering Queensland Plan shows just how serious this government is about ensuring Queenslanders have access to secure, reliable and affordable energy. This plan also shows how serious we are about continuing to manage security of supply and wholesale price volatility at the same time as diversifying our generating assets.

We have had the lowest average wholesale prices in the NEM for the last six months. We also have the lowest household price increase of any mainland state this year—2.3 per cent compared to 20 per cent in southern privatised states. We are bringing Swanbank E back online—increasing supply, reducing volatility and supporting local jobs. Under this government there is also a renewable power station boom occurring, including \$2 billion worth of investment committed, with more to come, and 1,300 direct jobs coming in the next 12 months, including over 800 in the previous speaker's electorate.

We have 22 large-scale renewable energy projects committed and under construction, totalling over 1,900 megawatts in Queensland. No other state has more renewable projects under development than we see right here in Queensland. When operational, these projects will increase the percentage of energy generated by renewables in Queensland to almost 17 per cent, powering around 880,000 Queensland homes. These power plants will also place downward pressure on electricity prices once they are operational. They are delivering important benefits to the state economy, particularly in regional centres, and thousands of jobs. The Palaszczuk government recognises the importance of the role of our traditional energy sectors in both our regional and national economies.

The LNP's policy for a new coal-fired power station makes no sense economically or environmentally. The last time industry decided to build a new coal-fired power station in the NEM was more than a decade ago, and industry just does not back it. It is only the Palaszczuk government that has a comprehensive plan to power Queensland, delivering affordable energy, security of supply and jobs in our regions.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (6.23 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow minister for energy, the member for Burleigh. In their contributions to tonight's debate the members for Burleigh and Burdekin have both spoken about the very irresponsible policies of the Palaszczuk Labor government's energy agenda, in particular its overreliance on intermittent power generation capacity, which does have serious ramifications for energy reliability and cost across the state but in particular in regional and rural Queensland and in particular the part of the state I am from, North Queensland.

The members for Burleigh and Burdekin have also already spoken about some of the LNP's energy policies which seek to address the cumulative generation, transmission, retailing, reliability and affordability challenges which currently confront Queensland's energy consumers, particularly in regional and rural areas and not the very least at all my fellow North Queenslanders. I endorse those policies proposed by the LNP, because they are reasonable and practical and we simply cannot continue with the reckless, ideologically driven policies being pursued by the Palaszczuk Labor government.


To be fair, these ridiculous policies did not originate under the current Labor government in Queensland. They started under the previous Labor government, the Bligh government, in the form of the galactically stupid Solar Bonus Scheme with its foolish 44-cent-per-kilowatt-hour feed-in tariff—double what it cost to generate power in the first instance and creating a hugely subsidised volume of energy that was coming back into the distribution network which was poorly equipped to handle power coming back in from that direction.

This Labor policy, the Solar Bonus Scheme, is just one of the irresponsible policies which have been implemented by the Queensland government. It is right up there with the Health payroll debacle, Labor's western recycled water pipeline, Labor's Gold Coast desalination plant and the Traveston Dam debacle, all of which are shocking, horrific and very real examples of Labor's appalling track record of stuffing things up and wasting taxpayers' money.

We know that the Palaszczuk Labor government does not like coal. It likes coal royalties, which have helped prop up the Palaszczuk Labor government's budget over the past few years, but it does not like coalmining and coal-fired power stations. It likes the dividends that come from power GOCs

that operate coal-fired power stations, which have propped up its budgets and into which it has been able to shift public debt, but it does not like coal-fired power stations, per se. The Palaszczuk Labor government has opposed the LNP's proposal to facilitate the development of a coal-fired power station in North Queensland by fast-tracking the required regulatory approvals. This is a very clear difference between the LNP and Labor, and the people of North Queensland will have a clear choice at the coming election. The LNP is listening to North Queenslanders and they have been very clear about their desire to secure affordable and reliable energy.

The Deputy Premier in her contribution to the debate tonight mentioned the CEO of the Australian Energy Council, Mr Matthew Warren, who this morning in a radio interview on the ABC said that North Queensland was not the place for a coal-fired power station. What a surprise! When you go to the website of the Australian Energy Council you find that it represents 21 major energy businesses operating in the wholesale and retail energy market in Australia and Queensland, with AEC members collectively generating the overwhelming majority of electricity in Queensland and Australia. This is the lobby group for the companies that do not want any more competition in the generation, transmission and retail energy markets in Queensland because they have a vested interest in maximising the profitability of their existing assets. Ironically, before he was the CEO of the Australian Energy Council Mr Matthew Warren was the CEO of the Australian renewable energy council. He has spent most of his time over the past few years advocating for policies like a carbon tax and a renewable energy target. What extraordinary advice to take from Mr Warren. What an extraordinary person for the Minister for Energy to put up in defence of his policies.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (6.28 pm): We all know that Tim Nicholls and the LNP will cut everything except your power bill. We know that for sure. When it comes to choosing advice from Matthew Warren or Andrew Cripps, I know who I would choose any day. One has to wonder how often you need to shred the pathetic policy from your own side before you give up on it, because that is what has happened to the LNP's pathetic and threadbare energy policy. With regard to this commitment to a North Queensland coal-fired power station, let us look at the list of people who have shredded Tim Nicholls's energy policy. For a start the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, said that there will not be any new coal-fired power stations. The Treasurer, Scott Morrison, said that cheap new coal generation is a myth and takes seven years to turn up. In terms of the opposition's policy, let us presume—it is not factual—that it will work. It is going to take seven years to implement. What are those opposite going to do about electricity prices for the seven years until then? They do not have a policy. They are walking into an election without a policy. They have to be kidding us!

Let us look at the other groups that have shredded Tim Nicholls's energy policy. Alan Finkel, the Chief Scientist of this country and reviewer of the National Electricity Market, said that it is now not just a little bit cheaper but a lot cheaper to build renewable energy than it is to build a new coal-fired power station. He is the Chief Scientist of this country. Those opposite can deny reality all they like, but people looking back at this week's *Hansard* who have the misfortune of reading this debate will wonder how it is that in 2017 people are moving motions like this. Good luck explaining that one to your grandchildren! This morning Matthew Warren absolutely shredded Tim Nicholls's policy once again. He is the head of the Australian Energy Council. I thought that the LNP was supposed to support the private sector, but apparently not. The agrarian socialists have control of the place. As the Deputy Premier mentioned earlier, he has made some very specific comments. I will not repeat the quote read out by the Deputy Premier, but he said—

The places that really need new generation at the moment are not Queensland; it's Victoria and South Australia.

That is confirmed by the Australian Energy Market Operator, which says that there is no lack of supply in Queensland for the next 10 years—10 years because we have a very strong policy. Here we have Tim Nicholls's policy shredded by Scott Morrison, Malcolm Turnbull, Alan Finkel, Matthew Warren and the Australian Energy Council. Even the Australian Industry Group, another private sector lobby group, said that we would have to have prices sustaining themselves at double what they are now to pay for an expensive coal-fired power generation station. This is not a policy.

The member for Burdekin seems to be blissfully unaware that in his own electorate he has a solar farm going in that is going to power one-third of the Sun Metals zinc refinery as base load. He has solar base load in his own electorate yet he is telling us that with intermittency it is all going to collapse and it is all going to fall apart. He should talk to industry and maybe start standing up for the 800 people who have jobs because of clean energy in his electorate. The ignorance is amazing! The motion is also wrong on three factual—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Thank you, members. I am having difficulty hearing the minister.

**Mr BAILEY:** While we are talking about Matthew Warren, let us see who else he worked for. He also worked for Ian Macfarlane and that other renowned socialist, Tony Abbott. That one blew up in your face, didn't it, Andrew? You did not do your research there, pal, did you? The motion is not factual on other grounds. Coal-fired power stations are not low emission. Let us be truthful and honest here. Those opposite have to be kidding us if they say they are low emission. They will help cook the reef. They will accelerate climate change and it takes seven years for results. Members opposite have to do more than wave around cartoons from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* and the latest *Courier-Mail* article. They have to develop a policy. If they want to form government and if they want to earn the trust of the people, they have to do the hard yards and develop policy. We have oodles of policy such as the Powering Queensland Plan and the renewable energy task force. What do those on the other side have? They have an opposition shadow minister who waves around cartoons.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 39:**

**LNP, 38**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

**PHON, 1**—Dickson.

**NOES, 40:**

**ALP, 39**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Gordon.

Pairs: Farmer, Sorensen; Lauga, Janetzki; O'Rourke, Costigan; Farmer, Sorensen; Lauga, Janetzki.

Resolved in the negative.

Sitting suspended from 6.39 pm to 7.45 pm.

## PUBLIC HEALTH (MEDICINAL CANNABIS AFFORDABILITY) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 14 February (see p. 39).

### Second Reading



**Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (7.45 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I rise to speak to the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis Affordability) Amendment Bill. On 14 February, I introduced this bill into the parliament. At the time I made the point that the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Act 2016, which was passed last year with the support of the crossbenches, would allow Queenslanders access to medicinal cannabis from 1 March. During the hearing before the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee into the bill, I made the point that medicinal cannabis had been around for a very long time and that most members of parliament were aware of its impact throughout Queensland and Australia.

The federal government approved the growing of medicinal cannabis in Australia in February 2016. The state government approved the growing, manufacturing and harvesting of medicinal cannabis in the Queensland parliament. That was supported by the entire parliament. Things had certainly moved forward. During the committee hearing I highlighted that, whilst the need has been demonstrated by many people wishing to use this product, they were forced into a situation where they were sourcing and using medicinal cannabis illegally in order to ease their suffering.

Clause 3 of the bill proposes to insert new section 214A(2)(a) into the act to provide that the minister must negotiate with the Commonwealth to ensure that the applicable Commonwealth law regulating the importation of whole plant medicinal cannabis does not unnecessarily restrict the

importation of whole plant medicinal cannabis from particular foreign manufacturers. Ultimately, the committee recommended that the Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis Affordability) Amendment Bill 2017 not be passed.

Whilst appearing before the committee, I was asked—

What are the triggers? What are the things that trigger legislation ... what is it that is triggering you in this? Obviously people have come to see you who are very desperate.

Yes, they are very desperate indeed. In fact, they are so desperate that it would be remiss of me not to highlight their desperation by sharing a couple of cases with all the people in this place. Desperate parents brought to my office their 12-year-old daughter, who was suffering from an inoperable brain tumour. They had been sourcing and using illegal products for several years to ease their daughter's suffering. Her prognosis was that she would not survive that long, but she is still here and they are still having to source and use that product illegally. A child sufferer of epilepsy previously had 500 seizures a day. Thankfully, after using medicinal cannabis for a couple of years, that child now has no seizures, is going to school and living the life of a normal child.

There are literally thousands of these people in Australia having to resort to clandestine means to relieve their suffering. Who are we to stop these people from having this lifesaving medicine? Medicine is exactly what it is. I have never heard of anybody dying from taking medicinal cannabis. Not long ago we approved the growing of opium in Australia. Now, we supply 53 per cent of the world's supply of medicinal opium.

On Friday, 13 October—yes, only two weeks ago—my staff and I met with the Minister for Health and Dr Jeannette Young. During that meeting I raised the issue of Queensland doctors being authorised to prescribe medicinal cannabis. During that conversation it was revealed that there are 20 specialist doctors in Queensland authorised to prescribe. But here is the rub: when I asked about the details of these 20 doctors I was told the identity of those doctors was a secret due to privacy and I could not be told. If the doctors' details are secret how are the patients who will need a prescription from these doctors going to find them?

Page 3 of the committee report states—

In its report, the committee also stated that it expected that a significant part of the Queensland Department's review of the medicinal cannabis framework, to be undertaken two years after the commencement of the Act, would include an assessment of the time taken between a medical practitioner recommending a medicinal cannabis product and a patient receiving treatment.

The committee report also states—

There is evidence to suggest that medicinal cannabis may relieve the symptoms of certain medical conditions, including:

- muscle spasticity and other symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting
- epilepsy with severe seizures, and
- palliative care (eg loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting and pain).

Dr Boyd, the Vice-President of the Australian Medical Association Queensland, appeared by teleconference before the committee, and he said—

There will be a prescribed industry standard which any substance which is then deemed to be a useful therapeutic agent will have to meet and that will include proper scientific randomised controlled trials to test it to make sure that (a) it works and (b) it does not do a level of harm which is unacceptable in this country. A lot of the medications we use every day can also harm people, and we know that, but they all have been rigorously tested and accepted by the TGA, the Therapeutic Goods Administration, to be within acceptable limits.

Dr Boyd, the Vice-President of the Queensland AMA, told the committee that a lot of the medications we use every day can also harm people even though those medications have undergone rigorous testing by the Therapeutic Goods Administration. We must assume that some or all of those drugs prescribed but known to cause harm to people in some circumstances are on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. If some of those harmful drugs are indeed on the PBS or subsidised by the state why can't medicinal cannabis receive that very same subsidy? Did the committee hear any evidence that suggests medicinal cannabis has had detrimental effects on sufferers who have resorted to the use of the drug? I cannot see any evidence, even anecdotal, in the committee report. Can the minister please provide details of that evidence if there is any?

The report also quotes Queensland Health's *Clinical guidance: for the use of medicinal cannabis products in Queensland*. It states that medicinal cannabis should be considered only where conventional treatments have been tried and proven unsuccessful in managing the patient's symptoms. I would be very interested to know if these or other departments, or their ministers, have been lobbied

by drug companies to maintain the status quo when it comes to advocating for certain pharmaceutical products to be prescribed. After all, pharmaceutical manufacture is a multibillion dollar business. The Queensland government's current policy is that it will not subsidise the cost of importing medicinal cannabis for individual treatment or regulate the price for supply of approved products to patients. It is a tragedy that pleas for help from the sick and dying are being met with concerns about value for money and an obstinate Queensland government that refuses to subsidise this vital treatment.

I note under the heading of 'Recommendations' early in the committee's report that it states—

In particular, the committee considers that legislation, as proposed in the Bill, is not the appropriate mechanism for achieving the stated outcome of requiring the Minister to negotiate with the Commonwealth to ensure that medicinal cannabis products are affordable for patients.

At the bottom of page 14 in the committee's report it in fact states—

On 22 February 2017, the Minister wrote to his Federal counterpart, Hon Greg Hunt MP, to request that he accelerate steps to make sure medicinal cannabis products are affordable by ensuring medicinal cannabis products are placed on the PBS.

Incidentally, that was one week after I introduced this bill into parliament. I table a copy of that letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 22 February 2017, from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Cameron Dick, to the Federal Minister for Health and Minister for Sport, Hon. Greg Hunt MP, in relation to medicinal cannabis [\[2115\]](#).

I submit that irrespective of whether compelling the minister to lobby for that outcome with his federal counterpart is enshrined in legislation, it seems the very existence of this bill did the job. I thank the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services for acknowledging the urgency in doing just that.


I will reiterate my personal position. Those triggers I spoke of earlier are the triggers that have driven me. I have found this a defining path in my life where I decided that I had to, without hesitation, put people before politics. Yes, I have been targeted by politicians privately and I have been publicly denigrated over my stance by the likes of the opposition leader, but if the decision I made at the beginning of this year helps to ease the suffering of even just one child or older person I will sleep comfortable every night for the rest of my life knowing it was all worth it.

Debate, on motion of Mr Dick, adjourned.

## **BUILDING INDUSTRY FAIRNESS (SECURITY OF PAYMENT) BILL**

Resumed from 22 August (see p. 2287).

### **Second Reading**

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (7.56 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I would like to start by thanking every Queenslanders who has been involved in getting this important issue to where it is at today. It has indeed been a very long time coming. Gary Veenstra from the Master Electricians tells the story that the prominent agenda item of the minutes of the very first meeting of the Master Electricians was how to get builders to pay them. That occurred 80-odd years ago. As a state we have seen such progress in our economy, in social and economic justice in the last 80 years, but this issue of security of payment for subcontractors has continued to remain a black spot. It is a drain on our economy and a stain on our social fabric. Over the last three years, because of changes that were made in this place, it has become a lot worse. There are those who say that this is the way that the industry has always been and there is no use trying to change it. I think that is beneath us as a state. We do not put things in the too-hard basket in Queensland. It is also just wrong. It is wrong to the families who have been torn apart, it is wrong to the people who have lost their businesses and their homes.

I have spoken before in this place about John Belden and Kylie McKilroy whose experience of losing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of payments really drew this into sharp focus for me. It was through talking to John that this exercise became much less academic. The problem drew a very sharp focus. Since then people have come to me with so many similar stories. Last week at the Chatswood hotel I had a beer with a concreter in my electorate who had been duded \$126,000. In the end he did not even chase the payment. He knew that if he could get his matter to the stage where the



builder was required to pay him there would be nothing left at the end in any case for him to chase. I have spoken to many people in these same hopeless situations. I have sat with people at the moment they have realised that there is nothing worthwhile they can do under the current rules to effectively chase payment.

Work hard, play by the rules and you will get ahead has always been the promise in this country. It is a shocking sight to see people realise that that promise is not real and the rules have been deliberately stacked against them. Fundamentally, the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill does two things. Firstly, it sets the country's most comprehensive framework for helping to ensure that people are paid on time, in full, every time. Secondly, it unblocks the grinding gears of small and medium business confidence in the industry in this state. It does so with one guiding principle and that is fairness. If you do the work you should get paid.

As I have heard over and over from subcontractors, this is the key to expanding and growing their small businesses. If people in the industry could guarantee that they get paid for the work currently on hand, they would create more jobs and take on more apprentices, getting more of our Queenslanders into their first job. However, as it sits, that money simply is not flowing because small businesses need an ever-increasing buffer to deal with the growing inevitability of not getting paid.

Before I get into the detail of the bill itself, there is something that I think is worth noting from the outset. I would say that nine out of 10 people who talk to me about the importance of these reforms start the conversation with statements such as 'I'm definitely not a Labor person, but' or 'I've been Liberal all of my life'. Before those opposite trot out the old 'ACME industries puppet of the union movement' line, they should remember the following: the people that this bill is protecting are traditionally your people. They know when someone has turned their back on them and they know when the rules have been stacked against them.

This historic bill will see Queensland lead the nation on security of payments for subcontractors. It is the result of extensive consultation right across the industry. I thank the industry for that comprehensive engagement in the consultation process. I thank the council of people such as Les Williams and Juanita Gibson from the Subcontractors Alliance, Wayne Smith from the National Fire Industry Association, Gary Veenstra from the Master Electricians, Penny Cornah from the Master Plumbers Association, Graham McKrill from the Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors' Association and David Lingard from the Master Concreters Association, amongst many others. I really appreciated the opportunity that many of those groups afforded me to visit their members on construction sites as we consulted on these issues right across the state. We may not have agreed on every single detail, but I found that engagement to have been conducted in the best of faith. I am sure that members will agree that it is always good to work with straight shooters who act with great civility. All involved in the process are a credit to the trades and construction industry.

As a result of that consultation, we have a comprehensive package of reforms. I want to touch again on some of the major elements of the changes. The bill will establish, for the first time in this state, a framework for project bank accounts for both government and private sector building and construction projects. PBAs will initially apply to government building and construction projects valued between \$1 million and \$10 million, excluding engineering projects, tendered from 1 January 2018. We are simplifying the claims process and we are making it easier for subcontractors to claim what they are rightly owed. The bill also establishes new penalties for people who fail to pay and for people who fail to honour an adjudication decision. Crucially, the bill includes strong action on the practice of phoenixing.

I now address the report of the Public Works and Utilities Committee into the bill. Firstly, I thank the committee members. They have been working tirelessly on a range of legislation, but I know that they gave these reforms particular attention. They have deliberated thoroughly and delivered a considered review of the bill. In particular, I acknowledge the chair of the committee, Mr Shane King, the member for Kallangur. I also thank the committee secretariat for their continued work in supporting the committee. My thanks again go to the industry stakeholders who made submissions to the committee's inquiry and participated in the hearings to express their thoughts, their views, their experiences, their concerns and, importantly, their overwhelming support for this bill.

I note that in its report the committee made seven recommendations, including, importantly, that the bill be passed. Recommendation 1 is that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for their support of this historic bill.

In recommendation 2, the committee asked that I consider ensuring a review of phase 1 of the project bank account provisions contained in the bill. I draw the House's attention to pages 4 and 5, elsewhere in the committee report, and particularly page 28, where the committee states—

As noted earlier in this report, the government intends to review phase 1 of the PBA (Government contracts) before commencing Phase 2 (proposed for 1 Jan 2019). The bill provides for commencement of chapter 9, part 1, division 2 (Extended application of PBAs to private and local government building contracts) by proclamation.

All through the committee report, one will see that officials of my Department of Housing and Public Works have very openly advised the committee that a review and evaluation process was an existing feature of the government's implementation plans. The officials spoke so confidently and in such detail, because this was a decision the government had taken many months ago. In fact, the minimum one-year gap between public sector implementation and private sector implementation was deliberately included in the legislation because this kind of evaluation is obviously a desirable thing when introducing new laws. I recognise the appetite that has been expressed by stakeholders to have great certainty that this review will indeed help. I can advise the House that it is indeed the government's policy.

In consideration in detail, I will move amendments that will establish a statutory requirement for an independent review of phase 1 of project bank accounts, commencing no later than September 2018. It is my intention that, when established, the review panel will be led by an eminent independent person who will be joined by up to three senior figures with relevant expertise. I will issue terms of reference that will require the review panel to consult with representative bodies. It will also be complemented by a reference group, which will be available to undertake detailed work with panel members. It is important that this review panel is properly equipped to perform its role. It is important to me and it is important to every subcontractor who has not been paid for the work they have done that these new laws work effectively to provide security of payment for subcontractors sector-wide. I will commit a minimum of \$500,000 to ensure that the panel has professional support and that services are available to it.

In recommendation 3 of the report, the committee recommended that the appropriateness of the imprisonment penalties be reviewed. Under the bill the penalties have been based on a comparison with penalties in other Queensland acts and other jurisdictions. For example, the maximum penalty of 300 penalty units or two years imprisonment for withdrawing an amount from a project bank account other than for the purposes allowed under clause 31 of the bill is similar to a maximum penalty under the Agents Financial Administration Act 2014 of up to 200 penalty units or two years imprisonment for stealing or misappropriating trust money. Further, under clause 40 of the bill, the maximum penalty of 200 penalty units or one year's imprisonment for investing funds held in a project bank account in any form of investment is based on a similar offence under the Trust Accounts Act 1973, with a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units or one year's imprisonment. The increased penalties under the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 proposed in the bill for offences relating to unlicensed work are considered appropriate, especially given the significant financial and safety risks unlicensed building work can pose to consumers.

The new penalty framework proposed in the bill provides for escalating penalties for a range of unlicensed offences. For example, clause 260 establishes a penalty regime of 250 penalty units for a first offence, 300 penalty units for a second offence and 350 penalty units or one year's imprisonment for a third and subsequent offence. The possibility of imprisonment for a third and subsequent offence or unlicensed work that is grossly defective is particularly targeted at repeat offenders who deliberately and wilfully avoid complying with the act. I assure the House that a prosecution under these new offence provisions will not be undertaken lightly. There is a two-tier test, first establishing whether there is sufficient evidence and then assessing whether the public interest requires a prosecution.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions guideline outlines that the decision to prosecute is based on the public interest. The additional guidelines provided for under the bill will further assist QBCC officers to decide when it is appropriate to take prosecution action and what form of prosecution action should occur. This would include the circumstances in which a penalty infringement notice could be considered or whether the matter should be prosecuted in a court. These penalties will provide a greater deterrent to unlicensed persons entering the market, improve the rate of compliance with standards and protect consumers and licensees from loss.

With regard to recommendation 4 of the report, I will be moving amendments in consideration in detail to adjust the demerit point provisions in the bill. Demerit points will not be applied at the time a direction to rectify is issued. Under the current law, a fixed penalty of 10 demerit points can apply if a licensee fails to discharge a direction to rectify. Rather than retaining this large fixed demerit point

penalty, I will be moving amendments so that failure to discharge a direction to rectify attracts a minimum of four penalty units and may attract up to 10 penalty units, according to the seriousness of the circumstances as assessed by the regulator. It is important that the regulator is able to issue and then assess compliance with a direction to rectify without encountering obstruction or delay. I will also by regulation be ensuring that hindering an officer should now also attract four demerit points.

With regard to recommendation 5 of the report, I can assure the House that the regulations to support the bill will be developed in consultation with my ministerial construction council. With regard to recommendation 6, I assure the House that my department undertook a comprehensive analysis of the various submissions, including questions. The matters raised covered many issues including: clarifying what a project bank account is; clarifying how the disputed funds account works; clarifying transitional provisions for the repeal of BCIPA; and clarifying key definitions such as 'defects liability period', 'retention amounts' and 'practical completion'. Some of the issues raised will be matters dealt with by amendments I propose to move during consideration in detail.

Finally, in terms of recommendation 7, I would like to advise the House that while there is not yet prepared draft regulations for government consideration, it is proposed that regulations would include details relating to the project bank account provisions of the bill, such as the information that the head contractor must provide to the principal. This is likely to include the names of subcontractor beneficiaries and details of financial institutions. The regulation will also provide the detail required for payment instructions for the PBA.


The second regulation will relate to the provision of the bill that I propose will commence in 2018. I expect this regulation will place the minimum financial requirements into a regulation, prescribe the maximum fees that adjudicators can charge and set out the timeframes for issuing and complying with directions to rectify. I will of course ensure the department continues to consult widely with industry during the development of these regulations.

The guiding objective behind the suite of reforms that are contained in this bill is to ensure that subcontractors are paid in full and on time. A key reform is project bank accounts, which will ensure that funds are protected and available for payment to subbies. Complementing that signature reform, in this bill the government has also proposed improvements to payment dispute and adjudication provisions. These reforms expedite the payment system by providing that all invoices are automatically deemed to be statutory claims for payment. These provisions will restore accountability on respondents by restoring the penalty which used to apply when there was a failure to provide a payment schedule when one was due. If people actually get out and listen to subcontractors, they will hear that the LNP's wilful decision to abolish that accountability and to repeal that penalty had a dreadful impact on payment culture and practices in the industry.

I am pleased to advise the House that I will be moving an amendment during consideration in detail which will create an additional incentive to pay on time and in full. This improvement to the current bill will provide that the obligation to provide a payment schedule which is established in the current bill will only be triggered where an invoice is not paid in full and on time. This will provide a practical reward to builders who do the right thing—pay on time and pay in full. They will have less annoying paperwork to deal with. I table the government's response to the committee report.

*Tabled paper:* Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 50—Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill 2017, government response [\[2116\]](#).

These are historic and much needed reforms—reforms that will give confidence back to small and medium construction builders. These are reforms that will keep families together and, ultimately, it will make Queensland a fairer place to do business. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (8.14 pm): The Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill seeks to provide security of payment in the building and construction industry by: introducing project bank accounts; amending the Building and Construction Industry Payments Act and the Subcontractors Charges Act; and enlarging the Queensland Building and Construction Commissions enforcement powers and mandatory reporting requirements.

What we do know is that the proposed amendments will create many stresses and financial and administrative burdens on head contractors. There are 143 amendments, which we received a couple of hours ago, that will go a long way to addressing some of the uncertainty in the industry, and particularly the fear that the legislation may have had the unintended consequence of collapses for large head contractors. During the committee process there were a lot of harrowing stories about the potential.

I know that the minister has taken a lot of advice in recent time and will move 143 amendments to address some of the more abhorrent parts of the legislation that a lot of people in the industry were telling the minister for a long time would have had unintended consequences. We look forward to working through the 143 amendments tonight as we only received them a couple of hours ago. We want to make sure that what we agree to tomorrow will benefit the industry.

That said, it is hardly helpful or productive for anyone to take a single view that does not appear to be supported by the majority of the industry. I have never denied the need for reform since nothing has effectively been done by Queensland Labor governments since 2004 to address the significant issues.

The issue of late payments to contractors and subcontractors requires significant cultural change in the building and construction industry. Every time I have met key industry stakeholders I have said to them that they all have skin in the game so they all have to participate in this cultural change if we are to make sure that this legislation is supported and its outcomes become a reality.

With bipartisan support the Queensland parliament enacted the Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004, known as BCIPA, which became operative on 1 October 2004. The object of BCIPA is to ensure that a person is entitled to receive and is able to receive progressive payments for construction works or the supply of related goods and services under an appropriate contract.

In acknowledging that the construction industry operates under a hierarchical chain of contracts with inherent imbalances in negotiation or bargaining opportunities, BCIPA operates to provide improved security of payment for contractors. To achieve this objective, BCIPA grants an entitlement to progress payments, the use or not of project bank accounts, responding to payment timeframes and the referral of disputed or unpaid claims to an adjudicator for a decision.

BCIPA has now been in operation for 13 years. Extensive stakeholder engagement over many years has proven the majority of stakeholders consider the act is an important piece of legislation intended to overcome the power imbalances between those who perform construction work or those who supply related goods and services and those who have construction work or the supply of related goods and services provided.

It is acknowledged, however, that BCIPA is polarising in the industry. The attitudes of those who would benefit from its continuation in its current form are most supportive and the attitude of those who have had the act used negatively against them have attitudes ranging from ambivalence to frustration and contempt.

We do recommend some change to the act while endeavouring to maintain the integrity of the act as the majority of industry stakeholders have learned to work and utilise its confines over the last 13 years. We must consider and be mindful that there are diverse views and 'if it isn't broke, don't fix it'. From our engagement we believe the act has had a positive impact on the majority of stakeholders in contract administration. Any changes to the act should not detract from those improvements, but seek to further enhance them. That is why good public policy debate over the next couple of days will be important.

I believe that BCIPA is by no means broken, but it is clear that many challenges to the integrity and operation of the act will require meaningful reform to support the building and construction industry. Again, I reiterate that I am looking forward to working through the 143 amendments that have been proposed. It is clear to me that reforms could be investigated to endeavour to ensure that BCIPA has as broad an application as possible to all involved in performing construction work or to those who supply related goods and services.

The time frames contained within the act more equitably balance the interests of both parties by ensuring the delivery of efficient outcomes to maintain cash flow for contracted parties versus the entitlement of contracting parties who must be given proper and adequate opportunity to put their case; that adjudications are delivered by suitably qualified and experienced adjudicators who act impartially and who are appointed independently of their own interests or the interests of a particular sector within the industry; and, to the extent possible, that the government refrain from unnecessarily involving itself in transactions between two commercial entities, save for if there is clear evidence of a significant power imbalance or prospect of abuse or misuse of market share.

It has been argued in correspondence and there have been several attempts made to lay the problems with the industry at the feet of the LNP. I will endeavour to provide some details of our 2014 reforms. Let us also remember that Labor governments have been in power 25 out of the last 28 years.

Comments have been made that the LNP's 2014 changes to BCIPA have made it harder for claimants—that is, subbies—to get paid. The main reason given is that the 2014 changes now give the builder a second chance to provide a payment schedule before a claimant can take action to recover the moneys owed. Some stakeholders who are most vocal about the 2014 changes seem to focus on this second chance. I note that Minister de Brenni pledged in February 2017 to remove this requirement.

The second chance comments refer to section 19(5) and section 20A(2) of BCIPA which require a claimant to give a respondent a second opportunity to provide a payment schedule before they can take action through either the courts or adjudication to recover the moneys owed. Whilst the 2014 changes added the requirement for a second opportunity to be given to the respondent to provide a payment schedule prior to commencing court action, it did not amend the requirement for a second chance prior to applying for adjudication. This requirement has always been in BCIPA. Section 21(2) of the 2004 version of BCIPA, as it was enacted, required the second opportunity to be given prior to applying for adjudication, and this requirement was not changed in the 2014 changes. Hence, the requirement for a second chance payment schedule was not something new in 2014 with respect to the adjudication process. It was only new for summary judgement applications, which are not often utilised due to the risk and involvement of lawyers.

There are a few other matters to consider with regard to the LNP 2014 changes. Another major issue that is often raised regarding the 2014 changes is the removal of authorised nominating authorities, ANAs. The relatively high number of adjudication applications that are found to be without jurisdiction—therefore, the adjudicator is unable to make a decision—since the QBCC registry took over the process is often cited as being evidence that the 2014 changes have not helped claimants. However, it seems that such information is evidence that supports the view that the ANAs were biased towards claimants and that they were assisting claimants to perfect their claims prior to submitting them to the ANA adjudicators for formal determination. This conflict of interest should never have been permitted and led to a complete lack of faith in the BCIPA process.

Natural justice is a fundamental right of each party in a dispute and must be afforded to some degree in any legislated process attempting to deal with disputes. Yet BCIPA under ANAs often provided the respondent with little natural justice. The amended BCIPA improves this position slightly but not enough to be considered a fair and reasonable process. Improvements can be made to the QBCC registry but private, profit-making entities should not be part of a legislated dispute process.

Another significant change that was made in the 2014 changes was the distinction between standard payment claims and complex payment claims. This change went a small way towards recognising that it was fundamentally unfair to allow a claimant to spend a long time to prepare a payment claim, yet only providing the respondent with five days to prepare a payment schedule, particularly when the respondent is unable to rely upon any reasons for withholding payment that is not included in the payment schedule.

Further, the 2014 change permitted the respondent to raise new reasons to withhold payment from a complex payment claim even though those new reasons were not included in the payment schedule. Whilst the arbitrary line of \$750,000 has been often abused by claimants by putting in payment claims for \$749,900, it at least affords the respondent a small increase in natural justice that was lacking in the original act.

The size of the payment claim does not, in itself, determine whether there are complex matters to be considered in a payment claim, but it goes some way towards recognising this. The time required to properly deal with a \$20,000 payment claim is proportionately less than that required to properly deal with a \$1 million payment claim. Furthermore, the financial impact of an erroneous order to pay, or not to pay, \$20,000 is significantly less than a payment of \$1 million.

The Queensland LNP government introduced a number of amendments to the Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004. The amendments implement some of the 49 recommendations made in a review of BCIPA by prominent barrister Andrew Wallace. The wideranging changes were aimed at addressing some industry concerns and changed the way claimants and respondents deal with payment claims.

The issue of minimum financial requirements has been raised and continues to attract debate and will continue to in the course of this debate. Our reforms were widely accepted and applauded as they endeavoured to address a number of issues. The minimum financial requirements policy no longer required licensed contractors to provide financial information demonstrating they comply with the financial requirements yearly at renewal. This represents a significant reduction in the regulatory burden and cost of maintaining their licence. Previously, each year, licensed contractors—those who have a licence allowing them to contract directly with the public—were required to submit financial information

to the commission in the form of a report from their external accountant in order to renew their licence. Additionally, larger licensed contractors with a turnover in excess of \$12 million had to submit audited financial statements. This was a costly exercise for those licensees. The total cost to industry of supplying those reports each year has been estimated to be around \$30 million per year.

The commission, not the LNP, recognised the burden this placed on licensees so has removed the requirement to submit financial information every year at renewal in order to streamline the process for those licensees. Licensed contractors must still meet the minimum financial requirements at all times. However, the changes mean that contractors with an annual turnover in excess of \$600,000 are only required to submit a financial report to the commission when they first apply for a licence or in order to upgrade their turnover limit. This is necessary to ensure licensees operating in the industry remain financially viable. Why did the QBCC make this change and how does the QBCC manage the risks of not checking licensed contractors' financial information yearly?

The commission's statistics showed that only a very small number of licences were cancelled for failing to meet the old financial requirements at renewal each year. Financial information provided at the time of renewal under the old financial requirements was often stale or months old and did not truly indicate whether the licensee remained viable and should be able to continue to hold a licence. This indicated that the requirement to lodge reports with the commission annually was not achieving its aim and, considering the costs associated with it, it could be done a better way. The commission is now moving to proactively monitor licensees, particularly on the issue of non-payment of debts to ensure swift response times.

Non-payment of debts in the building industry causes financial distress, financial collapse and costs the industry, its participants and their families millions of dollars. The new MFRs require licensed contractors to pay all debts within agreed trading terms. Failure to pay a legitimately owed debt that is not subject to genuine dispute will result in loss of licence. The commission's tough stance on this complex problem in the industry is good news for all industry participants. This requirement ensured that the commission could move quickly and decisively to deal with issues of non-payment and ensures that those licensees who do not pay their debts cannot string out the problem and continue to incur further debt they cannot pay. The message is: pay your debts and make sure you maintain your cash flow in order to do so or be forced out of the industry.

The previous financial requirements for licensing imposed vastly different requirements on licensed contractors depending on their size, including different report types, different rules for ages of information and different monitoring requirements. This was a source of confusion for licensees, particularly when they moved into different financial categories—that is, as their business grew. The new minimum financial requirements streamlined the process and set the same rules for licensees across the categories and bases those rules on good business and accounting practices that encourage profitable and viable businesses which ultimately benefits licensees.

The new minimum financial requirements introduce one report type for all categories and align the age of financial information and the regularity of financial monitoring for all categories. In addition, the policy has been completely rewritten and definitions clarified with the ease of the reader in mind. These things combined are intended to remove much of the previous confusion about how to comply with those requirements.

The changes to financial categories, allowing small business in the industry to grow, are welcomed. Under the old policy, contractors and builders had the option to self-certify by providing a declaration that they met the commission's financial requirements for turnovers up to \$100,000 only for trade contractors and \$300,000, being the entry level for builders. With ever-increasing costs to build the average house, the commission recognised this may have imposed a barrier to small businesses in the industry as the costs of compliance with the policy increased significantly once a licensee moved up into higher turnover categories. With this in mind, the new minimum financial requirements double the turnover limits for the self-certification categories. The annual turnover limits for those new self-certification categories are now \$200,000 and \$600,000 respectively.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! There is far too much audible conversation. Please take it outside or turn it right down. I am having difficulty hearing the member.

**Mr BENNETT:** The commission was ensuring that entry for new small businesses into the industry is less costly, and the 2006 limit for self-certifying financial requirements has been increased.

In monitoring business performances, all business owners go into business to make money and succeed. The building industry is one of those pillars of the Queensland economy that can be profitable for businesses operating in it providing those businesses keep an eye on their performance. The minimum financial requirements require all licensed contractors to monitor their financial performance

at least quarterly. This aligns with BAS reporting requirements so it does not impose an additional burden on licensees, but the message is clear: keep an eye on the financial performance of your business and you should be okay. The aim of the policy was to promote financial viable businesses and foster professional business practices. This starts with business owners monitoring their own financial performance. In every financial report provided by the Queensland Labor government since the 2015 election, every report has highlighted the benefits of the minimal financial requirements policy that was introduced in 2014.

In the 2014-15 QBCC annual report, endorsed by the then Labor minister for housing and public works, the Hon. Leeanne Enoch MP, there are quotes from HIA members such as Warwick Temby, a Housing Industry Association and QBCC consumer reference group member, who welcome the reduced financial reporting obligations and the discounted three-year licence renewals that the QBCC has introduced. Another quote from Max Barton of the Association of Independent Retirees and QBCC consumer reference group states, 'The QBCC is a fairer, more efficient and effective building service authority for Queensland.' Another quote from Paul Bidwell of the Master Builders Association and QBCC industry reference group member states, 'We support the decision to provide three-year licences. This saves licensees time each year along with a 15 per cent fee discount.' Another quote from Warwick Temby reads, 'The new BCIPA processes and the online tools have made it a less confusing, more user friendly system.'

The 2015-16 QBCC annual report, endorsed by the current Minister for Housing and Public Works, the Hon. Mick de Brenni, endorsed quotes like—

The QBCC also oversees the adjudication process under the Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004 ... to help those in the building industry who are involved in a payment dispute. During the past financial year, the BCIPA Act helped Queensland industry participants to get paid more than \$73 million through adjudication.

Phil Kesby, the chairperson of the Queensland Building and Construction Board, stated, 'Under the MFR Policy, the QBCC undertook 445 non-payment of debt investigations, resulting in the suspension of 93 licenses' and has recovered \$9 billion for its creditors. I will refer to some other relevant facts that were endorsed by the minister at the time. From the BCIPA annual report of 2013-14 under the commissioner's report extract, since October 2004 more than 5,800 adjudication applications have been lodged under the act, resulting in about \$1.1 billion being awarded to claimants through the adjudication process. I reject the claims that the LNP watered down the Building and Construction Industry Payments Act amendments as alleged. Consultation on proposed changes to BCIPA occurred over several years from 2012 involving hundreds of written submissions, individual interviews and a number of discussion papers.

It is simply not correct to allege that somehow because an LNP government was in place that the QBCC board contributed to the tragic Walton Construction collapse. The changes made to the minimal financial requirements happened later and have been widely accepted. It must be stated that any review of the current legislation before the House by the current Labor government on any reforms will be assessed on their merit. We have to have an open mind on determining what is good public policy. The claims made that non-payment incidents have skyrocketed is terribly misleading. Evidence can be found in the QBCC's annual report of 2015-16 that debt recovery has remained relatively unchanged over the last five years. In fact, there was over \$4 million recovered in 2013-14 compared to \$2.2 million recovered in 2015-16.

During a briefing to the Public Works and Utilities Committee reviewing this bill, departmental officers were asked several questions which they had to take on notice. One answer in particular is worth highlighting. The question asked by the committee read—

With regard to mandatory and prohibited contracts clauses proposed in the Bill, insertion of section 67GA and 67B to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 including mandatory and prohibited clauses into building contracts (which are not defined) while including fines for non-compliance leaves uncertainty. Could the department provide clarification on the type and wording of the proposed mandatory or prohibited clauses?

The response from the department was that clause 276 provides for proposed new section 67GA which prohibits a building contractor from entering into a building contract that does not include mandatory conditions prescribed by regulation. Clause 276 also provides for proposed new section 67GB which prohibits a building contractor from entering into a contract that includes a prohibited condition prescribed by regulation.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members on the government side, there is still far too much talk. I am having difficulty hearing the member for Burnett. Please keep the volume down.

**Mr BENNETT:** For the benefit of the House, I only have a couple of pages to go. Hang in there. I will jump forward a bit.

What does this mean for the industry? The answer from the department sheds little light as to the specific contract conditions that government has in mind in this regard. However, it is expected that conditions like unreasonable short time bars, termination for convenience and recourse to security without notice could be the first raft of prohibited conditions. If the implementation of PBAs is conditional on the government having to produce regulations mandating and prohibiting contract provisions to create a fairer and more accountable industry then it would appear that building contracts are about to be significantly changed and refined by the government.

The industry has been hearing a lot about the proposed legislation for a considerable period of time, including millions of taxpayers' funding to promote that everyone will be paid on time in full every time. The problem has always been that the government has only ever really consulted initially at a high level and then only broadly on the reforms. The problem has always been that the industry had never had an opportunity to review much of the detail to understand all the issues and potential problems.

**Mr de Brenni** interjected.

**Mr BENNETT:** I take that interjection from the minister. He tabled 143 amendments two hours ago and now tells me that he has consulted widely and not at a high level. I reject that claim.

We have to understand the issues and potential problems. We now see that there are considerable changes being proposed, but the real effects of the ramifications on the industry will not be known until we at least have a review of the legislation conducted after 12 months. At this point in time I acknowledge that two weeks ago the LNP travelled to Springwood and made a great announcement which has thankfully been taken up by the minister that the review is part of what the industry needs to do. Good policy should be about review. Good policy can be supported by all sides of this House. We thank the minister for acknowledging this with 143 amendments. We acknowledge the minister's review after 12 months, because I think the industry deserves to have some certainty that this will not cause diabolical consequences.

In conclusion, we remain committed to good policy. We welcome the communication and discussion on all of these issues. I take the opportunity to thank the departmental staff who I know have worked on these policy reforms for a number of years, including under the previous government. If these 143 amendments go a long way to supporting all key stakeholders in the industry, the LNP will be happy to support the bill.


Debate, on motion of Mr Bennett, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (8.38 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Kedron State High School

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (8.39 pm): I rise to talk about a great school in my electorate—Kedron State High School—which has been operating for over 60 years and continues to go from strength to strength under the leadership of its principal, Joseba Larrazabal. Over the last three years he has been the principal there. I am looking forward to returning to this school and others in my electorate later this week as we celebrate World Teachers' Day to thank our teachers for all they do teaching our children to be the best they can be.

The neglect of the Clayfield electorate by the Palaszczuk Labor government, however, was laid bare when I was at Kedron State High School when the government announced \$154.5 million worth of funding for school halls and, guess what, not one cent was spent in the current Clayfield electorate. Not one cent went to Ascot State School, Eagle Junction State School or Woolloowin State School. This is despite the obvious needs of a school like Kedron State High School which has been serving its community so well.


Next door in Labor held seats we have seen embarrassing sandbagging. There is \$8.7 million going to schools in Brisbane Central, plus more than \$200 million on a new school that no-one even knew about, including the member. That is what is happening there. Schools in the Nudgee electorate are receiving over \$4.8 million, while the new electorate of Clayfield will get zilch in new funding for any of our eight public state schools.



Last week I attended the school's sports awards night that was held in the school's old hall. Unfortunately, that school hall is as old as the school itself and is not suitable to hold an event any larger than that. The much bigger full school awards evening is being held in the school gymnasium as we speak in this chamber tonight. While I was at the school last week, I was reminded of the need for this growing school to get a new school hall so that the award-winning performing arts and music department can continue their successes and so that other faculties of the school can utilise this vital resource for events as basic as school assemblies.

I am pleased to advise the House that I have today sponsored a petition at the request of the school community calling on the state government to prioritise funding for a new school hall to be used by not just the school of over 1,400 students but the wider community. Kedron State High School has delivered students of outstanding capabilities to the Queensland Conservatorium of music on a regular basis. It has provided great leaders of the professions and sports. It is a shame that this government will not build it a new school hall. This petition is designed to bring pressure on this government to deliver for the people of Clayfield.

### Port of Brisbane

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (8.42 pm): The Port of Brisbane is not only a major employment hub; it is also a great local corporate citizen, supporting not only the bayside but all of Queensland. The port is home to around 70 businesses, supporting thousands of Queensland jobs. Not only is the Port of Brisbane providing family friendly employment to local families, it is also an economic enabler for Queensland.

The port of Brisbane is located in my electorate of Lytton. The port is a major industrial precinct for everything from oil to cement to gas. Today I was delighted to be with the Premier, the Treasurer, the Minister for Tourism, Mr Jerry Maycock and Mr Roy Cummins for the Port of Brisbane's announcement of the construction of the \$158 million investment in the Brisbane international cruise terminal—what an investment.

The Port of Brisbane will now be a major player in the South-East Queensland tourism industry through the construction of the mega cruise ship terminal at Luggage Point, with site preparation due to start next month. The cruise ship terminal will serve as a catalyst to supercharge growth in our tourism sector and related industries and generate jobs now and into the future. The port is Queensland's major import and export hub, including for the world-class agricultural products from out west. Approximately \$50 billion of international trade is handled through the port every year. Trade is continuing to grow, and the Port of Brisbane is investing in infrastructure and innovation to prepare the port for the future.


The port is spending \$110 million to upgrade port roads, well ahead of capacity demand, for safety and efficiency. This is a great investment and a commitment to Queensland and the Queensland economy. It is making sure our capital city port can continue to grow and maintain its competitiveness and productivity. This major road project is supporting on average 390 jobs during construction. Not only is it supporting Queensland construction jobs, it is also supporting Queensland led innovation in the sector.

As part of the road project, in September the Port of Brisbane placed Australia's longest pre-stressed bridge girders as part of the bridge duplication. Spanning 46 metres, these girders are a great example of local innovation. This was a truly Queensland undertaking, with the girders being designed locally, manufactured in Beaudesert and placed by a Queensland construction company. This required a major multistakeholder transport plan, including TMR, QPS, Port of Brisbane and others.

Queensland is setting the pace when it comes to road engineering, design and construction, and Port of Brisbane's work is proof of this. The port's commitment today to the new mega international cruise ship terminal is further proof of its commitment to Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### Southport Electorate, Community Groups

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (8.45 pm): It is with great pleasure that I speak tonight of some of the very dedicated community service groups in my electorate of Southport. FSG Australia has a 20-year history of providing equal opportunities throughout the community and for encouraging the freedom, social justice and growth of all people within society.

Following in the footsteps of CEO Ms Vicki Batten, staff and volunteers across FSG are encouraged to speak up about and transform landscapes through activism in the communities in which they work across Queensland and northern New South Wales. The culture of FSG in supporting and nurturing people to achieve their goals and dreams and to defend issues that affect their community is enviable in any support organisation, and their goal to transform the community is evident in every project they take on.


I was pleased earlier this year to support an application by FSG for their annual Justice in the Park event. I am looking forward to attending it this Saturday. The Justice in the Park festival brings the local community together to enjoy live music, cultural cuisine, interactive workshops, market stalls, guest speakers, a youth precinct, children's activities, an art exhibition and a whole lot more.

Also on this weekend in Southport, and joining forces with FSG's Justice in the Park, is the Walk Together For Freedom—for freedom to belong, freedom to be yourself, freedom to hope. Walk Together 2017 is organised by the Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast in partnership with the Gold Coast Multicultural Network, including the Multicultural Families Organisation, FSG Australia, Headspace Southport and Act for Kids. Again, I was happy to be able to provide support for this year's event, and I hope the weather holds out for both events, as one was washed out last weekend.

Last week I had the pleasure of meeting with Rosemary and her team at the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast. I would like to commend them on the amazing work they do every day. It was a great opportunity to hear about the not only excellent but vital services provided to women, children and families in need of assistance, and to have a constructive conversation about how we as a community can help fight domestic violence and strengthen the system to best support those in need.

The highlight of that visit was one woman on the team who came up to me and said, 'You don't remember me, do you?' and I must confess that I did not. She said, 'You met me 12 years ago. You delivered a fridge, a washing machine, furniture and appliances to my home when I was on the run and homeless and without anything for my family.' That lady and her daughter are both working for the Gold Coast Domestic Violence Prevention Centre. It was such a great honour to catch up with her after all those years and to see how her life has turned around. It was great to hear some of the truly incredible stories of survival and of women giving back to the centre and the community which had helped them in the past. I look forward to working with these groups in the future and to building a better Southport and a better Queensland.

### Bundaberg Base Hospital

 **Ms DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (8.48 pm): The Bundaberg Base Hospital is one of Queensland's oldest hospitals and it provides a great service to Bundaberg and the wider region. This government has returned the services to the hospital after the savage cuts by the LNP government, which included cutting 107 nurses and midwives out of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service. The Palaszczuk government has been—

**Mr Seeney** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Callide, the member does not have as loud a voice as you. Please allow the member to make a contribution and then we will move on.

**Ms DONALDSON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Palaszczuk government has been investing in our front-line services in health, including just last month when the Minister for Health announced that 98 new graduate nurses had commenced at the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service.

I am also glad to be able to inform the House and the people of Bundaberg that after many long discussions with the Minister for Health and the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service board the wheels are in motion to look at the feasibility of Bundaberg getting a new hospital. The wheels are in motion with the green light being given for a business case for a new hospital in Bundaberg. I look forward to building on my relationship with the current Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service board and to continuing a dialogue with them about this matter. I also want to make sure that local stakeholders are involved, including other Bundaberg hospitals such as the Friendly and the Mater, CQUniversity, other health and allied health services, community groups and, of course, all of our dedicated health professionals in the health systems. While I am on my feet I also thank them for all the work they do every day caring for all of our local residents.

This has been talked about locally for many years and I am proud to be able to say that it has taken a Labor state government to once again get the ball rolling. It is Labor who invests in our state's health services. We should not be surprised because when it comes to health the LNP are just cutters, sackers and sellers.

### Redlands Electorate

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (8.50 pm): I rise tonight to highlight some very important matters for the electorate of Redlands. Firstly, two years ago I asked the Deputy Premier if Labor was committed to seeing the LNP's priority development area of Weinam Creek Marina progress. She answered with one word: yes. There has been not another word since and nothing has happened. Parking is an absolute nightmare for island residents, boaties and mainland residents. It is only the LNP that is genuinely committed. Call the election and get out of the way, Labor, so we can get on with it.

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Thank you, members. Let's give the member for Redlands a chance so we can move on.

**Mr McEACHAN:** The recently published coroner's inquest into the tragic death of Russell Island boy Ethan Stephenson made several recommendations. Two of these recommendations stand out for Russell and Macleay islands in particular: firstly, that there should be more police based on the islands; and, secondly, that a public transport service be established. I have written to the Police Commissioner and the transport department highlighting the coroner's recommendations and strongly urge that they be implemented. I am yet to hear back. We know that both of these recommendations are of vital importance to the island communities. We have held public meetings and raised the issues and I have repeatedly called for the government to commit resources for the islands. Let us not allow this tragedy to pass without it being a catalyst for positive change.

On mainland Redlands, we are facing the same issues. Since Labor was elected not a single extra full-time position has been allocated to either the Redland Bay or Cleveland police stations. To make matters worse, this soft-on-crime Labor government has allowed criminal gangs to again proliferate in Queensland, restarting illicit drug importation, manufacture and distribution. We see this manifest in our community with increases in serious assaults, property theft and home invasion to name a few. Residents of Thornlands know only too well this reality as an out-of-control supposed rehab centre saw drug dealing, home invasions, a stabbing and breaches of bail. Locals were living in fear. What did we see from this Palaszczuk Labor government? Nothing! Repeated pleas by me to intervene were ignored by both the police minister and the Attorney-General. Worse, the member for Capalaba ignored the concerns of locals, police, magistrates and councillors and accused me of running a fear campaign. Worst of all, the Labor candidate for Redlands never even acknowledged there was a problem.

We ought not be surprised as this Labor Party opposite has a legacy of condoning criminal activity from changing the law to make it legal to lie to parliament, to accepting money from a union that has over 800 outstanding charges before the courts. So utterly contemptible is this union that two former prime ministers are calling for it to be deregistered. This government is morally bankrupt. Move over, Labor, so the LNP can get on with building a better Redlands.

### Ipswich Rugby League Referees Association

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (8.53 pm): I was delighted to represent the government at the 2017 Ipswich Rugby League Referees Association presentation night held at Ipswich Turf Club on 14 October. This is a night about recognising the hard work, dedication and achievement of members of the association. Sharing the master of ceremony duties were Andrew Wareham and Belinda Sleeman. Andrew Wareham is an Intrust Super Cup level match official who officiates at NRL level as an interchange official and is a proud member of the Ipswich Rugby League Referees Association and a mentor to the referees. Belinda Sleeman, one of the most well-known NRL officials, is also a proud member of the Ipswich Rugby League Referees Association and a role model for the association's growing number of female officials. They presided over a night when all of the match officials who participated in the Rugby League Ipswich grand finals, held in early September this year, were recognised. The night also recognised the many talented members of the association who were recipients of various perpetual awards. From the Amy Vuksic Memorial Trophy—

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Thank you, member for Callide. If you persist, I might invite the member to start again. I am in your hands. Thank you, everyone. We have four more speakers to go. The member for Kawana has a chance tonight. We are looking forward to his contribution.

**Mr MADDEN:** From the Amy Vuksic Memorial Trophy for Rookie of the Year to the Rugby League Ipswich Referee of the Year, the association's junior, senior, male and female members were all honoured for their outstanding achievements over the 2017 season. The night also provided an opportunity for the association to recognise and thank all of the tireless volunteers who help keep Rugby League in Ipswich running—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Kawana and Minister for Industrial Relations, we started this session this afternoon with both of you having a barney. It looks like we are finishing with you having—what was the word the Treasurer used—a melee.


**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** All right. I know Hansard is keen to go home sometime tonight, so we will get back to the member for Ipswich West.

**Mr MADDEN:**—by acting as match officials or supporting our match officials at every level of the local game. Highlights of the night included the association's president, Julie Gerchow, and Rugby League Ipswich's board chairman, Jack Rhea, presenting Belinda Sleeman with her level 5 Rugby League match official qualification just before she heads off to officiate at the 2017 Rugby League World Cup. The association also inducted hardworking volunteer and match official Luke Anderson as a life member.

The night was also an opportunity to congratulate three of the association's most talented junior members who have been invited to participate in the emerging referees talent academy: Bailey Sheppard, Riley Anderson and Xavier McKoy. Other awards presented on the night included the Life Member's Trophy—Most Improved Award to Bailey Sheppard; the Brian Creedy Memorial Award for the Most Serviceable Association Member, as voted by the members, to Luke Anderson; the Rugby League Ipswich Junior International Referee of the Year Award went to Riley Steward; and the Rugby League Ipswich Referee of the Year Award went to Matt Wright. It was a great night that was enjoyed by all the members and invited guests. The Ipswich Rugby League Referees Association looks forward to a bright, talent-filled 2018 season and beyond. I enjoyed the company of former deputy mayors of Ipswich Victor Attwood and Denise Hanley as well as Jack Rhea of Rugby League Ipswich.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (8.58 pm): Last week the Premier flew into the Sunshine Coast and flew out. In fact, if honourable members blinked, they would have missed the cabinet. The week before they had spruiked that they were coming to the Sunshine Coast to have this 'open community forum'; they were going to govern from the Sunshine Coast. No-one saw them. They went into the hospital—

**Mr Minnikin:** The ghosts.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I do not even know which ministers were there, but under the cover of the clouds and the rain they went to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and apparently had a cabinet meeting. Then they flew down to the new school, opened a building and flew back to Brisbane. There were no big announcements, no rail duplication and no hospital link road. What has the Labor Party given the Sunshine Coast over the last 20 years? They have given zilch—nothing, zero—other than a \$400 million infrastructure cut to the Sunshine Coast. They have given us the cruel Health payroll fiasco that continues. We have nurses on the Sunshine Coast who are still being cruelly chased by debt collectors for the recovery of money that this Labor government put on them.


**Mr Williams** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** You will need that handkerchief after the election, mate, because you will be crying because you will not have a job. That is why you need your handkerchief.

The Labor Party have cut \$400 million in infrastructure. They cut the Mooloolah River interchange. They did not duplicate the rail corridor. Last week when the Premier was on the coast late in the afternoon she was asked, 'Why aren't you duplicating the rail corridor?' Now all of a sudden the duplication of the Sunshine Coast rail corridor cannot happen until Cross River Rail happens. Anna Bligh said that the duplication of the rail corridor was going to be built by 2012 before Cross River Rail was even talked about, but now the duplication is subject to Cross River Rail. It is a joke. It is not subject to Cross River Rail: it is only because the Labor Party are using it as an excuse not to build it. I do not have to tell you, Mr Speaker, how important the duplication of the rail corridor is on the Sunshine Coast. With respect to the Mooloolah River interchange, we have renamed it the Hospital Link Road so the Sunshine Coast community will understand.

While we are talking about roads, the Meridan State College has major congestion around it. I have launched a petition to help me fix the congestion on our roads around Parklands Boulevard. It already has thousands of signatures, and I would encourage people to go to [meridantraffic.com.au](http://meridantraffic.com.au) and sign this petition. We on the Sunshine Coast know that we cannot afford another three years of Labor.

### Mackay Electorate, Jobs


 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (9.01 pm): There have been a lot of graduation ceremonies in the Mackay electorate that have been cancelled in recent weeks. These graduation ceremonies are for graduates of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. These graduates have found secure work and have not been able to take time off work from their new jobs to attend the ceremonies. This is the best type of cancellation anybody could want.

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program has been an outstanding success, getting locals skilled up to a point where they become valued staff members of companies. Young Ian McAulty completed a project at the Mackay showgrounds, gained a certificate I in construction, and went on to get an apprenticeship as a carpenter with Woollam Construction. This is great for the young people of Mackay. There are a wide range of programs in my region including certificates to work as carers, in administration and landscaping.

In the Mackay-Whitsunday region to date the Palaszczuk government has invested over \$2,727,000 to fund 25 projects. As at the end of September 355 people have exited projects in the region; 267 in the region have found jobs as a direct result of Skilling Queenslanders for Work; and another 42 people have gone on for further training or returned to school. That is not all. The very successful Back to Work program has seen 1,082 people employed under that program across the Mackay-Whitsunday region and 588 of them are from Youth Boost. This is great for the young people in my region. You will find these employees in restaurants, hotels, computer repairs, administration jobs, construction, retail and the list goes on.

As the Palaszczuk government's funded infrastructure rolls out, people will find our local tradespeople working on the \$28 million Vines Creek bridges rebuild; the new \$7.4 million Mackay fire station; the Mackay showgrounds redevelopment; and the mental health step-up step-down transition facility. This has been awarded to another local company, Zined Construction, which proudly employs local workers—more jobs for local families. The Palaszczuk government is getting local Mackay residents back to work and they are easing pressure on local households. This is good for the region.

### Magic Millions

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (9.05 pm): In a little over two months from now one of the world's great tourism and sporting events will be held in Queensland on the fabulous Gold Coast. Yes, I am talking about the Magic Millions sales and racing week where princes, sheiks, rich-listers, and A-listers all head to the Gold Coast from around the world for Australia's second greatest horseracing carnival behind only the Melbourne Cup in recognition, attraction and enjoyment. The racecourse is the ultimate venue for the tradie, the partygoer and the horse lover to rub shoulders with the rich and famous on an equal basis, hence its recognition as the sport of kings.


Following on from the LNP's bold move to assist funding to make it a \$10 million race day, the Magic Millions race and sales week has generated fantastic interest and media attention from all over the world. Even in Melbourne during their wonderful Melbourne Cup carnival many participants are talking about how they cannot wait to go up to the Gold Coast in January for the fabulous Magic Millions carnival. Media representatives on free-to-air TV and pay TV are all lavish in their praise of Queensland's premier tourism event. The Magic Millions recognition factor is now through the roof throughout the world, and the quality and quantity of superb thoroughbred horses on offer at the sales are second to none in the world. Champion racehorses, including Australia's latest world champion mare Winx, were sold through the Magic Millions sales ring and have indelibly stamped the event in thoroughbred circles around the world as a 'must do' event. The excitement of the sales ring, where million dollar horses bring a gasp around the arena, and the yelling and screaming of excited race goers as the two-year-olds scamper around the corner into the home straight towards \$1 million in prize money are experiences that are never to be forgotten.

A huge congratulations must go to sales owners Katie Page and Gerry Harvey, who have taken the marketing and delivery of the event to a new world-class level. Of course, the doyen of thoroughbred auctioneering and fitness fanatic David Chester, who runs and swims every morning, has been there all the way lending his unparalleled knowledge and breeding experience in driving the sale ring success.

Being on the Gold Coast in January has always been a timeslot made in heaven for tourism and, coupled with magnificent beaches, restaurants and a vibrant nightlife, it all adds up to the magical feeling conjured up by this unique and glorious racing concept.

In the first weeks of January I look forward to welcoming the many thousands of racing aficionados, partygoers and racing tragics to Australia's favourite playground for an incredible week of enjoyment for families on the Gold Coast, and I can assure them that everyone there has at least backed one winner for the week just by being there. South Africa, America, UAE, England, Ireland, France, Japan, China, Singapore, Malaysia, and New Zealand will all provide visitors and spectators to this monumentally valuable Queensland tourism event.

### Stafford Electorate, Sporting and Community Groups

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.09 pm): I am proud once again to rise to acknowledge the overwhelming success of Stafford sporting clubs and community groups this year. With more than 20 groups, I have been lucky enough to spend my weekends watching local sport and participating in various community events and multicultural festivals.

This year the Wilston Grange Gorillas Australian Football Club had one of the most successful seasons to date. I particularly congratulate the under-17 girls premiership-winning team on their well-deserved and hard-earned win. I continue to sponsor the Gorillas, including by raising funds for the women's teams at the International Women's Day breakfast. This year Wilston Grange Gorillas will also receive funding for a new first aid—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members, the minister is talking about matters in his electorate and I think the members in his electorate would like to be able to hear it.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, come on. He is the last speaker. Let's give him a go.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** If I cannot, I will invite him to start again. I am in your hands.

**Dr LYNHAM:** Not only did I spend my weekends watching AFL; I also had the pleasure of watching both the Valley Diehards and Brothers Junior Rugby League team compete over the course of the season. I am proud to continue sponsorship and support for the Valley's ALP Shield, for their marquees and of course for the end-of-season trophies as well as attend their presentation evening. This season would not have been successful without the dedicated committee, which includes Valleys president Danny Walker and secretary Shahra McDonell. Brothers also had a wonderful season, with two teams making grand finals and the under-17s defeating Arana Hills 42-10 to take home the premiership. I am terribly sorry, Mark.

This year the Grange Thistle Football Club had a successful year, with more than 60 junior teams and seven senior teams participating in a variety of competitions. On top of this, Grange Thistle has now forged a partnership with the Brisbane Roar Football Club to establish the Grange Roar Academy. Grange Thistle is one of Queensland's oldest football clubs, and this is just one of the many exciting new developments for the club. Grange Thistle also plans to seek funding for new functional and inclusive female-friendly change rooms and amenities at Lanham Park in 2018.

**Mr de Brenni** interjected.

**Dr LYNHAM:** A great program. This is only possible due to the Palaszczuk government's very generous Female Facilities Program. Grange Thistle also received more than \$33,000 to replace the club's grandstand. This will make a world of difference for spectators.

The Newmarket Racers swim club, Grange Bowls Club and Brisbane's inner north sporting community have also seen significant funding contributions to fund new equipment and improve existing facilities, thanks to the Palaszczuk government. Each and every one of these clubs, community groups and organisations has been a lifeline. These are just some of the few Staffordites who continue to go above and beyond for their community. I thank all recipients of Stafford Queensland Day awards for their service. Each and every one of them makes the Stafford community what it is today.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.12 pm.

**ATTENDANCE**

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams