



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

### Thursday, 15 February 2018

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## THURSDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2018

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 The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Curtis Pitt, Mulgrave) read prayers and took the chair.

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

### MOTION

#### Order of Business

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.31 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the sessional orders setting out the order of business for this day's sitting be agreed to.

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#### ORDER OF BUSINESS AND TIMES FOR THURSDAY 15 February 2018

##### (1) Order of business

*From 9.30am—10:30am*

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Appointment of Deputy Speaker

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Motions of Condolence

Petitions

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Tabling of Reports

Personal Explanations

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

*10:30am to 11:30am—*

Question Time

*11:30am to 1.00 pm—*

Government Business

*1.00pm—2.00pm—*

Lunch break

*2:00pm until special adjournment and adjournment moved—#*

Government Business

*#Should the adjournment not be moved by 7.00pm, the House will break for dinner from 7.00pm until 8.00pm, then resume with Government Business until the adjournment.*

##### (2) Adjournment

Notwithstanding Standing Order 56, there shall be no adjournment debate and the question "That the House do now adjourn" shall be immediately put without debate

##### (3) Time limits

The maximum time limits that apply to debates, speeches and statements are contained in the schedule below.

**Maximum time limits for debates, speeches and statements**

Subject	Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders	Time
<b>Address in Reply Debate</b> – Total time – Mover – Other members – Mover in reply	SO 47	28 hours 20 minutes 20 minutes 30 minutes
Adjournment debate	SO 56	Suspended
<b>Bills—Government Bills</b> Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech) First reading	SO 129 SO 130	1 hour No debate
<b>Matters concerning privilege</b>	Sessional Order 1, & SO 248 & 267	At discretion of Speaker
<b>Motions</b> –Mover –Other members –Mover in reply	Chapter 15	20 minutes 20 minutes 30 minutes
<b>Personal Explanations</b> —each member	Sessional Order 1	At discretion of Speaker
<b>Tabling of Reports</b> – Chairperson of Committee on presentation of committee report – Member tabling report	Sessional Order 1 & 2	5 minutes 2 minutes
<b>Questions Without Notice</b> – Question time (total time) – Member asking question  – Minister answering question	Sessional Order 1 & SO 113	1 hour, At discretion of Speaker 3 minutes


**(4) Condolence Motions**

- (1) If a motion of condolence is moved, the debate on such motion will last no more than one hour, after which time the question shall be put.
- (2) After a motion of condolence is moved, debated and resolved, the Order of Business for the day shall then resume, with Question Time commencing 60 minutes after the motion of condolence was resolved and with starting times for all other items, except lunch and dinner breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## 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: 27 October 2017

A Bill for An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Evidence Act 1977, the Justice and Other Information Disclosure Act 2008, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 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

Acting Governor

27 October 2017

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 27 October 2017, from the Acting Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to bills on 27 October 2017 [93].

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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: 10 November 2017

A Bill for An Act to amend the Building Act 1975, 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 for particular purposes

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

A Bill for An Act to amend the Adoption Act 2009, the Child Protection Act 1999, the Director of Child Protection Litigation Act 2016 and the Public Guardian Act 2014 for particular purposes

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

10 November 2017

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 10 November 2017, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to Bills on 10 November 2017 [94].

## APPOINTMENT

### Deputy Speaker


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.31 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That Mr Scott Stewart MP, member for Townsville, be appointed Deputy Speaker.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH OR AFFIRMATION

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to issue a commission under the public seal of the state authorising me to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office to such members as might hereafter present themselves to be sworn. I table the commission for the information of members.



Queensland

*Constitution of Queensland 2001*

**To the Honourable CURTIS WARREN PITT, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.**

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, acting under section 22 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001, authorise you to administer to any member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and of Office that is required to be taken or made by every member before the member is permitted to sit or vote in the Legislative Assembly.

(Sgd)

Signed and sealed with the Public Seal of the State on 13 February 2018.

*By Command*

(Sgd)

A Palaszczuk


RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 51, page 47, on 13 February 2018.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

*Tabled paper:* Commission, dated 13 February 2018, authorising the Hon. Curtis Warren Pitt, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, to administer the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and of Office [\[95\]](#).


## GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that His Excellency the Governor on Wednesday, 14 February 2018 delivered a speech to parliament of which for greater accuracy I have obtained a copy. I table a copy for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Opening Speech: Governor's Speech to the Opening of the First Session of the Fifty-Sixth Parliament, dated 14 February 2018 [\[96\]](#).


## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Vacancy in Senate of Commonwealth of Australia

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that His Excellency the Governor has been informed on 27 October 2017 by the President of the Senate of the High Court's judgement regarding the Senate vacancy caused through the resignation of Larissa Waters. I table the correspondence for the information of members and note that this vacancy was filled by a special count of the ballot papers for the election of Ms Waters and is not a vacancy for which this House must elect a senator.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 4 November 2017, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker, advising of a vacancy in the Senate and attaching a letter, dated 27 November 2017, from the President of the Senate to His Excellency the Governor regarding the vacancy in the Senate [\[97\]](#).


### Vacancy in Senate of Commonwealth of Australia

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that His Excellency the Governor has been informed on 8 February 2018 by the President of the Senate of a Senate vacancy caused through the resignation of Senator the Hon. George Brandis QC on 7 February 2018. I received the notification on my being elected on 13 February 2018. I table the relevant correspondence for the information of members. I will issue summonses to members in accordance with standing order 288 in due course.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 9 February 2018, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker, advising of a vacancy in the Senate and attaching a letter, dated 8 February 2018, from the President of the Senate to His Excellency the Governor regarding the vacancy in the Senate [\[98\]](#).

## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by the Premier

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, former Speaker Wellington made a ruling in relation to matters of privilege on 7 February 2018 regarding a complaint by the former member for Redlands against the Premier. Speaker Wellington requested that the incoming Speaker restate his ruling at the commencement of the next parliament in order that members' rights under the standing orders are not

diminished. Therefore, I reissue the previous Speaker's ruling that that matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and the matter will not be referred to the Ethics Committee. The correspondence in relation to this matter was tabled on 7 February 2018, but I seek leave to incorporate in the *Record of Proceedings* the previous Speaker's ruling.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

MR SPEAKER: Honourable members,

On 27 October 2017, the then Member for Redlands (Mr McEachan) wrote to me alleging that the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Member for Inala misled the House in her answer to a Question without Notice on 26 October 2017 when she was asked about the Australian Labor Party's How to Vote cards in the seat of Lockyer in the 2015 State Election. The Premier was asked:

Did you put Pauline Hanson last?

To which the Premier replied:

Yes.

In his letter to me, Mr McEachan contended the answer given by the Premier was incorrect and misleading as no indication of where to put One Nation was given on the How to Vote Card. The preference box was left blank. Mr McEachan also argued that there is no question of interpretation in relation to the card as there was a clear implication to the voter that the Labor Party was suggesting that any preference would suffice.

Standing Order 269(4) requires:

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

The Queensland Parliament was dissolved by proclamation dated 29 October 2017, before I was able to consider the matter. There is little by way of precedent to inform the way in which such a matter should be dealt with following the dissolution of Parliament.

My initial thought was not to deal with the matter and I informed the complainant accordingly. However, upon reflection, I am concerned about matters holding over into the next Parliament.

There is little by way of precedent to inform the way in which such a matter should be dealt with following the dissolution of Parliament.

Section 15 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 provides:

15 Speaker continues to hold office on Assembly's expiry or dissolution

(1) **For all purposes**, the Speaker holding office on the Assembly's expiry or dissolution continues to hold the office until the day before the Assembly's first sitting day after a general election.

(2) Subsection (1) applies even if the Speaker—

(a) is not a candidate for election as a member at the general election; or

(b) is a candidate for election as a member at the general election and is not elected.

[Emphasis added]

Section 15 obviously also applies to the Speaker's role under Standing Orders to determine whether matters should be referred to the Ethics Committee.


Therefore in the interests of passing a clean slate to the next Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, I have made a ruling.

On the information before me, I considered that the matter was technical or trivial as the effect of the placing the preference for a candidate last, or not attributing a preference to a candidate at all amounts to the same outcome. I have therefore decided that this matter does not warrant the further attention of the House and I will not be referring this matter to the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

I will request that the incoming Speaker restate my ruling at the commencement of the next Parliament in order that members' rights under Standing Orders are not diminished.

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, former Speaker Wellington made a ruling in relation to a matter of privilege on 7 February 2018 regarding a complaint by the Premier against the former member for Mansfield. Former Speaker Wellington requested that the incoming Speaker restate his ruling at the commencement of the next parliament in order that members' rights under the standing orders are not diminished. Therefore, I reissue the previous Speaker's ruling that that matter does not warrant the

further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and the matter will not be referred to the Ethics Committee. The correspondence in relation to this matter was tabled on 7 February 2018, but I seek leave to incorporate in the *Record of Proceedings* the previous Speaker's ruling.

Leave granted.

#### **SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE**

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members,

On 7 September 2017, the Premier, Minister for the Arts and Member for Inala wrote to me alleging that the then Member for Mansfield (Mr Walker) misled the House in his Question Without Notice on 7 September 2017 when he asked:

Why is the government hiding from answering the question about the so-called review of the decision to grant parole to the convicted killer of the Pullens' son? Does the board's response not indicate that no rigorous review was actually undertaken?

In her letter to me, the Premier contended the question asked by Mr Walker about the Queensland Parole Board's response was incorrect and misleading as the Parole Board made no mention of the review in its response, as proved by the documents tabled in the House by Mr Walker at the time he asked the question. The Premier also argued that there is no question of interpretation in relation to the documents, making Mr Walker's Question Without Notice a 'serious incidence of intentional misleading'.

I sought further information from Mr Walker about the allegation made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

Mr Walker refuted the allegation, contending that the question did not assert that a review had not been undertaken, but instead questioned whether the response indicated as such. He also argued that based on the Speaker's Ruling of 10 October 2017 in relation to a Matter of Privilege concerning the Attorney-General, the simple act of asking a question is insufficient to trigger a contempt of the Assembly.

Standing Order 269(4) requires:

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

The Queensland Parliament was dissolved by proclamation dated 29 October 2017, before I was able to consider the matter.

There is little by way of precedent to inform the way in which such a matter should be dealt with following the dissolution of Parliament.

Section 15 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 provides:

15 Speaker continues to hold office on Assembly's expiry or dissolution

(1) **For all purposes**, the Speaker holding office on the Assembly's expiry or dissolution continues to hold the office until the day before the Assembly's first sitting day after a general election.

(2) Subsection (1) applies even if the Speaker—

(a) is not a candidate for election as a member at the general election; or

(b) is a candidate for election as a member at the general election and is not elected.

[Emphasis added]

Section 15 obviously also applies to the Speaker's role under Standing Orders to determine whether matters should be referred to the Ethics Committee.


In the interests of passing a clean slate to the next Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, I have made a ruling.

On the information before me, I considered that Mr Walker has made an adequate explanation that his question was not an assertion of fact that a review had not been undertaken, but instead a question about the meaning of the Queensland Parole Board's response.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

I will request that the incoming Speaker restate my ruling at the commencement of the next Parliament in order that members' rights under Standing Orders are not diminished.

#### **Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by the Treasurer**

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, former Speaker Wellington made a ruling in relation to a matter of privilege on 12 February 2018 regarding a complaint by the Leader of the Opposition against the member for Mulgrave. Former Speaker Wellington requested that the incoming Speaker restate his ruling at the commencement of the next parliament in order that members' rights under the standing orders are not diminished. Therefore, I reissue the previous Speaker's ruling that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and the matter will not be referred to the Ethics Committee. The correspondence in relation to this matter was tabled on 12 February 2018, but I seek leave to incorporate in the *Record of Proceedings* the previous Speaker's ruling.

Leave granted.

## SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

HON SPEAKER: Honourable Members,

On 5 February 2018, the Leader of the Opposition (Ms Frecklington) wrote to me alleging that the Member for Mulgrave deliberately misled the House in his answer to a Question without Notice on 14 February 2017 when he was asked about an alleged direction to Queensland Rail regarding the 2016 enterprise agreement. The Member for Mulgrave was asked:

What direction, formal or otherwise, did the Treasurer give to Queensland Rail regarding the 2016 enterprise agreement?

To which the Member for Mulgrave replied:

... I can safely say that there is no informal direction; either you are issuing a direction or you are not. Apart from that, what we have done—both myself and the former minister Stirling Hinchliffe—is put very clearly our views of what should be happening in this space on the record and to the board for their consideration. We did not issue a direction.

...

What we are seeing is an enterprise agreement which has been signed off and recommended by the board to the government. That has gone to a ballot and is expected to be ratified in the coming weeks.

In her letter to me, the Leader of the Opposition contended the answer given by the Member for Mulgrave was deliberately misleading in two respects.

Firstly, when the member stated that "We did not issue a direction." and secondly, when the member stated that the enterprise agreement "has been signed off and recommended by the board to the government".

Standing order 269(4) requires:

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

The Queensland Parliament was dissolved by proclamation dated 29 October 2017. There is little by way of precedent to inform the way in which such matters should be dealt with following the dissolution of Parliament and before the opening of the next Parliament.

Section 15 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 provides:

15 Speaker continues to hold office on Assembly's expiry or dissolution

(1) **For all purposes**, the Speaker holding office on the Assembly's expiry or dissolution continues to hold the office until the day before the Assembly's first sitting day after a general election.

(2) Subsection (1) applies even if the Speaker—

(a) is not a candidate for election as a member at the general election; or

(b) is a candidate for election as a member at the general election and is not elected.

[Emphasis added]

Section 15 obviously also applies to the Speaker's role under standing orders to determine whether matters should be referred to the Ethics Committee.

In the interests of passing a clean slate to the next Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, I have made a ruling in this matter.

In regard to the first statement by the member the subject of complaint, "We did not issue a direction.", on the information and evidence before me, while the issuing of a direction would appear to be an option canvassed by the relevant ministers, in the end, the draft direction was never co-signed by Hon. Hinchliffe nor was it sent to Queensland Rail.

Accordingly, I consider that the statement made by the Member for Mulgrave was neither factually or apparently incorrect and in that respect is adequately explained.

In regard to the second statement, that the enterprise agreement "has been signed off and recommended by the board to the government", it is necessary to consider in detail all of the information contained in the documents obtained through right to information not only supplied by the Leader of the Opposition but other documents that have been published on The Courier Mail website. Appendix A to my ruling provides a chronological summary of the information contained in those documents which will be incorporated at the end of my ruling.

On the evidence presented it appears clear that the agreement in question was approved, endorsed or signed off by the board of Queensland Rail. However, it remains arguable as to whether the agreement was "recommended" by the board to the government.

In his response to the allegation, the member explained that he used the phrase "recommended to the Government" to describe the situation whereby the Queensland Rail Board had endorsed the Train crew EBA on terms satisfactory to it on two separate occasions.

While it would appear that the term "recommendation" does not appear in the documentation between the Board and the Government advising of the Board's final endorsement of the enterprise agreement, I am satisfied with the explanation by the member that he felt the endorsement of the agreement was tantamount to a recommendation to government. Whilst the words chosen by the member could have been more precise, I note that those were words chosen in the context of a response to a Question Without Notice and not made in a prepared statement.

I have also been particularly influenced by the wording in the letter to the shareholding ministers dated 16 December 2016 which indicates that the Board approved in principle the agreement, with no outstanding matters.

To my mind any further consideration of this matter becomes an exercise in deciding logical or lexical semantics, and whether words such as "approved" or "endorsed" were more appropriate words than "recommended".

I have therefore decided that this matter does not warrant the further attention of the House and I will not be referring this matter to the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

I will request that the incoming Speaker restate my ruling at the commencement of the next Parliament in order that members' rights under standing orders are not diminished.

## APPENDIX A TO SPEAKER'S RULING

### SUMMARY OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE DOCUMENTS OBTAINED THROUGH RIGHT TO INFORMATION


1. On 4 October 2016, Queensland Rail and the Australian Rail, Tram and Bus Industry Union (RTBU), the Australian Federated Union of Locomotive Employees and Queensland Union of Employees agreed 'in principle' to the draft Queensland Rail Train crew Enterprise Agreement 2016 (Enterprise Agreement).
2. The Government approved the outcomes negotiated between Queensland Rail and the trade unions and documented in the draft Enterprise Agreement on 11 October 2016.
3. In November 2016, Queensland Rail met with the trade unions to finalise the Train crew enterprise agreement within the parameters set by the CBRC.
4. On 2 December 2016 at 8:52am, a member of Hon. Pitt's Ministerial staff sent an email to various staff, including a member of Hon. Hinchliffe's staff, asking them to note the 'QR direction between the Treasurer and Minister Hinchliffe' and advising that 'The Treasurer's waiting for a call back from the RTBU before progressing'.
5. The email also describes the direction by stating 'The draft direction, directs the Authority to approve and give effect to the in principle agreement of 4 October 2016, subject to delayed implementation of the meal break arrangements (currently set to begin on 1 April 2017)'.
6. On 2 December 2016 at 11:25am, a staff member of Hon. Hinchliffe's office responded to this email by return email advising that the Interim Chair [of Qld Rail] had advised that 'the formal letter from the Board will be coming shortly today. She's said it will also include an alternative path to an option requiring a direction from Ministers'. He also recommended that they wait until the letter was received for consideration.
7. On 2 December 2016 at 2:06pm, Hon. Pitt's staff member responded by stating 'Given the QR position outlined in the letter is not really an alternative and is unlikely to be satisfactory to unions, I would proceed with the Direction as per the discussion this morning between the Treasurer and your Minister'. Another email was sent by the same staff member at 1:36pm stating 'I've tried to call—we need an urgent answer on this'.
8. On 2 December 2016 at 3:20pm, the staff member of Hon. Pitt emailed Hon. Hinchliffe with the Direction signed by the Treasurer, stating 'Your urgent consideration of the Direction would be appreciated. QR and the RTBU are awaiting our advice ASAP this afternoon'.
9. On 2 December 2016 at 6:23pm, an email was sent by Queensland Rail to various government staff members, including the two Ministerial staff of Hon. Pitt and Hon. Hinchliffe, regarding having received notices of protected industrial action from the RBTU.
10. On 3 December 2016 at 8:52pm, Ms Nicole Hollows of Qld Rail sent an email to the staff member of Hon. Pitt stating 'Board unanimous view is that we should have an opportunity to engage with unions to advise we are committed to process, will accept EA terms excl [sic] meal breaks and understanding how the EA will work with existing informal roster arrangements'.
11. On 4 December 2016, Ms Nicole Hollows was emailed a letter from the 'QR Responsible Ministers' (Hon. Pitt and Hon. Hinchliffe) regarding the draft Enterprise Agreement. The letter encouraged Queensland Rail to take the necessary steps to put the Enterprise Agreement to a vote as soon as practicable, and also encouraged Queensland Rail to expedite its investigations into the operational impact of meal breaks. The letter requested that the investigations be undertaken in consultation with the unions, with advice on the outcomes of these investigations to be advised by close of business 5 December 2016 (the day following receipt of the letter).
12. On 13 December 2016, Ms Nicole Hollows wrote to the responsible Ministers, raising concerns with the in principle agreement, specifically related to meal break arrangements. The letter then states:
 

The Board has carefully considered all the information available to it and the position adopted by unions in relation to implementation of the meal break arrangements. Taking all of those matters into account, the Board has today resolved to approve the in-principle agreement reflecting the ...
13. On 15 December 2016, a representative of the Chief executive of Queensland Rail sent the executed Heads of Agreement for Train crew EBA to a representative of the shareholding Ministers.
14. On 16 December 2016, Mr David Marchant (the Acting Chair) wrote a letter stating that the Board approved in principle the agreement, with no outstanding matters.

15. Around the end of October 2017, third parties were consulted by the Office of the Information Commissioner (OIC) in relation to the proposed release of documents. Following this, in mid-November 2017, the OIC notified third parties of the release of the documents.
16. Also in mid-November 2017, QR contacted the OIC stating its intention to object to the release of some of the documents. QR did not submit this request until after the deadline had passed.
17. On 22 November 2017, the first batch of the documents were released, omitting the documents that QR objected to.
18. On 3 January 2018, QR withdrew its objection and the remaining documents were released by the OIC.

## REPORTS

### Auditor-General


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received the Auditor-General's reports to parliament No. 6 of 2017-18 titled *Fraud risk management* and report to parliament No. 7 of 2017-18 titled *Health: 2016-17 results of financial audits*. I table the reports for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 6: 2017-18—Fraud risk management [99].

*Tabled paper:* Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 7: 2017-18—Health: 2016-17 results of financial audits [100].

## PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE


### Membership

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, for the information of the House, I table correspondence from the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Bulimba received during the dissolution period regarding a resignation and interim appointments to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee made pursuant to the Crime and Corruption Act 2001.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence from the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington, and the member for Bulimba, Hon. Di Farmer, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding a resignation and interim appointments to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee [101].

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Parliamentary Procedure

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it has become the practice for new Speakers, early in their term, to set out their expectations of the House and refresh members' knowledge of the most important parliamentary rules, practice and procedure in this House. I have reviewed previous statements and I have modified some matters and circulated a statement in the chamber to members for incorporation in the parliamentary record. This incorporation sets out my expectations and reinforces the basic but important rules of the House. I am obviously indebted to the statements of previous Speakers from which some of this material is drawn. Is leave granted to incorporate the statement in *Hansard*?

Leave granted.

#### Expectations of the Speaker and common procedural matters

##### Members need to rise and call

Whilst the Whips oftentimes produce speaking lists, it is emphasised that they are guides only. Standing Order 247 provides that Members wishing to speak shall rise and address the Speaker. If more than one Member rises, the Speaker shall call upon the Member who, in the Speaker's opinion rose first.

If Members do not rise and address the Speaker, the Speaker is entitled to call any Member who has risen and if no Member has risen to call on the next item of business or the Member in charge of the matter under consideration to close the debate as the case may be.

##### Addressing the Chair and the use of "you"

Standing Order 247 provides that "Members wishing to speak shall rise and address the Speaker." This means that Members should not address each other directly across the Chamber—all statements should be made through the Chair.

This standing order, among others, is designed to promote civilised debate in the Chamber by having statements and questions directed through the Chair, rather than personally towards other Members. As such, reference to another Member needs to be in the third person such as "the Minister" or "the Member for". When a second-person personal pronoun, such as "you", is used it is indicating that the Member is not addressing the House through the Speaker.

**Referring to Members by their correct title**

A related issue is that Members must refer to other Members by their correct title, either their Ministerial or Parliamentary Office or their electorate. Words like "he" or "she" tend to indicate when this is not happening.

**Interrupting other Members**

I draw to the attention of Members Standing Order 251, which provides the general rule that when a Member is speaking no other Member may converse, make any noise or disturbance so as to interrupt the Member speaking.

There are limited exceptions to this rule. Interjections are part of parliamentary debate and will be tolerated where welcomed by the Member on their feet or which are reasonable and temperate.

Unfortunately, a number of Members seek to use points of order or matters of privilege inappropriately to either interrupt other Members or interrupt the order of business generally. Frivolous interruptions are disorderly.

**Points of order**

A point of order is essentially a question as to whether the present proceedings are in order or allowed by the rules of the House or parliamentary practice and procedure generally.

An attempt to allegedly correct the record, or allege that another Member is misleading the House, or put the Members own position on a matter, or introduce another topic or material, is not a point of order.

A Member's point of view is not a point of order and is merely disorderly.

Persistent, deliberately disruptive or frivolous points of order, being disorderly, may result in a Member being warned under Standing Orders 252-254.

I make it very clear to Members that I will be quick in warning Members who abuse the rules by making frivolous points of order.

**Matters of privilege**

A genuine matter of privilege, suddenly arising, may be raised by a Member at any time under Standing Order 248. To satisfy the requirements of Standing Order 248, a matter must firstly be a matter of privilege and secondly, it must be a matter that has suddenly arisen and requires immediate redress.

The reality is that few matters fall within the definition of a matter of privilege suddenly arising.

Matters that may fall into that category include: Members being unable or prevented from entering the Chamber, strangers being present in the House and interrupting proceedings, or required material not being available for proceedings before the House.

Unfortunately, as with points of order, some Members attempt to use matters of privilege to allegedly correct the record, or allege that another Member is misleading the House, or put the Member's own position on a matter, or introduce another topic or material.

These matters are not matters of privilege suddenly arising and are simply yet another example of abuse of the rules.

If any Member believes another Member has deliberately misled the House, then the appropriate procedure is contained in Standing Order 269. The Member should write to the Speaker with all evidence available supporting the allegation.

I will not allow other Members to simply rise and allege a deliberate misleading of the House during the course of business.

Persistent, deliberately disruptive or frivolous matters of privilege, being disorderly, may result in a Member being warned under Standing Orders 252-254.

**Correcting the record**

The Members' Ethics and Parliamentary Privileges Committee, has made a number of statements over the years, about the importance of Members correcting their own errors at the earliest opportunity.

A Member who has the courage to recognise that they have done something wrong, whether deliberately or not, and takes appropriate action is to be strongly commended and supported.

I am extremely unlikely to refer a member to the Ethics Committee who has taken the initiative to correct or clarify the record, or does so at my request.

I will allow Members to rise at an appropriate point in proceedings to correct incorrect or misleading statements that they themselves have made in proceedings. Members in making their correction should say, at the beginning of their speech, "I wish to advise the House that I have (insert time) made an incorrect statement and I wish to correct the record" or words to that effect.

I suggest that Members attempt to confer with the Speaker in the chair for an appropriate time.

**Personal explanations**

There is time in the Order of Business each day for personal explanations.

A personal explanation is just that, an opportunity for a Member to explain their position on a matter raised about them, whether it be in the House or outside, such as in the media.

However, it is not an opportunity for a Member to attack another Member.

## Language

Members need also to remember that Standing Orders and practice and procedure also prevent:

- Unparliamentary language
- Personal reflections on other Members

These rules are aimed at ensuring civilised debate and questioning on issues rather than personal attacks across the Chamber.

Unparliamentary language is difficult to define and no exhaustive list of expressions can be provided. Largely, what is unparliamentary by necessity lays in the realm of who is in the Chair; but generally it is any language or expression that is unworthy of the dignity of the House or Parliament as an institution.

What may be acceptable language in some places outside Parliament, indeed may even be common usage in some places or forums, does not necessarily mean it is acceptable in this forum.

A further separate matter relates to personal reflections. Standing Order 234 provides that imputations of improper motives, personal reflections, and unbecoming or offensive words in relation to another Member are disorderly. A Member has a right to require the withdrawal of such personal reflections.

Generally, if the affected Member believes a statement is a personal reflection and objects to the words used, then the Chair will require withdrawal and not make an objective assessment. However, Members should not be overly sensitive, as this is to be a House of debate and scrutiny.

## Tabling documents

As previous Speakers' have noted, the tabling of documents in this House is very liberal compared with other houses of parliament. In this House members have an almost unfettered right to table documents, at least in the first instance. It is a very great privilege to table documents in a relatively unfettered manner, but it must be balanced by the right of the chair, assisted by officers at the table, to ensure that the standing orders of the House and rulings of the House are not transgressed or subverted by the tabling of documents or the contents of documents.

Tabled documents should not contain sub judice material, unparliamentary material or material that otherwise offends standing orders.

We largely rely on members to self-regulate the right to table material. Members in turn should be wary of persons seeking to use them as a conduit to table documents that harm the reputation of members of the public, and about which the member may have little actual knowledge of the truth.

I note that Speakers have previously made rulings regarding the types of documents being tabled where they serve no purpose and where members can make their point without tabling those items. I remind all honourable members that there is a cost to the public purse when documents and items are tabled. They must be recorded, registered and stored at public expense forever. Documents already tabled should not be tabled again.

## Absence or state of Member

Speaker Mickel enforced a rule about not allowing reference to the absence of a Member during debate. Speaker Mickel's rule has become part of our practice and I intend to enforce it.

I also note that it is a long standing rule that the state of a Member should not be commented upon.

## Question time

I urge all Members to consider carefully Standing Orders 113 and 115 which provides the general rules for Questions.

Questions may only be asked of Ministers if the question relates to public affairs with which the Minister is officially connected or to any matter of administration for which the Minister is responsible or proceedings pending in the Legislative Assembly for which the Minister is responsible (but discussion must not be anticipated).

Questions should be brief and relate to one issue. Questions should not contain: lengthy or subjective preambles; arguments; inferences; imputations; hypothetical matters; or names of persons, unless they are strictly necessary to render the question intelligible and can be authenticated.

Importantly Questions should not ask for: an expression of opinion; a legal opinion; or an answer that would contravene the rules relating to matters sub judice.

Question Time is a pivotal part of the Legislative Assembly's function to scrutinise and check the activities of the Government. Question Time provides an avenue to test a minister's knowledge of their portfolio and to hold them to account for their activities and the conduct of their portfolio.

Members asking questions are entitled to be heard. Ministers answering questions are also entitled to be heard. This is, however, a House of robust debate. I will not, therefore, expect total silence in Question Time, nor prevent interjections.


If members or Ministers provoke interjections or accept interjections I will not interfere in debate. If a member or Minister cannot speak or be heard because of interjections or if interjections are unprovoked and unwelcome or disruptive, I will rise to my feet.

As noted above, when I rise to my feet, I expect the House to come to order and for members to be silent.

I would urge Members asking questions to be brief and that their questions be unpolluted by political argument, inferences or imputations. If questions are used to simply "attack", rather than seek information or a genuine answer or if they are lengthy and canvass a number of matters, then the questioner is likely to receive an answer that they do not desire. Usually the questions asked set the tone for the answers given.



## Strangers in Chamber


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, earlier this sitting week the issue about whether very small children could be permitted on the floor of the House with their parents has been raised. While there has been no formal complaint made, the issue has been canvassed in the media. All members no doubt strive to have a strong bond with their local community, but I am sure we can all agree that the strongest bonds are as parents and carers.

Standing order 284(3) provides that on any day when the House is sitting no member shall bring any stranger onto the floor of the chamber. After consultation with members, I believe that there is a collective will that this standing order not be enforced, so as to enable very small children to be in the chamber when their parent is on the floor and care is needed—so long as there is no disruption to the House. Not unlike the public gallery, if there was to be a disruption, the expectation would be for the appropriate action to be taken to ensure the business of the House continued. I note that the Parliamentary Service provides support to ensure that the needs of members who are parents to small children are met. This includes access to accommodation, equipment and ensuring precinct access to carers.

There is considerable goodwill for parents with young children in this House to the extent that I believe formal rule changes are not required. In a case where the care of a small child may impact on a member's ability to vote, I am also confident that the reasonable needs of parents will be accommodated through the informal arrangements of pairs organised by the respective whips.


## SPEAKER'S RULING

### First Speeches

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, a member's first speech in this place after their election to the Legislative Assembly is an important milestone event. Previous rulings, including that of former Speaker Wellington on 26 March 2015 at page 24 of *Hansard*, have made it clear that some speeches are not regarded as a first speech because it is understood that some speeches are not given by a member's own choice of timing. Practice in Queensland and other Australian jurisdictions indicates that a speech made in relation to a condolence motion is not a first speech.


## APPOINTMENTS

### Panel of Temporary Speakers

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in accordance with standing order 11, I advise that I have appointed the following members to the Panel of Temporary Speakers: Mr Joe Kelly, member for Greenslopes; Mr Mark McArdle, member for Caloundra; Ms Corrine McMillan, member for Mansfield; Ms Jess Pugh, member for Mount Ommaney; Dr Mark Robinson, member for Oodgeroo; Mr Ray Stevens, member for Mermaid Beach; Mr Pat Weir, member for Condamine; and Mr Chris Whiting, member for Bancroft.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT


### Register of Members' Interests

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise the House that the Committee of the Legislative Assembly has approved the amendments of the Register of Members' Interest forms 1-4 to take into account the new published indexed thresholds. I table the forms for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Committee of the Legislative Assembly: New Forms 1-4—Members' Register of Interests [[102](#)].

## APPOINTMENTS

### Ministry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 am): I wish to inform the House of ministerial arrangements. During December 2017, in accordance with the Constitution of Queensland 2001, His Excellency the Governor accepted a number of resignations and subsequently

made a number of appointments to the ministry and Executive Council. His Excellency, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council, also appointed five assistant ministers. I table the relevant *Extraordinary Government Gazettes* for the information of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Copies of the relevant government gazettes appointing the current ministry and assistant ministers [\[103\]](#).

I also seek leave to have the details of the appointments incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

#### Ministers

The Honourable ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP, Premier and Minister for Trade;

The Honourable JACKLYN ANNE TRAD MP, Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships;

The Honourable CAMERON ROBERT DICK MP, Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning;

The Honourable KATE JENNIFER JONES MP, Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games;

The Honourable YVETTE MAREE D'ATH MP, Attorney-General and Minister for Justice;

The Honourable STEVEN JOHN MILES MP, Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services;

The Honourable GRACE GRACE MP, Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations;

The Honourable MARK CRAIG BAILEY MP, Minister for Transport and Main Roads;

The Honourable ANTHONY JOSEPH LYNHAM, Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy;

The Honourable MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER de BRENNI MP, Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport;

The Honourable SHANNON MAREE FENTIMAN MP, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development;

The Honourable LEEANNE MARGARET ENOCH MP, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts;

The Honourable MARK THOMAS RYAN MP, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services;

The Honourable CORALEE JANE O'ROURKE MP, Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors;

The Honourable MARK FURNER MP, Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries;

The Honourable STIRLING JAMES HINCHLIFFE MP, Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs;

The Honourable DIANNE ELIZABETH FARMER MP, to be Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence; and

The Honourable CRAIG DARYL CRAWFORD MP, Minister for Fire and Emergency Services.

#### Assistant Ministers

JENNIFER RUTH HOWARD MP, Assistant Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Assistant Minister of State;


GLENN JAMES BUTCHER MP, Assistant Minister for Treasury;

JULIEANNE CLAIRE GILBERT MP, Assistant Minister for State Development;


BRITTANY LOUISE LAUGA MP, Assistant Minister for Education; and

MEAGHAN ALANA JENKINS SCANLON MP, Assistant Minister for Tourism Industry Development.


### Leader of the House

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): I have to inform the House that arrangements have been made, and the honourable Speaker informed accordingly, for Mrs Yvette D'Ath, the member for Redcliffe, to be appointed Leader of the House.

### Government Whips

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): I have to inform the House that Mr Don Brown MP, member for Capalaba, has been appointed Chief Government Whip; Ms Joan Pease MP, member for Lytton, has been appointed Senior Government Whip; and Ms Nikki Boyd MP, member for Pine Rivers, has been appointed Deputy Government Whip.

## Opposition

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.41 am): I inform the House that on 12 December 2017 I was elected to be Leader of the Opposition by the LNP party room and the member for Everton, Tim Mander, was elected as Deputy Leader of the Opposition. For the information of the House, I table a list of opposition appointments. I seek leave to have the appointments incorporated in the official record of parliament.

Leave granted.

### LIST OF OPPOSITION APPOINTMENTS

Deb Frecklington MP, Member for Nanango,  
Opposition Leader and Shadow Minister for Trade

Tim Mander MP, Member for Everton,  
Deputy Opposition Leader and Shadow Treasurer

Andrew Powell MP, Member for Glass House  
Shadow Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning

Fiona Simpson MP, Member for Maroochydore  
Shadow Minister for Employment and Small Business  
Shadow Minister for Training and Skills Development

Ros Bates MP, Member for Mudgeeraba  
Shadow Minister for Health and Ambulance Services  
Shadow Minister for Women

Jarrold Bleijie MP, Member for Kawana  
Shadow Minister for Education  
Shadow Minister for Industrial Relations Manager of Opposition Business

David Janetzki MP, Member for Toowoomba South  
Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Justice

Steve Minnikin MP, Member for Chatsworth  
Shadow Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Dale Last MP, Member for Burdekin  
Shadow Minister for Natural Resources and Mines  
Shadow Minister for Northern Queensland

Trevor Watts MP, Member for Toowoomba North  
Shadow Minister for Police and Counter Terrorism  
Shadow Minister for Corrective Services

David Crisafulli MP, Member for Broadwater  
Shadow Minister for Environment, Science and the Great Barrier Reef  
Shadow Minister for Tourism

Tony Perrett MP, Member for Gympie  
Shadow Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Forestry

Michael Hart MP, Member for Burleigh  
Shadow Minister for Housing and Public Works  
Shadow Minister for Energy  
Shadow Minister for Innovation and Digital Technology

Ann Leahy MP, Member for Warrego  
Shadow Minister for Local Government

Dr Christian Rowan MP, Member for Moggill  
Shadow Minister for Communities  
Shadow Minister for Disability Services and Seniors  
Shadow Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships  
Shadow Minister for the Arts

John-Paul Langbroek MP, Member for Surfers Paradise  
Shadow Minister for Sport and Racing  
Shadow Minister for Multicultural Affairs  
Shadow Minister for the Commonwealth Games

Stephen Bennett MP, Member for Burnett  
Shadow Minister for Child Safety and Youth  
Shadow Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence  
Shadow Minister for Veterans

Lachlan Millar MP, Member for Gregory  
Shadow Minister for Fire, Emergency Services and Volunteers

Sam O'Connor MP, Member for Bonney  
Shadow Assistant Minister to the Opposition Leader  
Shadow Assistant Minister for Youth

Dan Purdie MP, Member for Ninderry  
Shadow Assistant Minister for Treasury

David Batt MP, Member for Bundaberg  
Shadow Assistant Minister for State Development

Simone Wilson MP, Member for Pumicestone  
Shadow Assistant Minister for Education

Brent Mickelberg MP, Member for Buderim  
Shadow Assistant Minister for Tourism Industry Development

Rob Molhoek MP, Member for Southport  
Chief Opposition Whip

Mark Boothman MP, Member for Theodore  
Deputy Opposition Whip

Jon Krause MP, Member for Scenic Rim  
Party Room Chairman

*Tabled paper.* List of Opposition Appointments as at 15 February 2018 [\[104\]](#).

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

### Harper, Mr RM



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this State by the late Robert Malcolm Harper, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.


Robert Malcolm Harper, or Bob Harper as he was known around these corridors, was born in Brisbane on 17 November 1944. He was educated at the Brisbane Boys Grammar School and later, whilst working in the electricity industry, studied at night to gain his Bachelor of Business (Accountancy) from the Queensland University of Technology. Mr Harper enjoyed a long career as an accountant in the electricity industry and was a member of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants.

Mr Harper also enjoyed a long association with the Liberal Party. At various times he served as a Liberal Party branch chairman, secretary and treasurer and was a member of campaign committees for elections at federal, state and council levels. In 1995, Mr Harper was preselected by the Liberal Party to contest the seat of Mount Ommaney at the upcoming state election which was held on 15 July that year. In his maiden speech, Bob Harper noted that the previous Saturday he had attended the 125th anniversary of the Oxley State School with my father, Henry—a school that my father had taught at.

During the term Mr Harper was a member of the public accounts committee from 1995 to 1997 and became the committee's chair in April 1996 following the change of government. Mr Harper also served as the chair of an estimates committee during the 1996 budget estimates process. In May 1997 Mr Harper was appointed as parliamentary secretary—or assistant minister as we know the position these days—to the deputy premier, treasurer and minister for the arts. He continued to serve in that role until June 1998 when he was defeated at the election and the Borbidge government went out of office.

After leaving parliament in 1998, Mr Harper never lost the desire to compete in the democratic process and represent the community, contesting the state elections of 2001, 2004 and 2006 as a Liberal Party candidate. As honourable members may be aware, Mr Harper's brother, Neville, also served as a member of this House, representing the seat of Auburn, based around the western Burnett area, from 1980 to 1992.

Robert Malcolm Harper passed away on 2 November 2017, aged 72 years, and a funeral service to commemorate his life was held on 10 November 2017 at St Catherine's Anglican Church in Middle Park, Brisbane. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service Mr Harper gave to the institutions of our democracy and to the Queensland community. On behalf of the government, I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Mr Harper's family and friends.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.44 am): Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the family of the honourable Robert Malcolm Harper, known as Bob Harper, who are here in the gallery today including his wife, Rhonda Harper; his daughters, Jacinta, Hayley and Deanne; his sister-in-law Val; and his grandson Hugh.

Bob Harper was a political warhorse. No-one should underestimate his contribution to politics in Queensland and most particularly to conservative politics. I had the pleasure of knowing Bob's older brother, Neville, quite well as he served, as has just been noted, in this House as the member for Auburn, my local area, from 1980 to 1992.


Bob had a varied career both as a representative in this House and as a staffer running campaigns across Australia. Bob first became involved in politics at the age of 21, joining his local Liberal Party branch. Before long he was campaigning for the Nudgee candidate in the 1966 election. In 1969 Bob himself became the Liberal candidate for Nudgee, a seat that at the time was an ultra-safe Labor seat. In 1972 Bob married his loving wife, Rhonda, and together they moved across town to Jindalee. He quickly became further involved in politics in the western suburbs, working on campaigns and filling positions in the centenary branch for many years.

From 1995 to 1998 Bob served as the member for Mount Ommaney. He was parliamentary secretary to the deputy premier and treasurer from 1997 to 1998 and chairman of the public accounts committee in 1996. His career in politics did not end there. He soon became state secretary of the Liberal Party and was appointed the acting state director in 1999.

Bob's commitment to the cause extended to work as a campaign director in the state and federal elections in the seats of Ipswich, Bundamba, Mount Ommaney, Redlands, Oxley and Bowman. He also worked tirelessly on the Jamboree and Toowong ward campaigns. Most particularly, Bob worked on the campaign of my colleague Jon Krause, the member for Scenic Rim, and also Matt McEachan, the former member for Redlands, who I would like to acknowledge is also in the gallery today.

It has been said that Bob would drive his younger political proteges, insisting on going over issues, materials and strategies with them again and again until it was airtight. He would write everything down and arrive at a campaign office with an enormous bundle of notes, spreadsheets, loose-leaf writings and budgets all wrapped up tightly in rubber bands. Everything was there at his fingertips, ready to fight the good fight for his beloved political cause.

Sadly, too ill to work as he would have wished, Bob passed away midway through the 2017 state election. Even at the end he continued to assist campaigns of members in this House today. His loss is felt deeply by everyone in the Liberal National Party. I have no doubt that it is felt so very deeply by his family who are here today. I am sure you are proud, as we are, of the massive contribution Bob made to politics in Australia. He will be missed. On behalf of the members of the opposition, we pass on our sincere condolences to Bob's family and friends.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (9.48 am): I rise today to speak to the condolence motion for Robert Harper, or Bob as he was known in the Mount Ommaney community, on behalf of the Mount Ommaney community as the newly elected member. Bob was the member for Mount Ommaney over 20 years ago, and in his maiden speech he said, 'It is my experience as a family man that leads me in part to want to work to enhance the values of our society.'


We need to encourage and support in our community putting back some of those old-fashioned values and backing those many individuals and organisations that work so hard to help others and improve our world. This was the legacy that Bob intended to leave for the electorate of Mount Ommaney. Twenty years later I can assure the House that his passion for community work is alive and well in the Mount Ommaney electorate. In Bob's own words, he owed his passion for community service to his love for his family and the love that they gave him in return. I know that his family, including his wife, Rhonda; children Jacinta, Hayley and Deanne; his sister-in-law Val and his grandson Hugh, are here with us today.

Apart from his great love for his wife, Rhonda, they shared a deep passion for politics. This was evidenced in August 2016 when Mr Harper was awarded a certificate for 50 years membership of the LNP. At the same time his wife, Rhonda, was also awarded a certificate for 40 years of membership. I

am told that they shared a wonderful life full of friendship and love. I know that his family will all be incredibly proud of Robert and the work he did in our local area both as the member for Mount Ommaney and as a member of our community.

Although he has not been the member in our area for over 20 years, you do not have to go far to find someone with a wonderful story to tell about Robert. One of these people is another former member for Mount Ommaney, Julie Attwood, the Labor member from 1998 to 2012. Julie was Bob's immediate successor. Despite being from the other side of the political fence, she has told me many times that she always found Bob to be an incredibly helpful person in helping her to settle in to her new role as the member for Mount Ommaney. Those of us sitting in the House today will know how unusual it is to find someone on the opposite side of the fence willing to help and encourage you in order to put the community first. To me, this is the mark of a true community champion—that he set aside partisan politics and put the community of Mount Ommaney first.

Bob's love of his family and of his wife were matched only by his love of community service. I believe that he set a wonderful example of what it is to be a great community advocate, and I believe that each of us in this House today could learn something from Robert's example. On behalf of the Mount Ommaney electorate, I wish to thank Robert for his service to our community and take this opportunity to extend my sympathy, that of the Mount Ommaney electorate and that of this House to Bob's family and friends.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (9.52 am): It is a great honour to pay tribute in this Queensland parliament to Robert Malcolm Harper, the Liberal member for Mount Ommaney from 1995 to 1998. It could be said that Bob was born with Liberal blood in his veins. He took the name of two personal friends of his parents—Sir Robert Menzies and Sir Malcolm Ritchie, founding president of the Liberal Party.

My first recollection of Bob Harper was during the 1995 state election campaign. I was only 14 but that was the campaign after which the Mundingburra by-election resulted in a change in government. Mount Ommaney was regarded at that time as a key seat for the coalition to win, and I can remember on election night the commentary about the significance of Bob Harper's defeat of Peter Pyke. As it turned out, Bob's youngest daughter, Deanne, attended school at Ipswich Girls Grammar School. I attended Ipswich Grammar School, and three years after Bob's victory in Mount Ommaney I can recall visiting the Harper household on the way to a senior formal. Bob Harper clearly lived and breathed politics and his community, as his home was filled with Liberal Party material—corflutes, flyers, A-frames; anything you can think of when it comes to campaigning. Quite frankly, I do not think I have ever seen more campaign material under one roof!

I would not be here today as a member of parliament but for that chance encounter with Bob. At the University of Queensland in 2000 Deanne and my paths crossed again and talk turned to Bob's time in parliament and the upcoming campaign. Before I knew it, I was a member of the Young Liberals, and for a young man from a country dairy-farming family I should have joined the Young Nationals, but the Harpers got in first.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr KRAUSE:** The right Harper got in first. Through the years Bob was an adviser and source of encouragement for me in politics, just as he has been for many other people. It was around this time in 2000 that Bob started work for Senator George Brandis, but even before that Bob was a tireless campaigner. He stood for parliament in several tough seats—in Nudgee in 1969, in Wolston in 1980 and 1983, and in Ipswich in 2004 when I found myself handing out for him at Churchill booth on a hot February day. He worked hard on the 2004 Senate campaign that saw a historic four coalition senators elected from Queensland including three from the Liberal Party. He worked with Andrew Laming in all of his elections from 2004 until 2016 when Bob was up against it fighting cancer. He helped so many campaigns across all of Queensland that it would be impossible to detail them all here today. Bob helped people without seeking adulation or praise but because of his dedication to the cause.

Bob Harper as a campaigner and campaign manager knew how to dig in. Bob Harper knew how to motivate candidates and campaign workers to win, and sometimes he drove candidates mad as well. He knew how to work hard, something learned early on in his life. His sister Jan tells a story from their childhood when they used to collect mangoes and wheel them around in wheelbarrows selling them to people building houses. Throughout his whole life hard work continued—packing groceries to pay for his high school at Brisbane Grammar School, calling numbers at the bingo hall in the Valley while studying for his Bachelor of Business and having a young family.

The maxim 'never give up' is one of the most enduring impressions he has left on me, as I am sure it is on others. One of his proudest achievements, I am sure, was when Andrew Laming won Bowman by 64 votes in 2007 after a vicious personal campaign from his political opponents. Bob refused to yield to the onslaught and over 10 years later Bowman remains in LNP hands.

Bob's legacy as the member for Mount Ommaney shows he achieved a great deal in a very short space of time. Some of his most notable achievements were acquiring the Mount Ommaney Police Station, the Centenary State High School and the Centenary War Memorial for the constituents of Mount Ommaney, as well as having funding set aside for the Mount Ommaney Ambulance Station. In the Borbidge government Bob built for the future of the Centenary suburbs and left a legacy still being enjoyed now.

I think even greater than that is the legacy he has created through his work with so many MPs and candidates in helping them get elected—people like Matt McEachan, the former member for Redlands; Andrew Laming; the late Dr Russell Trood, who won that fourth spot for the coalition in 2004; Tarnya Smith, former member for Mount Ommaney; Matthew Bourke, the councillor for Jamboree—and there are many others.

In his family Bob had three daughters but there are numerous political sons and daughters of Bob Harper. I myself was fortunate to have Bob's advice, guidance and determination in the Beaudesert electorate campaign that saw off all our opponents in 2012. Bob then worked with me in serving the people of that electorate as an electorate officer in Beaudesert. It was only in 2013 when Bob was working with me that I found out he had been suffering from cancer for several years. We were close through all of that time, but Bob was determined not to let the fact that he had cancer get in the way of life and so very few people knew he was battling the dreaded curse of cancer for several years. The saying 'never give up' was lived by Bob his entire life. Although the battle became even harder and more painful after 2013, Bob never gave up the will to live and to fight our political opponents. Just weeks before his death he was texting me with campaign tips and advice and rumours that he heard around the traps from mysterious but often very reliable secret Labor sources.

Bob was particularly involved in the Young Liberal Movement in the 1990s and early 2000s, and was a strong supporter of getting younger people involved and elected. Brisbane city councillor Matthew Bourke has said—

Bob's greatest political legacy is the generations of young people he has mentored and nurtured. This was recognised when he was honoured with the rarely bestowed special life membership of the Young Liberal Movement in 2002.


Bob was also made a special life member of the LNP upon its formation in 2008—together with Lawrence Springborg—in recognition of his service not only to the Liberal Party after he served it continuously in almost every conceivable job from 1966 onwards but also for the part Bob played in the formation of the LNP itself.

Colleagues, I wish that I did not have to be speaking to this motion today in the 56th Parliament. It was too early when Bob passed away in November 2017 during the election campaign after a long and courageous battle. He was just 72. I was honoured to be asked by Bob in the months prior to his death to carry his coffin at his funeral.

Bob enjoyed a great Queensland drink, a rum and coke; it was his favourite tippie. I knew things were grim when Bob told me he did not feel like a rum in the second half of last year. Life is not fair sometimes, and it is not fair that a man of the calibre, guts and sincerity of Bob Harper, with his enthusiasm for life and his love for his family, did not get a few more years here to enjoy with his family. I pay tribute to his family who are here in the parliament during this motion today. In particular, I want to acknowledge Rhonda, his wife of 45 years. Rhonda, I know you cherished Bob, and I am sure you carried an enormous weight around with you for many years during his illness, but you are also a tower of strength for the whole family.

To you and also to Jacinta, Hayley and Deanne and their husbands and families, thank you for sharing Bob with us in the LNP. We know that he spent almost as much time talking to us as he did to you, but you can be sure that, in all my experiences with Bob, his family came first no matter what. That was the one thing that could pull him away from politics. We thank you for his service just as much as we all acknowledge and give thanks for the service of Bob Harper to this parliament, the community, the Liberal Party and the LNP.


To Robert Malcolm Harper, member for Mount Ommaney from 1995 to 1998, 'Grandbob', Dad, Bob and a lot of us in this place knew him just as 'Harper', rest in peace.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (10.01 am): After hearing from the member for Scenic Rim, it is indeed a great honour to speak on the condolence motion to my former colleague the late Bob Harper. I think the member for Scenic Rim, the former member for Beaudesert, has said it all. I had the great privilege of working with the late Bob Harper on Capital Hill in Canberra in the office of now retired Queensland senator George Brandis. Bob was many things to many people. From my observations working with the late Bob Harper, he was decent, he was diligent and he was dedicated. Above all that, he was loyal—fiercely loyal. There is a bit of Bob Harper in the hearts of his political proteges every day.

We have the former member for Redlands here today. I think back to late last year when a very sick man came to this place and the member for Scenic Rim, the former member for Redlands and I had dinner with the now late Bob Harper. We will cherish those memories. We had a laugh—didn't we have a laugh—thinking of the good times.

I know I speak for former senator Brandis in saying that George was eternally grateful for Bob's guidance and support. The member for Scenic Rim has touched on that Senate campaign where we unearthed that awesome foursome in getting that fourth senator up. I am sure Bob and Russell Trood are now swapping notes. Bob was George Brandis's first office manager from 2000 to 2008. He was a member of the Borbidge government and a great contributor to the success of the Howard government. I would have liked to have attended his funeral late last year in the middle of the election campaign, but it was not possible. I want to assure Rhonda and the rest of his family that the thoughts and prayers of the many of us who could not go were with you at that time and they continue to be so.


In summing-up, I want to also join with my colleagues across the political divide here in acknowledging the contribution of the late Bob Harper to the people of Mount Ommaney, to the people of Queensland, to the Liberal Party and now to the Liberal National Party. Vale, Bob Harper.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (10.04 am): I would like to contribute briefly to this condolence motion. As has been said in this parliament, Bob certainly was a warrior for the Liberal Party and for the Liberal National Party. I was the Labor Party campaign director for Peter Pyke back in those days. Bob was always decent and honourable, but it would be remiss of me not to mention that Bob was also the campaign director for the Liberal Party in my first election, which was the by-election for the seat of Bundamba. Bob showed us that he had a wonderful sense of humour as well because, as everyone knows, we do things differently in Bundamba.

Bob was there and he had this small table outside our campaign office which he put his nice watch on. Two minutes later, one of my young, recalcitrant people had nicked his watch. In good Bob form, he came up to me and said, 'Jo, that was a very expensive watch and one of your young people have obviously got it.' I said to him, 'Never mind, Bob. We'll get it back for you.' I had a bit of an exchange with a couple of our young people. Mind you, they were not members of the Labor Party. I want to make that very clear to the House, and they were not members of the CFMEU either, just to make that very clear as well. With a bit of negotiation with the young person concerned, I bought Bob's watch back for him and I gave it to him and he was extraordinarily pleased.

I can remember Bob turning up to what was the order of the ballot for the by-election. In those days, they used to have this round cage and you were given a number and the numbers would go into this device and then they would come out. There was a scrutineer present for this process, and the scrutineer happened to be the Catholic priest in Goodna at the time. When my number came out, the Catholic priest, who was supposed to be independent, rose to his feet and said, 'Praise the Lord. Jo-Ann's got it.' Bob just sat there and afterwards he said, 'I don't think we've got any hope here in Bundamba, Jo. You've now got the Pope on side.' He was a good sport and he really was a decent family man. I said to him, 'Bob, I don't think Bundamba is really your bailiwick,' and he said, 'I'll grant you that.'

He was decent, he was honourable. He was a warrior for the Liberal Party and the Liberal National Party and we can never take that off him. He loved the party and he loved politics. Can I say to his family who are in the gallery today that I take my hat off to him. He really was a decent and honourable person. When you had to fight him, he was there. We had a bit of fun as well along the tracks. I wish his family all the best and I know that God has him in his hands in heaven today.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (10.08 am): As my colleagues have alluded to, these are the sorts of occasions you wish you did not have to address because it is acknowledging the passing of someone who was a friend and a colleague. It is with sadness that we bring these motions before the House but it is also with a great deal of respect and honour to Rhonda and his family, and to his extended family and friends.



Bob, as many of us knew him, was a man who rightfully garnered the respect that we have heard about. I had the honour of serving with Bob in this parliament when he was the member for Mount Ommaney between 1995 and 1998. I think, however, there is a greater mark of the man in the service that he gave not just in the parliament but beyond his time in this place, because he did not just serve the community as a member of parliament, he continued to serve the community outside the parliament. He served it through the political realm and he served it in many other ways as well. As has been alluded to, he was someone who took very seriously the role of mentoring other people by investing in their lives.

I believe that a true leader is someone who unlocks the potential of others. It is not a title; it is an action. Bob certainly lived what he believed and he acted to invest in the lives particularly of young people. He garnered that respect for a good reason. He was a decent man: hardworking and ethical. I think the word 'gentleman' really sums up so much. He was steady in what he did. It could be said he was a foot soldier for democracy. He was involved; he was not an armchair warrior. He was someone who was in there boots and all but he did it in a way that lived up to the very values that he espoused.

I bring to this chamber these words of reflection as someone who had the privilege of serving with him in this place. He was someone in the LNP, formerly the Liberal Party, who continued to serve in a way that we are very proud about, and I am sure his family remember him with great pride as well. He was kind and he had care not only for his family but also for his community and for his state.

I say rest in peace to a man who lived his life well and brought his best to all that he did. To Bob and his family: we lift up and respect the great service he has done and acknowledge it with this condolence motion today.

*Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in accordance with the sessional orders for today, question time will commence 60 minutes after the conclusion of the condolence motion, at 11.10 am.

## PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions, lodged by the honourable members indicated—

### **Logan Village, Waterford-Tamborine Road, Traffic Congestion**

**Mr Power**, from 1,540 petitioners, requesting the House to address vehicle congestion on Waterford-Tamborine Road, Logan Village [105].

### **Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Bus Service**

**Mr Elmes**, from 77 petitioners, requesting the House to provide to Noosa a six-month trial service of a daily direct bus service to and from the Sunshine Coast University Hospital [106].

### **Mareeba Hospital**

**Hon. Dick**, from 4,679 petitioners, requesting the House to reinstate Mareeba Hospital to its full capacity and function [107].

### **Jacobs Well, Bus Service**

**Mr Crandon**, from 197 petitioners, requesting the House to provide a reliable bus service from Jacobs Well to transport hubs at Ormeau or Beenleigh [108].

### **Pimpama, Yawalpah Road, Upgrade**

**Mr Crandon**, from 2 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the City of Gold Coast undertakes the essential and necessary roadworks to turn Yawalpah Road into two lanes for 250 metres, leading to the roundabout at Exit 49 [109].

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

### **Moreton Bay Regional Council, Community Consultation**

From 1,695 petitioners, requesting the House to request Moreton Bay Regional Council re-engages in community consultation and includes Save Pine Rivers Incorporation as a critical stakeholder [110].

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petitions, lodged and sponsored by the honourable member indicated—

### **M1 Motorway, Exit 41, Upgrade**

**Mr Crandon**, from 222 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake improvements to upgrade Exit 41 north bound and south bound interchanges [111, 112].

**Coomera Hospital**

**Mr Crandon**, from 124 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure planning and construction of a hospital in the medical precinct adjacent to the Coomera Railway Station [[113](#), [114](#)].

**Ormeau Railway Station, Car Park**

**Mr Crandon**, from 76 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure Queensland Rail increase the car park size at the Ormeau Railway Station [[115](#), [116](#)].

**Coomera Railway Station, Car Park**

**Mr Crandon**, from 174 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure Queensland Rail upgrade and increase the car park size at the Coomera Railway Station [[117](#), [118](#)].

**Ormeau and Coomera Railway Stations, Bus Service**

**Mr Crandon**, from 53 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade bus services between Ormeau Railway Station and Coomera Railway Station [[119](#), [120](#)].

**Ormeau Police Station**

**Mr Crandon**, from 709 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure planning and construction of a police station at Ormeau and the provision of 50 additional police officers [[121](#), [122](#)].

**M1 Motorway, Exit 45, Upgrade**

**Mr Crandon**, from 401 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake improvements to Exit 45 southbound interchange of the M1 [[123](#), [124](#)].

**Beenleigh and Ormeau Railway Stations, Bus Service**

**Mr Crandon**, from 35 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade bus services between Beenleigh Railway Station and Ormeau Railway Station [[125](#), [126](#)].

**M1 Motorway, Exit 49, Pimpama**

**Mr Crandon**, from 313 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake improvements to the northbound off-ramp Exit 49 interchange of the M1 at Pimpama [[127](#), [128](#)].

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

**Cairns School of Distance Education**

**Mr Pyne**, from 117 petitioners, requesting the House to address the inadequate building and infrastructure issues of the Cairns School of Distance Education [[129](#)].

**Cross River Rail, Funding**

**Mr Dickson**, from 696 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the \$5.4 billion forecast for the Cross River Rail project is instead used to benefit the entire state [[130](#)].

**Mr J Horn, Recognition**

**Mr Pegg**, from 165 petitioners, petitioners, requesting the House to recognise the efforts of Jeff Horn by naming a local park after him [[131](#)].

**Limitations of Actions Act 1994, Personal Injury Claims**

**Hon. Pitt**, from 43 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the limit placed on personal injury stipulated in the Limitations of Actions Act 1994 to ten years and allow an amnesty to victims whose rights have already been extinguished regardless of elapsed time frames [[132](#)].

**John Muntz Bridge, Riverbank Reinforcement Works**

**Mr Boothman**, from 224 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise riverbank reinforcement works upstream of the John Muntz Bridge connection road [[133](#)].

**Volunteer Marine Rescue Association, Boat Ramp**

**Mr Dickson**, from 41 petitioners, requesting the House to construct a second boat ramp at Victoria Point for the exclusive use of the Volunteer Marine Rescue Association and to upgrade plant and facilities [[134](#)].

**Bundaberg Hospital, Clinical Services Capability Framework**

**Mr Dickson**, from 136 petitioners, requesting the House to place construction of a Clinical Services Capability Framework Level 5 Regional Hospital in Bundaberg on the Queensland Health Forward Infrastructure Plan [[135](#)].

**Tallebudgera Connection Road, Speed Limit**

**Mrs Stuckey**, from 273 petitioners, requesting the House to decrease the speed limit on Tallebudgera Connection Road to 50kph between 5pm and 5am and to 60kph during all other times [[136](#)].

### Alpha, Appointment of Resident Doctor

Mr Millar, from 419 petitioners, requesting the House to appoint a full-time resident doctor to the town of Alpha [\[137\]](#).

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

### Mount Lindesay Highway, Upgrade

From 1,462 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure there is an exit ramp off the Mount Lindesay Highway for residents to access the shops and services at St Aldwyn Road [\[138\]](#).

### Atherton Tablelands-Cairns Basin, Water Security

From 82 petitioners, requesting the House to provide water security for the Atherton Tablelands/Cairns Basin by ensuring the Barron Hydro Corporation purchase all the Tinaroo Dam storage water it uses and to make the Queensland water market fully online transparent including corporation to corporation [\[139\]](#).

### Oxmar Properties

From 159 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the Department of Housing and Public Works review sales contracts issued by Oxmar Properties and instruct Oxmar Properties to remove the clauses in breach of statutory provisions [\[140\]](#).

### Election Dates

From 11 petitioners, requesting the House to call on the Premier to end the current speculation and unambiguously notify the public of the date that she intends for the next election to be held [\[141\]](#).

### Strathpine Railway Station, Car Park

From 63 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake an updated evaluation of the need for additional car, motorcycle and secure bicycle parking spaces at Strathpine Station [\[142\]](#).

### Warner-Brendale-Eatons Hill, Bus Park-and-Ride

From 55 petitioners, requesting the House to re-investigate the option for a bus park-and-ride in the Warner, Brendale, Eatons Hill region [\[143\]](#).

### Motorcycles and Scooters, Road Tolls and Parking Restrictions

From 2,203 petitioners, requesting the House to exempt motorcycles and scooters from all road tolls in Queensland and allow motorcycle and scooter parking on footpaths [\[144\]](#).

### North Eastern State of Australia, Referendum

From 620 petitioners, requesting the House to initiate a State Referendum to allow the people of Queensland living north of the Latitude 26.000 South to vote on the creation of a new North Eastern State of Australia [\[145\]](#).

### Places of Worship, Applications

From 391 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to require all applications relating to 'places of worship' be Impact Assessable and that community consultation, safety risk screening and an independent Social Health Impact Assessment be required for all such applications [\[146\]](#).

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### PAPERS TABLED DURING THE 55th PARLIAMENT

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received after the last sitting day of the 55th Parliament on 26 October 2017, and prior to the dissolution of the 55th Parliament on 29 October 2017, were tabled on the dates indicated—

27 October 2017—

- [2145](#) Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2017 made by the Education Council under sections 301 and 324 of the Education and Care Services National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories
- [2146](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 48, 55th Parliament—Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017—Correspondence from the Director-General, Department of Housing and Public Works to the Public Works and Utilities Committee, correcting advice provided on the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017
- [2147](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 70, 55th Parliament—Review of the Auditor General's Report to Parliament No. 4: 2016-17 Criminal Justice System—Prison Sentences
- [2148](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 71, 55th Parliament—Review of the Auditor General's Report to Parliament No. 14: 2016-17 Criminal Justice System—Reliability and Integration of Data
- [2149](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 72, 55th Parliament—Annual Report 2016-17
- [2150](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 73, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 14 June 2017 and 8 August 2017

- [2151](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 52, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 August 2017 and 22 August 2017
- [2152](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Planning Act 2016 for the Costco development at Cook Court, North Lakes
- [2153](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Planning Act 2016 for the Costco development at Cook Court, North Lakes—copy of the decision notice

#### PAPERS TABLED PRIOR TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE 56th PARLIAMENT

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received after the dissolution of the 55th Parliament on 29 October 2017, and before the constitution of the 56th Parliament on 13 February 2018 were tabled in accordance with s 59A of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 and Standing Order 31, on the dates indicated—

31 October 2017—

- [1](#) Queensland's Category 2 Water Authorities—Summary of Annual Reports and Financial Statements 2016-17
- [2](#) Queensland's River Improvement Trusts—Summary of Annual Reports and Financial Statements 2016-17

02 November 2017—

- [3](#) 2016–17 Report on State Finances of the Queensland Government—30 June 2017
- [4](#) Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board—Annual Report 2016-17

06 November 2017

- [5](#) Interim response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dick) to a paper petition (2836-17) presented by Mr Millar, from 395 petitioners, requesting the House to appoint a full-time resident doctor to Alpha

08 November 2017

- [6](#) Legal Services Commission—Annual Report 2016-17

09 November 2017—

- [7](#) Interim response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey), to an e-Petition (2790-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 154 petitioners, requesting the House to take action to reduce electricity prices
- [8](#) Interim response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Jones), to a paper petition (2838-17) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), and an e-Petition (2786-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 426 petitioners and 432 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to upgrade the sporting facilities at Cairns State High School
- [9](#) Interim response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad), to a paper petition (2837-17) presented by Mr Dickson, and an e-Petition (2818-17) sponsored by Mr Dickson, from 575 and 647 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to call in and reject the application for Burrum Quarry, Beerburum-Woodford Road, Beerburum
- [10](#) Interim response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey), to an e-petition (2778-17) sponsored by Mr Power, from 150 petitioners, requesting the House to address vehicle congestion on Waterford-Tamborine Road, Logan Village
- [11](#) Interim response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad), to an e-petition (2808-17) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 47 petitioners, requesting the House to provide a reliable bus service from Jacobs Well to transport hubs at Ormeau or Beenleigh
- [12](#) Interim response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey), to an e-petition (2780-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 155 petitioners, requesting the House to improve congestion on the Mount Lindesay Highway

10 November 2017—

- [13](#) Interim response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (2839-17) presented by Mr McEachan, from 6 petitioners, requesting the House to install an all tide boat ramp at Rocky Point, Russell Island

13 November 2017—

- [14](#) Interim response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad), to two paper petitions (2840-17) and (2848-17) presented by Mr Madden, from 391 and 82 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to refurbish Rosewood Railway Station and commemorate the station's 100th birthday in 2018

14 November 2017—

- [15](#) Land Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17

15 November 2017—

- [16](#) Interim response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan) to an e-Petition (2743-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 221 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure all convicted sex offenders and paedophiles are fitted with an electronic tracking device for the duration of their life once released from prison

16 November 2017—

- [17](#) Interim response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad), to a paper petition (2851-17) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) from 589 petitioners, requesting the House to cease development of the proposed waste water treatment plant at Cedar Grove

23 November 2017—

- [18](#) Interim response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2849-17) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) and an e-Petition (2820-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 65 and 40 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to provide to Noosa a six-month trial service of a daily direct bus service to and from the Sunshine Coast University Hospital
- [19](#) Interim response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2847-17) presented by Hon. Ryan, from 46 petitioners, requesting the House to consider extending Route 657 south along Browns Street towards Pettigrew Street and adding a new bus stop near the intersection of Browns and Pettigrew Streets

24 November 2017—

- [20](#) Interim response from the Acting Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development (Hon. Lynham), to an e-Petition (2763-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 114 petitioners, requesting the House to legalise the ownership of ferrets as pets in Queensland

27 November 2017—

- [21](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal: Review of Allowances System 2017, Determination 16/2017, 27 November 2017

30 November 2017—

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

6 December 2017—

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

7 December 2017—

- [24](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 3: 2017-18—Rail and ports: 2016-17 results of financial audits

8 December 2017—

- [25](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 40, 55th Parliament—Managing the performance of teachers in Queensland state schools (Auditor-General's Report 15: 2016-17), interim government response
- [26](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 42, 55th Parliament—Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017, government response
- [27](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 49, 55th Parliament—Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, government response

12 December 2017—

- [28](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 4: 2017-18—Integrated transport planning

14 December 2017—

- [29](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 5: 2017-18—Water: 2016-17 results of financial audits
- [30](#) Children's Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17

15 December 2017—

- [31](#) Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee: Report No. 4, 55th Parliament—Inquiry into occupational respirable dust issues, interim government response

2 January 2018—

- [1](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 51, 55th Parliament—Consideration of the recommendations of the strategic review of the Queensland Audit Office, interim government response

4 January 2018—

- [2](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan), to an e-Petition (2743-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 221 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure all convicted sex offenders and paedophiles are fitted with an electronic tracking device for the duration of their life once released from prison

8 January 2018—

- [3](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to a paper petition (2836-17) presented by Mr Millar, from 395 petitioners, requesting the House to appoint a full-time resident doctor to Alpha

- [4](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 46, 55th Parliament—Hospital Foundations Bill 2017, government response
- 10 January 2018—
- [20](#) Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an e-petition (2778-17) sponsored by Mr Power, from 150 petitioners, requesting the House to address vehicle congestion on Waterford-Tamborine Road, Logan Village
- [21](#) Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an e-petition (2780-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 155 petitioners, requesting the House to improve congestion on the Mount Lindesay Highway
- [22](#) Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an e-petition (2808-17) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 47 petitioners, requesting the House to provide a reliable bus service from Jacobs Well to transport hubs at Ormeau or Beenleigh
- [23](#) Final response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to a paper petition (2838-17) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), and an e-petition (2786-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 426 and 432 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to upgrade the sporting facilities at Cairns State High School
- 11 January 2018—
- [24](#) Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (2839-17) presented by Mr McEachan, from 6 petitioners, requesting the House to install an all tide boat ramp at Rocky Point, Russell Island
- [25](#) Final response from the Acting Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Hinchliffe), to a paper petition (2837-17) presented by Mr Dickson, and an e-Petition (2818-17) sponsored by Mr Dickson, from 575 and 647 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to call in and reject the application for Burrum Quarry, Beerburrum-Woodford Road, Beerburrum
- 12 January 2018—
- [26](#) National Heavy Vehicle Regulator—Annual Report 2016-17
- [27](#) Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to two paper petitions (2840-17) and (2848-17) presented by Mr Madden, from 391 and 82 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to refurbish Rosewood Railway Station and commemorate the station's 100th birthday in 2018
- 22 January 2018—
- [28](#) Final response from the Minister Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner), to an e-Petition (2763-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 114 petitioners, requesting the House to legalise the ownership of ferrets as pets in Queensland
- 24 January 2018—
- [29](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 57, 55th Parliament—Mines Legislation (Resources Safety) Amendment Bill 2017, government response
- [30](#) President of the Industrial Court of Queensland (in respect of the Industrial Court of Queensland, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the Queensland Industrial Registry)—Annual Report 2016-17
- [31](#) Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (2847-17), presented by Hon. Ryan, from 46 petitioners, requesting the House to consider extending Route 657 south along Browns Street towards Pettigrew Street and adding a new bus stop near the intersection of Browns and Pettigrew Streets
- [32](#) Final response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (2849-17) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) and an e-Petition (2820-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 65 and 40 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to provide to Noosa a six-month trial service of a daily direct bus service to and from the Sunshine Coast University Hospital
- 29 January 2018—
- [33](#) Final response from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick), to a paper petition (2851-17) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) from 589 petitioners, requesting the House to cease development of the proposed waste water treatment plant at Cedar Grove
- 1 February 2018—
- [34](#) Report about the Anthrax Biosecurity Emergency pursuant to section 123 of the Biosecurity Act 2014: Erratum
- 2 February 2018—
- [35](#) Port of Townsville Limited—Statement of Corporate Intent 2016-17 [Amended]
- 7 February 2018—
- [36](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Peter Wellington MP, and related correspondence regarding an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the Member for Inala (Hon. Palaszczuk)
- [37](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Peter Wellington MP, and related correspondence regarding an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the Member for Mansfield (Mr Walker)
- [38](#) Aboriginal Centre for the Performing Arts Pty Ltd: Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2017



12 February 2018—

- [39](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Peter Wellington MP, and related correspondence regarding an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the Member for Mulgrave (Hon. Pitt)
- [40](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. D'Ath) under section 10 of the Attorney-General Act 1999 regarding an application by Australian Marriage Equality Ltd (AME) and Senator the Hon. Janet Rice, for the grant of a fiat

#### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS TABLED PRIOR TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE 56TH PARLIAMENT

The Clerk to inform the House that the following statutory instruments, received after the dissolution of the 55th Parliament on 29 October 2017, and before the constitution of the 56th Parliament on 13 February 2018, were tabled in accordance with s 59A of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 and Standing Order 31, on the date indicated—

10 January 2018—

- [5](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Institute of Public Accountants Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2017, No. 235
- [6](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Institute of Public Accountants Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2017, No. 235, explanatory notes
- [7](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Instrument amending the Institute of Public Accountants Professional Standards Scheme
- [8](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Australian Property Institute Valuers Limited Scheme) Amendment Notice 2017, No. 236
- [9](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (Australian Property Institute Valuers Limited Scheme) Amendment Notice 2017, No. 236, explanatory notes
- [10](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Instrument amending the Australian Property Institute Valuers Limited Scheme
- [11](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (New South Wales Bar Association Scheme) Amendment Notice 2017, No. 237
- [12](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (New South Wales Bar Association Scheme) Amendment Notice 2017, No. 237, explanatory notes
- [13](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Instrument amending the New South Wales Bar Association Scheme
- [14](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (The Law Society of South Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Amendment Notice 2017, No. 238
- [15](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (The Law Society of South Australia Professional Standards Scheme) Amendment Notice 2017, No. 238, explanatory notes
- [16](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Instrument amending the Law Society of South Australia Professional Standards Scheme
- [17](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (The CPA Australia Ltd Professional Standards (Accountants) Scheme) Notice 2017, No. 239
- [18](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Professional Standards (The CPA Australia Ltd Professional Standards (Accountants) Scheme) Notice 2017, No. 239, explanatory notes
- [19](#) Professional Standards Act 2004: Instrument amending the CPA Australia Ltd Professional Standards (Accountants) Scheme

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

##### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The Clerk to table the following statutory instruments, received during the recess—

Biosecurity Act 2014—

- [45](#) Biosecurity (Melon Necrotic Spot Virus and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 218
- [46](#) Biosecurity (Melon Necrotic Spot Virus and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 218, explanatory notes

Building and Construction Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products—Chain of Responsibility and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2017—

- [47](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 219
- [48](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 219, explanatory notes

Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

- [49](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 220
- [50](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation (Non-conforming Building Products) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 220, explanatory notes

Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002—

- [51](#) Standard Plumbing and Drainage (Solar Heated Water Systems) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 221
- [52](#) Standard Plumbing and Drainage (Solar Heated Water Systems) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 221, explanatory notes

## Planning Act 2016—

- [53](#) Planning (Community Residence) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 222
- [54](#) Planning (Community Residence) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 222, explanatory notes

## Electricity Act 1994—

- [55](#) Electricity (Voltage Limits) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 223
- [56](#) Electricity (Voltage Limits) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 223, explanatory notes

## Labour Hire Licensing Act 2017—

- [57](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 224
- [58](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 224, explanatory notes

## Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017—

- [59](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 225
- [60](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 225, explanatory notes

## Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991—

- [61](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Non-Conforming Building Products Code of Practice) Notice 2017, No. 226
- [62](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Non-Conforming Building Products Code of Practice) Notice 2017, No. 226, explanatory notes

## Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012—

- [63](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Interstate and Foreign Orders) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2017, No. 227
- [64](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Interstate and Foreign Orders) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2017, No. 227, explanatory notes

## Nature Conservation Act 1992—

- [65](#) Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2018) Notice 2017, No. 228
- [66](#) Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2018) Notice 2017, No. 228, explanatory notes

## Economic Development Act 2012—

- [67](#) Economic Development (Herston Quarter PDA) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 229
- [68](#) Economic Development (Herston Quarter PDA) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 229, explanatory notes

## Commonwealth Games Arrangements Act 2011—

- [69](#) Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Relevant Places for Police Seizure Powers) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 230
- [70](#) Commonwealth Games Arrangements (Relevant Places for Police Seizure Powers) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 230, explanatory notes

## Penalties and Sentences (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017—

- [71](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 231
- [72](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 231, explanatory notes

## Penalties and Sentences Act 1992—

- [73](#) Penalties and Sentences (Court for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 232
- [74](#) Penalties and Sentences (Court for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 232, explanatory notes

## State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

- [75](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Nature Conservation) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 233
- [76](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Nature Conservation) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 233, explanatory notes

## Police Service Administration Act 1990—

- [77](#) Police Service Administration Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 234
- [78](#) Police Service Administration Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2017, No. 234, explanatory notes

**2018**

## Electricity Act 1994, National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014—

- [79](#) Electricity Legislation (Competition in Metering) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 1
- [80](#) Electricity Legislation (Competition in Metering) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 1, explanatory notes

## Child Protection Reform Amendment Act 2017—

- [81](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 2
- [82](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 2, explanatory notes



Youth Justice Act 1992—

[83](#) Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018, No. 3

[84](#) Youth Justice (Transitional) Regulation 2018, No. 3, explanatory notes

Biosecurity Act 2014—

[85](#) Biosecurity (Tomato/Potato Psyllid) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 4

[86](#) Biosecurity (Tomato/Potato Psyllid) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 4, explanatory notes

Safety in Recreational Water Activities Act 2011—

[87](#) Safety in Recreational Water Activities (Codes of Practice) Amendment Notice 2018, No. 5

[88](#) Safety in Recreational Water Activities (Codes of Practice) Amendment Notice 2018, No. 5, explanatory notes

Corrective Services Act 2006—

[89](#) Corrective Services (Remotely Piloted Aircraft) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 6

[90](#) Corrective Services (Remotely Piloted Aircraft) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 6, explanatory notes

Youth Justice Act 1992—

[91](#) Youth Justice (Transitional) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 7

[92](#) Youth Justice (Transitional) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 7, explanatory notes

The following papers, received on the dates indicated after the dissolution of the 55th Parliament on 29 October 2017 and before the constitution of the 56th Parliament on 13 February 2018, to be tabled by the Clerk—

30 October 2017—

[147](#) Proclamation (Dissolution of Parliament) dated 29 October 2017

30 January 2018—

[148](#) QSuper Annual Report 2017 Part A—Fund Information

[149](#) QSuper Annual Report 2017 Part B—Financial Statements

MINISTERIAL PAPER TO BE TABLED ON 15 FEBRUARY 2018

The Clerk to table the following ministerial paper—

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. D'Ath)—

[150](#) Strategic Review of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman, January 2018

MEMBER'S PAPER TO BE TABLED ON 15 FEBRUARY 2018

The Clerk to table the following member's paper—

Member for Lytton (Ms Pease)—

[151](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a visit to Honiara, Solomon Islands, by the Member for Lytton (Ms Pease) to attend the Fifth Annual Pacific Women's Parliamentary Partnerships Forum, 25-28 September 2017, received on 26 October 2017

OTHER PAPERS TO BE TABLED ON 15 FEBRUARY 2018

The Clerk to table the following paper pursuant to Schedule 2, Section 1 of the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly—

[152](#) Appendix A—Published Indexed Thresholds to amounts contained in Schedule 2—Registers of Interests

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The Clerk to table the following report—

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

**Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill 2017**

The following amendments relate to the instructions for relevant amendments agreed to in consideration in detail.

**Clause 130 (Use of security for benefit of subcontractor if contractor accepts liability for all claims)**

Amendment no. 78—

Page 115, lines 7 and 10—

The instruction should have read 'Page 115, lines 7 to 10—'.

**Clause 181 (Code of conduct for adjudicators)**

Amendment no. 91—

Page 145, line 16, '(4)'—

The instruction should have read 'Page 145, line 16, '(4)', second occurring', as '(4)' appeared twice on the relevant line.

**Clause 193 (Application of division)**

Amendment no. 96—

Page 150, lines 23 and 24, 'division'—

*omit, insert—*

part

The instruction for line 23 should replace 'division' with 'part' in bold, as the relevant line related to a heading.

\* Page and line number references relate to the Bill, as amended.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS****Queensland Sport; Palaszczuk Labor Government**

**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.19 am): It has been a momentous few months for Queensland since this parliament last sat. It has been a time of great success for Queenslanders and there are a number I would like to congratulate: the Townsville Fire women's basketball team, who last month claimed their third WNBL title in four years—and I had the pleasure of catching up with them in Townsville last month—the Brisbane Bandits, whom I had the opportunity to meet here at parliament yesterday, beat Canberra to win their third successive shield as Australia's baseball champions; the Brisbane Roar women's team, who claimed the minor premiership in the W-League; and the Queensland Women's Rugby Tens team, who defeated New South Wales—and don't we love that—to win the Brisbane Global Rugby Tens title, and I understand that victorious team will be here at parliament later today. I would also like to congratulate Jeff Horn on the successful defence of his world title here in Brisbane in December and I wish him well for his next bout, against Terence Crawford in Las Vegas in April.

Speaking of boxers, I am hopeful there are more wins to come for Queensland in the next few weeks. The federal government's announcement of the LAND 400 defence contract, in which Queensland is partnering with German manufacturer Rheinmetall, is due in early March. I am pleased to say that the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, Cameron Dick, was in Canberra yesterday to further reinforce Queensland's credentials as the base for this advanced manufacturing industry.


Mr Speaker, I would also like to again congratulate you on your elevation to the esteemed role of Speaker and to congratulate all new members of this House. I would particularly like to welcome the member for Cook, who is the first Torres Strait Islander to sit in any Australian parliament. I am pleased to say that with 23 of Labor's 48 MPs being women, my government still has the highest proportion of female MPs of any state in Australia, and who can forget the 50 per cent female representation in cabinet as well?

The government that I lead will always put Queenslanders first, and that means delivering on the commitments and keeping the promises that we made to the people of Queensland. In our first term of government we delivered 513—or 93 per cent—of the 553 commitments we made to the people of Queensland at the 2015 election. The delivery of our second term election commitments will continue to support Queenslanders by prioritising job creation, delivering world-class health services, providing quality education for young Queenslanders and reskilling those who are in or rejoining the workforce. Our 2017 state election commitments will support more than 60,000 jobs. We will bolster front-line services across the state by employing 3,700 more teachers, 3,500 nurses and midwives, over 500 new police officers and 100 extra firefighters. We are renewing our investment in programs such as Works for Queensland and Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which are driving employment growth and providing job opportunities across our state.

We are committed to a perpetual funding solution for the backbone of Queensland's roads through the \$1 billion Bruce Highway Trust, and we are progressively upgrading the M1 to make it at least six lanes wide from Brisbane to the New South Wales border. Our investment in world-class education facilities continues with the construction of 10 new schools, the upgrading of 17 and planning for a further seven. We will make new investments in key industries including tourism, agriculture and

renewable energy. We will also continue to improve vital health infrastructure in every corner of the state. My government will invest \$697 million to refurbish hospitals at Logan, Caboolture and Ipswich. Our comprehensive program will create new jobs and new opportunities for Queensland and deliver the services and support that Queenslanders need. I look forward to continuing to deliver for Queensland.

### Council of Australian Governments

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.23 am): Last week I had the opportunity to travel to Canberra for the first COAG meeting of 2018. Our young people are facing a crisis with regard to bullying—particularly cyberbullying—and we need a national approach to this issue. Too many of our young people are living with fear, anxiety, isolation, reduced school performance and a decline in emotional, mental and physical wellbeing. In 2017, yourtown—which helps run Kids Helpline—responded to almost 1,000 cases of cyberbullying and more than 10,000 suicide concerns involving young Australians. We need to act, and that is why I moved to ensure that this issue was considered by COAG and lead discussion about the ways in which we can respond as a nation.

Thanks to my government's effort to put bullying on the national agenda, COAG has tasked a special working group of senior officials to consider existing and potential initiatives to help combat bullying and cyberbullying and to establish a work program to be led by the Education Council with regard to what we can do to address this problem. I will keep working to have a national summit on this issue later this year. I have also written to the Prime Minister seeking national consistency with regard to eSafety Commissioner offices, which are currently only based in New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT. There needs to be a national presence for this important role, and I want one that is based here in Queensland.

Last week at COAG Commonwealth funding for public hospitals was discussed. Queensland, along with most other states and territories, did not sign the health funding agreement put forward by the Commonwealth, and I will not sign it until we receive the entire \$170 million which is owed in back pay. This is such an important issue for Queenslanders, and we will continue to make sure that Queensland gets its fair share.

This year also marks the 10th anniversary of COAG's commitment to Closing the Gap in terms of outcomes for Australia's first people. The day before COAG I was honoured to attend a special gathering of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders to speak with them about priorities for Closing the Gap. I know that the Deputy Premier, in her capacity as Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, was also there speaking with a number of national leaders about Closing the Gap. The outcomes of that gathering and community consultation will inform our new Closing the Gap framework.

Despite these positive steps, the Commonwealth is yet to come to the table with any commitment to continue its funding for housing in our remote communities. The Minister for Housing and Public Works took the mayors of remote Indigenous communities and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders who were in Canberra last week to advocate for a new remote housing funding commitment from the Commonwealth. The withdrawal of these funds by the Commonwealth will mean a loss of around \$120 million in remote housing funding per annum. Approximately 850 local community jobs will be put at risk here in Queensland.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse heard evidence of the appalling abuse of children by those who were entrusted to care for them. Leaders at COAG acknowledge the courage of survivors of this terrible abuse and will continue to work with the federal government to develop an effective national redress scheme.

Discussions at COAG were both robust and constructive. It was a great opportunity to fight for a better future for all Queenslanders and Australians. I look forward to meeting with first ministers later this year to continue those discussions.

### Trade

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.27 am): I have good news for Queensland. Queensland is an export state, and our trading performance continues to strengthen under my government. The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data confirms that Queensland earned a record \$69.6 billion from exports in the calendar year 2017. This was an increase

of \$14.3 billion over 2016 and more than \$25 billion higher than 2014, which was the last full calendar year of the former Newman LNP government. In percentage terms this represents an annual rise of 25.8 per cent.

On behalf of the government I want to take this opportunity to thank all farmers, miners, manufacturing workers, sales staff and entrepreneurs for this great result. Queensland now earns one in every four of Australia's export dollars. As Minister for Trade, I will work hard to ensure that our state realises its fantastic potential to sell our products and raw materials around the globe. Next week I will travel to the United States to boost investment, strengthen our relations with—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Our Prime Minister invited me; that is why I am going. He has not invited the honourable member.


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Premier is not being provocative.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will also go to the US to attract new film production on top of the record result for the last financial year. I will join the Prime Minister and other state leaders in Washington to attend the annual conference of the National Governors Association. The National Governors Association is now led by Governor Brian Sandoval of Nevada, which is a state that our government is working with in the key areas of energy, mining and water management.

By creating opportunities overseas we can create jobs here for Queenslanders. By working together we can further boost trade and strengthen our partnerships with other countries in terms of tourism, education and sport, as the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games will show.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, 10th Anniversary of National Apology**


 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.29 am): Tuesday marked the 10th anniversary of Kevin Rudd's historic apology to Australia's Indigenous peoples—a significant step forward towards reconciliation in our country's history. The national apology has become a defining moment in Australian history because it acknowledged the wrongs done to Australia's first nations people by successive governments of all political persuasions. The apology was a significant step forward in the healing process. It not only contained an unreserved apology but also set out a practical vision for the future—a practical vision to close the gap that exists between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in life expectancy, in educational achievement and in economic opportunity. This gap is unacceptable for a country which prides itself on its fairness and its willingness to give everyone a fair go.

Ten years on, it is clear from the results against the targets that we must do more. Here in Queensland we have been working hard to close the gap and 10 years on the latest data we have available shows that progress has been made in a number of key areas in our state to meet national targets, but we have to be honest and say that there is still a long way to go. Only three of the seven national targets are on track to be achieved and, quite frankly, that is not good enough. As a nation we are not making enough progress and we are not doing it fast enough. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to working in genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to close the gap in disadvantage amongst first nations people, but to do so we need real commitment from the Commonwealth and we cannot do it alone. Consistency in policy, consistency in implementation and consistency in funding—that is what we need. We need the Turnbull government to invest more into key programs to close the gap. Indigenous Queenslanders need specialist health services, they need educational opportunities and they need housing.

Queensland has been a committed partner to delivering housing in Indigenous communities and it is beyond disappointing to see the Turnbull government cut funding to the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. It is actually heartbreaking. Housing is a critical need for all Australians and to see the Turnbull government withdrawing from a program that has clearly worked is disappointing in the extreme. It is actually unbelievable—unbelievable to think that, for the first time in 50 years, for the first time in half a century, the Commonwealth will not be funding the construction of housing in remote Indigenous communities. This is but one of many national partnership agreements the Turnbull government is refusing to renew. All up, Turnbull and the federal LNP's retreat on funding agreements with our state could see funding cuts to Queensland worth more than \$1.4 billion. Unbelievably, that could just be the start.

Last week I gave evidence before the Turnbull government's Productivity Commission, which is in the process of reviewing the GST carve-up. At this hearing I highlighted that the changes it is considering could strip more than \$1.6 billion annually from the Queensland budget. This is equivalent to losing funding for 5,000 teachers, for 5,000 nurses, for 3,000 police officers and more than 1,100 firefighters. Quite frankly, this is unacceptable to the Palaszczuk Labor government and it is unacceptable to the people of Queensland. The Palaszczuk Labor government will fight every step of the way to keep our fair share of Commonwealth funding—funding that reflects the challenges of providing quality services and infrastructure in a large and decentralised state, funding that ensures continuity in service delivery, and funding that Queenslanders quite rightly expect and deserve.

### Manufacturing Industry

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.33 am): The first term of the Palaszczuk Labor government was a period of repair and recovery as we looked to rebuild Queensland following the grim years of the Newman LNP government.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** The members opposite do not like hearing the truth. Our second term represents a new period of optimism and opportunity for Queensland, of economic growth and increasing business confidence, of regional investments and job creation. That is why I feel so privileged to rise in the chamber this morning to address this House as Queensland's first dedicated Minister for Manufacturing. I thank the Premier for the privilege of serving the government and the people of Queensland in that capacity.

I am genuinely excited by the innovation and creativity of Queensland's manufacturers, particularly in the area of advanced manufacturing. One area with great potential for Queensland is in defence manufacturing. I was delighted to visit Hilton Manufacturing at Wacol recently with Rheinmetall Australia's managing director, Gary Stewart, and the new Labor member for Jordan to inspect the BOXER combat reconnaissance vehicle—the vehicle at the heart of Rheinmetall Defence Australia's bid for the \$5 billion LAND 400 defence contract, recently publicly endorsed by Australian Victoria Cross winner Ben Roberts-Smith. If successful, Rheinmetall will build the required 225 vehicles in Queensland, delivering 450 jobs and a \$1 billion adrenaline shot to the Queensland economy.

Our government has been working closely with Rheinmetall to support its bid and I want to particularly pay tribute to the work of my predecessor as the minister for state development, the member for Stafford, for his important work in helping to bring this project to Queensland. Winning the LAND 400 contract will be a game changer for Queensland manufacturing through not only the significant supply chain and maintenance opportunities it will foster but also the significant export revenue it has the potential to generate. Rheinmetall has made it clear that this is just the first step in a long journey it is seeking to embark on with our state and I call on those members opposite and all crossbench MPs to reach out to federal members of parliament to ensure this important project comes to Queensland.


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I look forward to those members opposite lobbying the LNP to ensure the BOXER comes to Queensland. The Premier made it very clear to me and to all members of the government that we will stand for the people and with the people of regional Queensland and look for ways to guide regional opportunities.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, resume your seat. The Manager of Opposition Business is making it difficult for me to hear the minister. However, Minister, it is difficult to provide any protection for you if you wish to be somewhat provocative.

**Mr DICK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Premier has made it clear that we will be a government that supports all Queenslanders, particularly regional Queenslanders, to drive economic opportunity for Queenslanders wherever they live. That is why I was pleased to attend the recent reopening of the Swickers bacon factory in Kingaroy and to see firsthand the great story of the rapid recovery of that operation after its devastation by fire in November 2016. I was very pleased to hear the company openly acknowledging the great contribution made by the government through the department of state development to support both that recovery and the company's expansion plans. That expansion alone is expected to generate 66 new jobs. Mr Speaker, you may also recall that last year's budget included \$68.5 million for a new hospital in Kingaroy. Kingaroy of course sits in the electorate of Nanango represented by the Leader of the Opposition for whom I have two words: you're welcome!

## Bullying


 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.28 am): This year the Palaszczuk government has put the issue of bullying on the national agenda and committed our government to working with schools, parents, children and the community to stop bullying, especially cyberbullying. Our approach to this pervasive issue includes targeted education programs and providing support to students, teachers and parents to raise awareness about online safety and cyberbullying. Queensland signed up to the Online Safety Programs in Schools project agreement, providing \$1.4 million of federal funding across the state for Catholic and independent schools as well as state schools.

This funding supports programs delivered by providers certified by the eSafety Commissioner for students, parents and teachers. Despite the national focus on cyberbullying, the Turnbull government has yet again failed to provide funding certainty beyond the next few months—when the program expires in June this year. This is another example of the Turnbull government failing to provide long-term funding certainty for Queensland programs and services.

The Palaszczuk government will continue to support Queensland students through a dedicated team of specialists who assist schools in tackling cyberbullying and staying safe online. The department of education's own Cybersafety and Reputation Management team provide dedicated support to schools in responding to inappropriate online behaviour and actively seeks to shut down any web page or website that contains inappropriate, offensive or threatening content involving state school students or staff. The Cybersafety and Reputation Management team has provided more than 700 information sessions to over 91,500 students in 273 schools. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse applauded Queensland's Cybersafety and Reputation Management team as exemplary and a model for other education jurisdictions. I will continue to advocate for the Turnbull government to commit to a new national funding agreement to ensure that these important programs receive the funding needed to keep our children safe from cyberbullying.

If those opposite are serious about protecting Queensland students from this clear and present danger, they will stand with the Palaszczuk government and call on the Turnbull government to restore funding certainty for these vital programs. The choice is simple for the Leader of the Opposition: support the Malcolm Turnbull government ripping funding from our state or join us and stand up for Queensland.

## Electricity Prices

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.41 am): The Palaszczuk government is focused on driving down electricity prices. Over the previous three years, on average household prices have increased by just 1.9 per cent per year compared to 43 per cent over the term of the former LNP government. Because our electricity businesses remain in public hands, we can reinvest dividends from those businesses into driving down prices.

Under our \$2 billion Affordable Energy Plan, we are capping household and small business power price increases to average inflation rates over the next two years. That means no price increase over the rate of inflation for the next two years for Queensland consumers. We will return \$50 a year for the next two years to all Queensland residential electricity customers. As of early January, almost 7,200 regional customers had already received their first payments of \$75 rebates for households and \$120 for small businesses for signing up to Ergon's EasyPay Rewards scheme.

We will continue to stabilise prices in the wholesale electricity market. Since we announced measures to stabilise wholesale prices, the 2018 forward contract price in Queensland has fallen by 18 per cent—an 18 per cent fall. As at 19 January 2018, Queensland futures contract prices are still trading as the cheapest in the National Electricity Market for 2018, 2019 and 2020. Most importantly, we expect those reductions to flow through to retail prices.


The Palaszczuk government is placing strong downward pressure on electricity prices, but we are concerned that our highly effective policies in Queensland could be undermined by Canberra. Malcolm Turnbull's National Energy Guarantee could put all of our good work at risk. If only we knew for sure. We still do not have a framework—any formalised structure—on this National Energy Guarantee. All we have is a series of questions about how this will work. Yet the COAG council is supposed to be considering the mysterious NEG in April. Why does the opposition leader not stand up for Queensland and demand that Malcolm cough up the details? I say: pick up the phone. Ask him to even give us a hint so that we can form a position and make sure that Queenslanders' interests are protected. Annastacia Palaszczuk and Labor will always put Queensland first, but we know that Deb Frecklington will always put Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP's interests way before Queensland's.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the next member, I remind the minister to use the member's correct title in this House. The member for Nanango should be referred to as the Leader of the Opposition.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, I set out my expectations this morning in the tabled papers. I trust that you will read them. Let us not get off on the wrong foot. I think this House has the potential to do something very different this term. Let us all try very hard.

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport Infrastructure**


 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (10.45 am): Today, the Queen's baton makes its way through Wodonga in Victoria as part of its tour across Australia before it arrives in Queensland next month. Today marks 48 days until the Commonwealth Games is held in Queensland. Right now, Australia's elite athletic stars, including our very own Sally Pearson, are preparing for their trials this weekend at Carrara on the Gold Coast. This is the first time that our athletes have had the opportunity to host the trials on the Gold Coast because of our investment in new world-class sporting facilities. The Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in April will be the largest event that Queensland has ever held. It will generate more than \$4 billion for the Queensland economy and support more than 16,000 full-time jobs.

We know that the legacy of these investments will last long after the last athlete goes home. We have delivered more than \$320 million in new and improved sporting infrastructure. We have built and upgraded 18 sporting venues to establish the Gold Coast as an international powerhouse for major sporting events. Our strong focus on legacy means that the games will continue to benefit Queenslanders for years to come.

When the Premier, the minister for state development and I sat around the cabinet table many years ago when we made this decision, we also knew that we would have to make a significant investment in transport infrastructure. I am very pleased to report that we have now delivered more than \$1 billion worth of transport infrastructure for the Gold Coast community. That includes upgrades to the M1, local roads, duplicating the rail line between Helensvale and Coomera and also the completion of two stages of the light rail on the Gold Coast, which is transforming that city.

With 48 days to go, momentum is building on the Gold Coast. I look forward to keeping the parliament informed as we continue the countdown to the greatest games ever.

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport Infrastructure**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.48 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering a successful Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, the largest sporting event in Queensland's history. With over 600,000 visitors coming to the coast and over a million tickets sold, we are planning for an extra six million trips across the transport network during the games. When we came to government in 2015, it was clear that there was a lot of work still to be done to get ready for the largest sporting event in Australia in over a decade. Years of planning and hard work have gone into ensuring that this transport plan can support a successful Commonwealth Games.


Our integrated transport plan includes 24-hour light rail with six-minute frequency during peak events nine hours a day; 24-hour heavy rail, with an average train frequency of 10 minutes or better, with up to eight trains per hour during large crowd events; 24-hour high-frequency shuttle bus services linking major venues and precincts; and an extra 4,000 daily Surfside bus services. None of that would have been possible without the Palaszczuk government's billion-dollar investment in transport infrastructure on the Gold Coast. There is also the \$420 million Light Rail Stage 2, funded and built in record time in the first term of the Palaszczuk government; a \$163 million duplication of the heavy rail from Helensvale to Coomera, which is absolutely fundamental and crucial to delivering eight trains per hour; and over \$350 million invested in Gold Coast road upgrades, including the Southport-Burleigh road and Smith Street Motorway.

These investments by the Palaszczuk government set us up for success during the games and also provides long-term legacy benefits for every Gold Coast resident. We have always said that there would be adjustments across the South-East Queensland network during the Commonwealth Games. We have ensured there will be sustainable and reliable services across the South-East Queensland

network and all rail lines will remain open during the games period. Last year we also announced a suite of initiatives to improve reliability and safety on the M1, including a reduction of speed limits between the M1-M3 merge and Gaven, starting on 1 March.


The games will be an exciting time for the Gold Coast and for Queensland. In its first term the Palaszczuk government delivered the key infrastructure and services required to support a successful Commonwealth Games. I understand that patronage across the whole light rail system, which has only been running for two months, is up by 27 per cent. That is a quarter of a million extra light rail trips in only two months.

### Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.51 am): I acknowledge members of the Queensland Police Service in the gallery today and thank them for their service to the people of Queensland. Right across Queensland our police are doing a great job keeping our community safe. At the last election we made significant commitments to boost police numbers over our next term in government to ensure that the police had the resources that they need to do the best job they can to keep our community safe. Over the next term of government we will see more QLITEs, more body worn cameras and more police; making sure that the police have those resources they need to do the job that they do.


There is one government in Australia that is making cuts to its police service and that is the federal government. It was very disappointing to see that Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP government in Canberra has cut the Federal Police budget by \$184 million over the next four years, which equates to more than 150 Australian Federal Police officers. The challenge for those opposite is to stand up to their mates in the LNP in Canberra and stand up for community safety here in Queensland and right across Australia. We know they will not because they never stick up for Queensland, they never stick up for community safety and they will not stand up to their mates in Canberra. Our government stands by our police and community safety here in Queensland, we always will, and we will continue to fight for them.

### Local Government

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.52 am): Queensland ratepayers and residents deserve the very best from their elected local government officials. Topnotch service delivery, high ethical standards and unimpeachable integrity are the qualities that I am looking for as local government minister and they are found in absolute abundance in councils right across Queensland. Unfortunately there are the few proverbial bad eggs and it is their behaviour that is impacting on the standing of local government and the respect with which councillors and mayors are held in the community. I am working closely with mayors, councillors, the LGAQ and the community more broadly to ensure that Queensland has a legislative framework with very clear standards, standards that leave no doubt as to what is expected of those fortunate enough to be elected to these trusted positions.

When it comes to transparency and accountability ours is a rolling reform agenda. We enacted new laws last year that saw the introduction of real-time donation disclosure. Just last week I approved access to the Queensland Integrity Commissioner for Queensland's mayors and councillors. Implementation of this significant CCC recommendation contained in the CCC's report on Operation Belcarra will see councillors and mayors able to access independent, impartial, high-quality ethical and integrity advice. The LGAQ has welcomed this important reform, just as it has welcomed our plans to establish the Office of the Independent Assessor to deal with councillor complaints and enact new conflict of interest provisions. Queensland deserves transparent and accountable government at all levels. If we can achieve that then we, as the 56th Parliament, will have served our community well.

### Closing the Gap

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.54 am): Closing the Gap is a responsibility of all levels of government and it is a responsibility that the Palaszczuk government takes very seriously. During this week, when we have witnessed the Prime Minister of this country give his Closing the Gap speech to the federal parliament and when we have commemorated the 10th anniversary of the Rudd government's apology to Indigenous Australians, I wish to echo the comments of the Premier and Deputy Premier and inform the House that the Prime Minister of Australia has informed me through the




federal minister for Indigenous affairs that he will turn his back on 50 years of progress made in Closing the Gap through investment in remote housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders as of 30 June 2018.

I have no doubt that many in this place are deeply dismayed at this news. For those of us who believe Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a right to the same life chances as the rest of us, this decision makes no sense. It is acknowledged from all quarters, except perhaps from Canberra, that we cannot close the gap if those very same people are homeless. I have been advised by leaders and elders of Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities that the Prime Minister's decision will have immediate and devastating impacts on thousands of Queenslanders. I am referring to thousands of constituents of members of this place, particularly the member for Cook, and I acknowledge that the member has expressed deep concern for the future of those communities. Similarly, they are constituents of the member for Townsville and in the electorate of Mr Speaker. I understand that both of those members share grave concerns about the impacts that these cuts will have in particular on health, education and employment outcomes.

Increases in the rates of homelessness and overcrowding I am sure will distress the member for Traeger. These impacts will touch every corner of the state, including constituents of the member for Gregory and those of the opposition leader, the member for Nanango. It is difficult to tell, however, given the lack of commentary, whether or not the opposition leader shares our concerns about the future of those Queenslanders. All members of this place have an obligation to speak out when the basic human right to shelter is jeopardised, especially for Indigenous Queenslanders. When the Palaszczuk Labor government stands with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and their elders to demand fair funding from the Commonwealth, when we stand with the housing sector, when we stand with the local government sector, the question that all Queenslanders have is will the Leader of the Opposition stand with Queensland or with Canberra?

### Health Services

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.57 am): As the Premier outlined earlier, the Palaszczuk government is delivering more healthcare services to more Queenslanders right across the state. This year we welcomed 749 new doctors as interns and 361 new nurses and midwives at public hospitals around Queensland. At the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane an Australian-first skin cancer clinic is set to cut surgery wait times by more than half. In the Torres Strait we are rolling out 15 oral cameras to primary healthcare centres across the islands. This allows local healthcare workers to send images to the dental team on Thursday Island, giving more people access to specialist dental care. The Cairns Hospital will be able to see 1,400 extra cardiac patients by this time next year thanks to a second \$2.8 million cardiac catheterisation laboratory. At the Gold Coast University Hospital, while they have been planning and preparing for the Commonwealth Games they have also opened a new 24-bed general medicine ward and a new coordination hub.

Labor delivers services because Labor prioritises health care. When the LNP was in government it cut health services. Not content with the cut to health services while in government, now those opposite are covering up for Malcolm Turnbull's health cuts too.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I rise to a point of order. I note your statement to the House about your expectations and basic important rules of the House. I wonder if you would give us a ruling about whether ministerial statements are allowed to be as inflammatory as this one is.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, my expectations have been outlined today. I have already stated them to the House. Members know of my love for sport and they know of my love for particular games, such as Rugby League. I will treat today as a preseason game, expecting that all members adhere to those expectations. Everyone in this House is on notice. I have set out my expectations. I thank the member for raising the point of order.

**Dr MILES:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. There is nothing inflammatory about outlining the LNP's record in government. Malcolm Turnbull owes Queensland's hospitals hundreds of millions of dollars for services they have already provided under an agreement that the federal government signed. The rest of us manage to pay our bills on time. Why is it so hard for Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP?

If the LNP cared about Queenslanders and their families, they would stand with us in demanding that Malcolm Turnbull pay us the money that he owes our hospitals. However, with or without the LNP, the Palaszczuk government will keep fighting for the hospitals in our state, because, unlike those opposite, we believe that Queenslanders deserve free world-class health care.

## PRIVILEGE

### Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Minister


 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.01 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. This morning the member for Woodridge excitedly stood in this place and said that he was the first minister for manufacturing. I table *Hansard* from 2001, when the honourable Jan Jarratt was minister for tourism, manufacturing and small business.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from Hansard, dated Thursday, 10 March 2011 [154].

Before I report the honourable minister, through you, Mr Speaker, to the Ethics Committee for misleading the House, perhaps the minister would like to brush up on Labor history? I can understand he does not recall Jan Jarratt because she was probably a hopeless minister for manufacturing.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Manager of Opposition Business, if you wish to you may write to me regarding the matter. Certainly you have made your point this morning. I look forward to receiving your correspondence.

### Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Minister, Apology


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (11.01 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I take the very detailed and in-depth history lesson from the Manager of Opposition Business. He is doing some heavy hitting today. I apologise to the House if I have inadvertently misled the House. I am delighted to be the first minister for manufacturing in recent history.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Coomera, I have already spoken to you once today. I warn the member under standing order 253A.

## MOTION

### Amendment to Standing Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.02 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That Schedule 6 of the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended in accordance with the amendment circulated in my name, effective immediately.

#### Amendment to Standing Orders to be moved by the Leader of the House

##### 1. SCHEDULE 6 (PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES)—

*Omit, insert*

##### SCHEDULE 6—PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES

- (1) In accordance with s.88 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, the following table establishes the Portfolio Committees of the Legislative Assembly and identifies their primary areas of responsibility; and
- (2) A reference to a Minister is deemed to include departments, statutory authorities, government owned corporations and other administrative units reporting to the Minister and parts thereof that report to the Minister with respect to the Minister's responsibilities as set out in the Administrative Arrangements.

Portfolio Committee	Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Oversight Responsibility
Economics and Governance Committee	Premier and Cabinet Trade	Premier and Minister for Trade	Auditor-General Integrity Commissioner
	Treasury	Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	Family Responsibilities Commission
	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships		
	Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs	Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs	

Portfolio Committee	Area of Responsibility	Ministers	Oversight Responsibility
State Development Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee	State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning	Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning	
	Natural Resources, Mines and Energy	Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy	
	Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries	Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries	
Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee	Justice and Attorney- General	Attorney-General and Minister for Justice	Electoral Commissioner Information Commissioner
	Police and Corrective Services	Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services	Ombudsman
	Fire and Emergency Services	Minister for Fire and Emergency Services	Queensland Family and Child Commission
Transport and Public Works Committee	Transport and Main Roads	Minister for Transport and Main Roads	
	Housing, Public Works, Digital Technology and Sport	Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport	
Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee	Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games	Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games	
	Environment, Great Barrier Reef, Science and Arts	Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts	
Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee	Health and Ambulance Services	Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services	Health Ombudsman
	Communities, Disability Services and Seniors	Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors	
	Child Safety, Youth, and Women Domestic and Family Violence Prevention	Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	
Education, Employment and Small Business Committee	Education	Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations	
	Industrial Relations		
	Employment and Small Business Training and Skills Development	Minister Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development	

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the House indicated to me earlier that, after circulating the amendment, she would be setting a time for the debate on the new standing and sessional orders.


**Mrs D'ATH:** Schedule 6 is about the committee portfolios.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## COMMITTEES

### Membership

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.03 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the order of appointment circulated in my name for the membership of parliamentary committees established by statute or standing orders be agreed to.

### ORDER OF APPOINTMENT TO PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

That the following appointments for the membership of parliamentary committees established by statute or standing orders be agreed to:


- (a) Economics and Governance Committee—Mr Linus Power (Chair), Ms Nikki Boyd, Mr Sam O'Connor, Mr Dan Purdie, Ms Kim Richards, Mr Ray Stevens
- (b) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee—Mr Chris Whiting (Chair), Mr David Batt, Mr Jim Madden, Mr Brent Mickelberg, Ms Jess Pugh, Mr Pat Weir
- (c) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee—Mr Peter Russo (Chair), Mr Stephen Andrew, Mr James Lister, Mr Jim McDonald, Mrs Melissa McMahon, Ms Corrine McMillan
- (d) Transport and Public Works Committee—Mr Shane King (Chair), Mr Colin Boyce, Mr Robbie Katter, Mrs Jo-Ann Miller, Mr Bart Mellish, Mr Ted Sorensen
- (e) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee—Mr Duncan Pegg (Chair), Ms Sandy Bolton, Mr Jason Costigan, Mr Jon Krause, Ms Cynthia Lui, Mrs Charis Mullen
- (f) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee—Mr Aaron Harper (Chair), Mr Michael Berkman, Mr Marty Hunt, Mr Mark McArdle, Mr Barry O'Rourke, Ms Joan Pease
- (g) Education, Employment and Small Business Committee—Ms Leanne Linard (Chair), Mr Nick Dametto, Mr Michael Healy, Mr Bruce Saunders, Mrs Jann Stuckey, Mrs Simone Wilson
- (h) Ethics Committee—Mr Joe Kelly (Chair), Ms Nikki Boyd, Ms Leanne Linard, Mr Mark McArdle, Mr Tim Nicholls, Mr Ray Stevens
- (i) Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee—Mr Tim Nicholls (Chair), Mr Michael Crandon, Mr Shane King, Mrs Melissa McMahon, Mrs Charis Mullen, Ms Joan Pease, Dr Mark Robinson

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Membership

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.03 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That in accordance with section 81A(1) of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 the member for Dalrymple, Mr Knuth, be appointed to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly as a representative of the crossbench, chosen by the crossbench as their nominee.

Further, I table the letter advising of the nomination as required by the act.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I rise to a point of order. I think that the Leader of the House is referring to the honourable member for Hill, not Dalrymple. That seat has been abolished.

**Mrs D'ATH:** My apologies.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I thank the member for Whitsunday for picking that up. It is noted. Does the Leader of the House wish to restate the motion?

**Mrs D'ATH** by leave, without notice: I move—

That in accordance with section 81A(1) of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 the member for Hill, Mr Knuth, be appointed to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly as the representative of the crossbench, chosen by the crossbench as their nominee.

Further, I table the letter advising of the nomination as required by the act.


*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 14 February 2018, from the member for Traeger, Mr Robert Katter MP, to the Leader of the House, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, nominating the member for Hill, Mr Shane Knuth MP, as the crossbench member of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly [155].

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## NOTICES OF MOTION

### Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.05 am): I give notice that I will move—

That the sessional orders for the 56th Parliament circulated in my name be agreed to and effective from Friday, 16 February 2018.

#### Sessional Orders—56th Parliament (First Session)

##### Days and Hours of Sitting and Order of Business

1. (a) The House shall sit on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- (b) The House shall sit each day from 9.30am until the automatic adjournment is declared in accordance with Sessional Order 2(2)(c), unless adjourned earlier in accordance with Sessional Order 2(3).
- (c) The Order of Business for each Sitting Day shall be as follows—

##### **Tuesday**

*9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business \**

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

*10.15am—11.15am—*

Question Time

*11.15am—1.00pm—*

Government Business

*1.00pm—2.00pm—*

Lunch break

*2.00pm—3.00pm—*

Matters of Public Interest

*3.00pm—5.30pm—*

Government Business

*5.30pm—7.00pm—*

Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business (in accordance with Sessional Order 1(d))

*7.00pm—7.30pm—*

Automatic Adjournment

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

**Wednesday**

9.30am—10.15am—*Preliminary Business* \*

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (6.00pm—7.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—12.30pm—

Government Business

12.30pm—1.00pm—

Introduction of Private Members' Bills #

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—6.00pm—

Government Business

6.00pm—7.00pm—

Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.15am to take precedence)

7.00pm—7.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

# (If there are no Private Members' Bills to introduce, or any introduction to complete, the next item of business to commence with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusted accordingly.)

**Thursday**

9.30am—10.15am—*Preliminary Business* \*

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—1.00pm—  
Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—  
Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—  
Private Members' Statements (Total time 60 minutes, 20 members x 3 minutes each)

3.00pm—4.00pm—  
Debate of Committee Reports (in accordance with Sessional Order 3) if no reports to debate, Government Business

4.00pm—6.00pm—  
Government Business

6.00pm—6.30pm—  
Automatic Adjournment

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

(d) On a Tuesday afternoon—

(i) if there are no Disallowance Motions or Private Members' Bills to debate (in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 59 or Sessional Order 5), the adjournment may be either moved immediately or otherwise continue with Government Business until automatic adjournment;

(ii) if there are Disallowance Motions or Private Members' Bills to debate (in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 59 or Sessional Order 5), the House will commence with Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business until automatic adjournment.

(e) If the House sits on any day other than a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, then unless otherwise ordered, the order of business shall be as follows:

*From 9.30 am—10.00 am—*

Prayers  
Messages from the Governor  
Matters concerning privilege  
Speaker's Statements  
Appointments  
Petitions  
Citizen's Right of Reply  
Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk  
Ministerial Papers  
Ministerial Notices of Motion  
Ministerial Statements  
Any other Government Business  
Personal Explanations  
Tabling of Reports  
Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

*10.00am—10.30am—*  
Question Time

*10.30am—1.00pm—*  
Government Business

*1.00pm—2.00pm—*  
Lunch break

*2.00pm—until adjournment moved—*  
Government Business

#### **Automatic Adjournment**

2. (1) Standing Order 56 is suspended for this session.

(2) At the time specified for the Automatic Adjournment in the Order of Business for each Sitting Day, the Speaker shall:

- (a) notify the House that it is the time for the Automatic Adjournment of the House;
- (b) shall call on up to ten members to speak for no more than three minutes each to make an adjournment statement; and
- (c) at the conclusion of the members' statements in 2(b) above, shall declare the House is adjourned to the date and time previously agreed to by the House.

(3) Notwithstanding Sessional Orders 1(b) and 2(2), the motion “That the House do now adjourn” may be moved by the Leader or Acting Leader of the House at any time despite the order of business, in which case there will be an Adjournment Debate for 30 minutes and then the question shall be put.

#### Debate of Parliamentary committee reports

3. (1) If a committee report is tabled that is not:
- a report on a bill pursuant to Part 5 of the Standing Orders;
  - an annual report of a Committee;
  - ‘a report on travel undertaken by a Committee;
  - a report of the Ethics Committee; or
  - a report by a Committee on subordinate legislation

then a motion shall be set down on the notice paper by the Clerk that the House is to take note of the committee report.

(2) Motions that the House take note of committee reports will be brought on for debate in the time set aside each Thursday in the order in which they are placed on the notice paper.

(3) A debate of a motion in (2) not completed may be adjourned to the following Thursday.

(4) A motion in (2) cannot be amended.

(5) A motion in accordance with (1) is set down on the notice paper regardless of whether the report is tabled whilst the House is sitting or not sitting.

#### Consideration of Ethics Committee Reports in regard to Citizen’s Right of Reply

4 When the Ethics Committee reports to the House regarding a Citizen’s Right of Reply in accordance with Standing Order 283, the committee’s recommendation will be considered by the House on the next sitting day following the tabling of the committee’s report and at the time in the Order of Business as specified in Sessional Order 1.

#### Private Members’ Bills

5. (1) A member who is not a Minister may introduce a Bill during time set aside in the Order of Business for Private Members’ Bills. In such a case the Member introducing the Bill may either complete the speech in the time allotted or, if not completed, adjourn their speech to the next period allotted.

(2) A Private Members’ Bill which has been reported on by a portfolio or other committee, will be brought on for debate on the sitting Tuesday evening next following the passage of three calendar months after the tabling of the committee’s report on the Bill.

(3) The House will continue to debate the Bill on each following sitting Tuesday evening until consideration of that Bill has been finalised.

#### Condolence Motions

6. (1) A motion of condolence may be moved as the first item of business after Speaker’s Statements in the Order of Business.

(2) If a motion of condolence is moved in accordance with (1), the debate on such motion will last no more than one hour, after which time the question shall be put.

(3) After a motion of condolence is moved, debated and resolved in accordance with (1) and (2), the Order of Business for the day shall then resume, with Question Time commencing 45 minutes after the motion of condolence was resolved and with starting times for all other items, except lunch and dinner breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.

#### Matters of Public Interest, Private Members Statements and adjournment statements

7. During the time set aside for Matters of Public Interest, Private Members Statements and adjournment statements, no questions can be put nor divisions called.

#### Maximum time limits for debates, speeches and statements

8. The maximum time limits that apply to debates, speeches and statements are contained in the schedule below.

Subject	Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders	Time
<b>Address in Reply Debate</b> – Total time – Mover – Other members – Mover in reply	SO 47	28 hours 20 minutes 20 minutes 30 minutes
<b>Adjournment Statements</b> – Total time – Each member	Sessional Order 2(2)(b)	30 minutes 3 minutes



Subject	Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders	Time
<b>Adjournment Debate</b> – Total time – Each member	Sessional Order 2(3)	30 minutes 3 minutes
<b>Bills—Government Bills</b> Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech) First reading  <b>Government Bills reported on by a committee</b> Second reading debate – Minister – Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) – Other members – Minister in reply  Consideration in detail – Mover (Minister) – Other members (on each question)  <i>Government Bills declared urgent and not referred or not reported on by a committee</i> Second reading debate – Minister	SO 129 SO 130  SO 138  SO 146 & SO 147  SO 129, SO 137 & SO 138	1 hour No debate  30 minutes 30 minutes 10 minutes 20 minutes  No limit 3 minutes  To speak once only as per SO 129 for 1 hour
– Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) – Other members – Mover in reply Consideration in detail Mover – Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) (on each questions)  – Other members (on each question)	SO 146, SO 147 & SO 156	1 hour 15 minutes 30 minutes  No limit 1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes & 2 x 5 minutes 1 x 10 minutes or 2 x 5 minutes
<b>Bills—Private Members' Bills</b> Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech) First reading Second reading debate – All members – Mover in reply Consideration in detail  <b>Where Bill has been considered by portfolio committee</b> – Mover – Other members (on each question)  <b>Where Bill has not been considered by portfolio committee</b> – Mover – Other members (on each question) – Minister responsible for policy area (on each question)	SO 129 & Sessional Order 5 SO 130 SO 138  SO 146, SO 147 & SO 156	1 hour No debate  10 minutes 30 minutes  No limit 3 minutes  No limit 3 minutes 1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes and 2 x 5 minutes
<b>Debate of Committee Reports—each member</b>	Sessional Order 3	5 minutes
<b>Disallowance of statutory instruments</b> – Total time – Mover – Other members – Minister in reply	SO 59	1 hour 30 minutes 15 minutes 10 minutes 20 minutes
<b>Dissent to ruling of Speaker</b> – Total time – Each member	SO 250	1 hour 10 minutes


Subject	Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders	Time
<b>Election of Speaker</b> – Each member	SO 39	5 minutes
<b>Extension of Time, by consent of a majority of the House, without debate</b> – Motions and Second Reading Debates – Question Time		5 minutes 2 minutes
<b>Matters concerning privilege</b>	Sessional Order 1, & SO 248 & 267	At discretion of Speaker
<b>Matters of Public Interest</b> – Total time – Leader of Opposition or nominee – Other members	Sessional Order 1 & 7	1 hour 10 minutes 5 minutes
<b>Motions</b> – Mover – Other members – Mover in reply	Chapter 15	10 minutes 10 minutes 15 minutes
<b>Personal Explanations</b> —each member	Sessional Order 1	At discretion of Speaker
Private Members' Motions (Wednesday 6.00–7.00 pm) – Total time – All members	Sessional Order 1	1 hour 5 minutes
<b>Private Members' Statements</b> – Total time – Each member	Sessional Order 1 & 7	1 hour 3 minutes
<b>Tabling of Reports</b> – Chairperson of Committee on presentation of committee report – Member tabling report	Sessional Order 1 & 2	5 minutes 2 minutes
<b>Questions Without Notice</b> – Question time (total time)  – Member asking question  – Minister answering question	Sessional Order 1 & SO 113	1 hour, Tues, Wed, Thurs. 30 minutes on Friday At discretion of Speaker 3 minutes

#### Dress standards

9. Dress standards in the parliamentary chamber should be appropriate to the Queensland climate and reflect general community standards. All members and staff are expected to dress in business attire.

Male members and staff may wear a long-sleeve business shirt and tie or coat and long-sleeve business shirt without tie.

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.06 am): I give notice that I will move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, I be permitted to move at 5 pm today the motion for which I gave notice earlier today for the adoption of sessional orders for the 56th Parliament, with time limits for speeches and debate as follows—

- five minutes for each member, and
- total debate time before question put: one hour.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order. Is there an opportunity to debate now the time limits on that particular motion?


**Mr SPEAKER:** No.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I feel an hour debate for that particular motion this afternoon is not enough for this parliament to determine the sessional and standing orders.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Leader of the House has given notice and the time for the debate will be 5 pm. Honourable members, we will now move to question time. Question time will conclude at 12.06 pm.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### Queensland Economy

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (11.06 am): My first question is to the Premier. We cannot tax our way to growth. Given the four new taxes announced two days before the election, Labor's half a billion dollar tax haul and that Queenslanders are already doing it tough, will the Premier now rule out any new taxes or any increases in taxes in this term?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. From the outset, I will report on some good news in terms of jobs growth data that has just been handed down. Since my government was elected in 2015, 152,400 jobs have been created across Queensland with government working in partnership with industry, the community and business. We are working together as one. Before the last election, we went to the people of Queensland with a very clear view in relation to the taxes that we have put to them. I thank the people of Queensland for re-electing our government. Ours is a government that listens and delivers to the people of the state. We will continue to deliver for health and education. One issue relates to overseas investors. We will be increasing that and bringing it in line with other parts of the state, without impacting on Queenslanders.

The biggest damage done to Queensland was done under the Newman government. In relation to the economy, it oversaw cuts right across Queensland, impacting on regional and rural Queensland. I was out in Longreach the other day and the mayor was talking to me about when seven jobs were cut in Longreach and the impact that had on the schools, on the health system and on the local economy. They thanked my government for working with councils to bring the economy back. We will continue to do that for the people of our state.

I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition on her appointment. What we are seeing with the new Leader of the Opposition is the greatest transition from Campbell Newman's former treasurer to Campbell Newman's former assistant treasurer.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker, in relation to standing order 118(2) and relevance. The Premier was asked: will she or will she not rule out additional taxes and tax increases this term? The Premier has not answered yes or no and is diverting away from the topic of the question.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said, the commitments I make to the people of Queensland I will honour. Those commitments announced before the election I will honour. I will tell members one thing. We will remain tax competitive right across the nation because that is where we see Queensland into the future.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana.

### Taxation

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question is also to the Premier. The Premier's hand-picked Under Treasurer let the cat out of the bag at the Productivity Commission earlier this month when he said, 'We're always looking at payroll—changing the payroll rates of taxes.' I table a copy of that report.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Brisbane Times* on-line, dated 5 February 2018, titled 'Proposed GST changes could cost Queensland \$1.59 billion' [156].

Will the Premier provide certainty to the over 400,000 small businesses in Queensland and rule out any payroll tax increases in this term?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am glad that the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned the Productivity Commission. We are standing up to Canberra and trying to maintain our fair share of the GST. Is the Leader of the Opposition going to back Queensland's stand? Is she going to continue to stand up for Queensland and fight for Queensland when it comes to that? The Treasurer was prepared to go along to the Productivity Commission hearing—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am having a very difficult time hearing the Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Our Treasurer was happy to go along to that hearing and say very clearly to those people that we will not see a reduction in GST funding. I have heard nothing from the Leader of the Opposition or the shadow Treasurer. Do members know that we have a new shadow Treasurer? The last shadow Treasurer—do members remember him—the member for Indooroopilly, has gone. He is no longer here. We have the new member for Maiwar. That was good—going to an election with a shadow Treasurer who is no longer here. That was good.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Your former shadow treasurer is not even here.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Resume your seat, Premier. Leader of the Opposition, I was on my feet. I will make a statement to the House. This is the first question time of the new parliament and already standards across the House are low. I am all for robust debate, but this must start now. When I am on my feet I expect complete silence and I expect to be able to hear the person answering the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me make it very clear: the commitments I made to the people of Queensland during the election campaign I will honour—just as I did with the previous election. We will honour the commitments to the people of Queensland because that is what the people of Queensland expect from us.

When it comes to election commitments we made about growing the economy, continuing to create new jobs and making sure we continue to grow our health and education systems right across this state, we will continue to honour each and every one of those because that is what we were elected to do. That is in stark contrast to the previous LNP government that broke their commitments to the people of Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition served as assistant treasurer to former premier Campbell Newman during that term.

I note the member for Warrego is sitting behind the Leader of the Opposition. Yesterday at the opening of the parliament I noticed a familiar face sitting behind the Leader of the Opposition. It was none other than former premier Campbell Newman. I am sure that every single one of the honourable members opposite loved the fact that he graced us with his presence.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Excuse me, Premier. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I understand there is a lot of interjection, but I can hear you particularly. I hope that you listened to my earlier statements.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take the interjection from the member for Cooper.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Manager of Opposition Business, you hold an office-bearing position in this House. I will listen to you, but I will not listen to you above all others, and particularly not above the person speaking.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** He even shook the member for Cooper's hand. Let me be very clear: we will only implement the election commitments we made to the people of Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### **Council of Australian Governments, Meeting**

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question without notice is to the Premier. What were the major issues discussed at the Council of Australian Governments meeting in Canberra and are there any alternative views?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Maryborough very much for that question. I also congratulate him on his re-election. It was an honour during the election campaign to go to Downer in Maryborough where in the future we will continue to make trains. It was wonderful to be there with him.

At that COAG meeting there were a number of issues raised that are very important to Queensland. The first one was in relation to health. I touched on that earlier in my ministerial statement. Let me say very clearly how important it is that we get the funding from the federal government that we are owed. The Minister for Health touched on that in his ministerial statement. We will not accept not getting the back pay—around \$170 million—that is owed to Queensland.

It is interesting that during the COAG meeting New South Wales and Western Australia signed up to the health agreement. We understand a letter of comfort was provided to the Premier of New South Wales. Unfortunately, no other Premier received such a letter. We were not entitled to see that letter.

I am always going to stand up and fight for Queensland. Today I would really like to hear from the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer whether they support Queensland getting a fair share when it comes to health funding. That health funding is actually calculated on our base and it could mean a potential loss to Queenslanders in future outgoing areas of up to \$4 billion. That means less surgery for Queenslanders. It means fewer doctors. It means fewer nurses. I am not going to allow that to happen to our great state.

I want to hear from those opposite. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews also raised the issue about potential cuts to health funding. I understand that the opposition leader in Victoria has actually stood united with the Premier in seeking their fair share. Today I ask the Leader of the Opposition to stand with me and put to Malcolm Turnbull that we demand our fair share and the back pay that is rightfully owed to Queensland. I ask the shadow Treasurer to stand with the Treasurer and put to the federal Treasurer that we will not accept anything less for Queensland. For goodness sake, if Victoria can do it so can Queensland.

### Jobs

**Mr MANDER:** My question is to the Premier. The Premier conveniently omitted some figures when she referred to the employment data earlier which reported today that the unemployment rate in Queensland right now is the highest across the country. Will the Premier commit her government to a goal for unemployment in Queensland or is the Premier content with the current level of Queenslanders who cannot get a job under her watch?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the shadow Treasurer for that question. Let me repeat that job figure again just in case they missed it: 152,400 jobs. Let me make this commitment to the people of Queensland: unlike Campbell Newman and the LNP government and those opposite who served in that cabinet, we will not sack 14,000 people. We will not sack 14,000 people, if they want to talk about jobs.

I am still shocked by the number of people who approached me during the most recent election campaign and told me their personal stories of how they were sacked by the Newman government. If there is one lesson for those opposite, it is very clearly to make sure that it never happens again. Just last week I also made a decision. I went to Canberra—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, I went to Canberra to talk about jobs and infrastructure development and put on the table \$176 million—50 per cent share—for the Rookwood Weir, to create hundreds of jobs. What have we heard from those opposite? Nothing. What have we heard from Canberra? Absolutely nothing—silence.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Burleigh, you have had a very good go this morning. I warn you under standing order 253A.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** If you want to talk about jobs and building infrastructure, we are all for that. We are all for building the Cross River Rail. We are all for expanding the Bruce Highway and expanding the M1. What we do not hear from those opposite is any alternative views because they know that the only view they had was to sack Queenslanders where it hurts the most. Do not ever forget—

**Ms Bates:** Tax, tax, tax and tax.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please continue, Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** All you did was sack, sack, sack!

**A government member:** She got sacked.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection: she got sacked!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Premier, I remind you to please direct your comments through the chair and not refer to members as 'you'.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The other good news today is that Queensland continues to have the strongest employment growth in the nation. That is something that every single member of this House should be incredibly proud of. They should be incredibly proud that we have the strongest growth. We will continue with our programs such as Back to Work, Skilling Queenslanders for Work—

*(Time expired)*

### Indigenous Housing

**Mr STEWART:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier outline to the House the importance of the Commonwealth continuing to fund Indigenous housing in our remote communities and the implications if this funding does not continue?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Townsville for that question. I note that Palm Island is in his electorate and I know how important housing is for his community. In fact, we know how important remote Indigenous housing is for Queensland. When I raised this issue at COAG I was joined by the Northern Territory first minister—

**Mr Costigan:** ‘Chief Minister’ they are called, Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—Chief Minister and the Premier of Western Australia because this is a fundamental issue. When you are talking about closing the gap and ensuring that there is economic development in remote Indigenous communities, housing is central. In fact, housing is central to everyone. That is why we have a very strong housing infrastructure plan that we put in place during the last term of government.

For 50 years there has been a partnership with the federal government when it comes to remote Indigenous housing. What Malcolm Turnbull is saying is that after 50 years of governments working together across the political divide he wants to stop that funding. On the day that we met with Indigenous leaders right around Australia on closing the gap the Prime Minister was axing the funding. This means jobs.

The shadow Treasurer asked about jobs and we reminded him of their past. I need the shadow Treasurer and the Leader of the Opposition to write as well to the Prime Minister stating that they support our view about the continuation of remote Indigenous housing in this state because it means jobs in those local communities. It means loss of apprenticeships in those local communities. It would be a backward step for all the work that has been done.

I know it is going to be felt hard in some of those communities I have visited such as Aurukun; in the Torres Strait, where the honourable member for Cook is from; Palm Island; and right across our cape communities. It is absolutely vital that as a parliament we say to Malcolm Turnbull and the federal government: we reject your ceasing of the funds. We will continue to fight for the \$120 million lost in remote housing funding per annum that means 850 local jobs at risk. We will fight for those jobs and it is about time those opposite did as well.

*(Time expired)*

### Mining Industry, Royalties

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Premier. Labor has been all over the shop when it comes to supporting the tens of thousands of jobs in the resources industry. Labor refused to provide a guarantee during the 2017 election not to increase mining royalties. Will the Premier provide certainty to Queensland’s \$60 billion resources industry and the thousands of Queensland families who rely on it and rule out any royalty increases in this term of government?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. I find this absolutely ironic coming from the member for Glass House. Let us go back to the 2012 budget. In fact, we could speak to the former treasurer sitting over there or maybe the former assistant treasurer sitting next to him. What did they do in their very first budget, without any consultation with the mining community? They increased the royalties. That is what you did. I find it absolutely ironic that you would ask a question when that is what you did when you were in government.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I ask—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Sorry, that is what the member did. I apologise. It is the first day back. Let me make it very clear. As I said, we took a set of commitments to the people of Queensland. We will honour those election commitments and we will implement those election commitments because they are priorities of our government, the government of Queensland.

We will continue to work very closely with the mining industry to continue to grow jobs in this state, as we have been doing. While we are talking about mining and the resources sector, let us talk about the Amrun mine, the bauxite mine at Weipa, which is already under construction providing employment—the shadow Treasurer should listen to this—providing jobs to people living adjacent to those communities as well, creating hundreds and hundreds of jobs and over a billion dollars of investment.

We will continue to work with the mining industry. Let us not forget it was a Labor government that set up the LNG industry in this state. We saw companies investing \$60 billion in setting up a new industry in this state. Queensland can do it. We are also going to develop a new biofuels industry which I know will receive broadscale support across the regions because that is driving employment as well.

### Queensland Economy

**Mr MADDEN:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on business confidence in Queensland?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I am very pleased to report to the House that in Queensland we are seeing some fantastic economic indicators that are driving a very big spike in business confidence. As the Premier has reported this morning, overseas merchandise exports are up by nearly 26 per cent. International tourists spent more than \$5 billion in our state in the year to September 2017. Overseas student enrolments are up by 12 per cent, driving jobs and investment in the area of international education.

When we went to the election we said that we were all about jobs. First and foremost, we were about jobs—and we have delivered. The ABS data out today shows that there have been more than 110,000 jobs created in Queensland from January 2017 to January 2018—110,000 jobs. We in Queensland still lead the nation in terms of jobs growth across Australia. The shadow Treasurer wants to talk about rates. There is one rate he is not talking about, and that is the growth in employment rate—4.7 per cent here in Queensland. The nearest state in terms of the rate of jobs growth is New South Wales on 3.6 per cent. When they were in office what was the rate of jobs growth? They peaked at three per cent. We are at 4.6 per cent, and we are going to continue to deliver jobs for Queenslanders because that is what Labor governments do.

The CCIQ recently reported in its pulse survey that Queensland businesses have high levels of confidence going into 2018, and we saw that confidence spiking sharply. It is up by 4.4 points in the last quarter. Business confidence is up, jobs growth is up, and we continue to put in place policies that are important to the welfare and the health of our economy and Queenslanders.

I am really concerned that question time has been going for nearly 20 minutes and we have not had one single question from the opposition about one of the biggest issues facing the Queensland economy, and that is the potential withdrawal of \$1.6 billion from the Queensland economy by the Turnbull government. The Leader of the Opposition has quite rightly been going around and spruiking herself, making herself known to the people of Queensland by talking about a whole range of issues, but there has been not one word on the GST. We have seen conservative governments in other states standing up for their state. What is the Leader of the Opposition prepared to do on this important issue?

*(Time expired)*

### Safe Night Precincts, Bans

**Ms BATES:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to the case of a convicted violent offender who recently received 12 months probation for a sickening one-punch attack at schoolies last year on the Gold Coast. This offender is reportedly not on the safe night precinct banning list. Premier, doesn't this make a complete mockery of the whole scan and ban policy and put Queenslanders at risk?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member very much for the question. I am advised that all outstanding court ordered banning notices are now on QPRIME.

### Lytton Electorate, Health Services

**Ms PEASE:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister explain what the impact on health services will be in my electorate of Lytton if the federal government continues to deny Queensland hospitals the funding they have previously agreed to under the National Healthcare Agreement?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Lytton for her continued advocacy for healthcare services in her electorate. I know that she has campaigned tirelessly for the reinstatement of health services that were cut by the LNP when they were in office. I know that the new Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre is a great example of how her advocacy as a local member can deliver better healthcare services for her community.

If only all members could put the healthcare interests of their community ahead of their partisan interests. If only those opposite could put aside their loyalty to Malcolm Turnbull and defend the healthcare services in their electorate. If only the member for Nanango could put aside her devotion to Malcolm Turnbull and speak up in favour of healthcare services in Nanango and throughout the state. I have written to her and outlined in great detail how these funding cuts are affecting Queensland hospitals and health services in her HHS, but still we have not heard a word. Malcolm Turnbull is refusing to pay our hospitals the money they are owed for operations already performed. As the Premier has outlined, that debt is currently in the hundreds of millions of dollars. It could reach nearly one billion dollars this financial year, and across the forward estimates of the national partnership agreement it could be more than \$4 billion.

For the benefit of the member for Lytton, Metro South HHS, which covers the member for Lytton's electorate, stands to be \$196 million worse off. To give honourable members a sense of what that means, that is 2,000 fewer cataract surgeries, 1,000 fewer hernia repairs, 650 fewer knee or hip replacements—in fact, 40,000 fewer procedures overall. What have we heard from the Leader of the Opposition? Nothing. What have we heard from any member of the opposition? Nothing—we have heard nothing at all. Not content with the cuts they inflicted on Queensland when they were in government, now they are covering up for Malcolm Turnbull and his health cuts.

If the member for Nanango were serious about winning back all those regional votes and regional seats they lost at the last election, she would stand with us and call on Malcolm Turnbull to come to Queensland and bring his chequebook. He should leave his top hat at home, bring his chequebook to Queensland and pay our hospitals what they deserve.

*(Time expired)*

### **New Hope Group**

**Mr WATTS:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Despite the government previously telling Queenslanders that Labor would respect the judicial process in relation to New Hope's environmental authority amendment application which is still underway, why has the Palaszczuk government again flip-flopped on a resources project and put at risk 700 jobs in Queensland and on the Darling Downs?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member very much for that question. It is an important question. He did quite rightly state that there are some matters that are currently before the court. Let me say that on this side of the House we will accept that court decision. There is a judicial review process that is currently underway that needs to go through the proper stages, and the government has nothing to do with that. We will await the outcome of that judicial review. As I have said publicly on numerous TV and radio outlets, and I will say again here in this House: we will accept the final decision of that judicial review hearing.

### **Central Queensland, Infrastructure**

**Mrs LAUGA:** My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister advise what the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing to improve infrastructure for the people of Central Queensland and what is the federal government doing to assist?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Keppel for her question and congratulate her on her re-election to the parliament with an increased majority. As the member knows and as the member for Rockhampton also knows, the citizens of Central Queensland are very tough but they have faced some really tough times in recent years due to flooding from the mighty Fitzroy River. The city has been hit with several major floods—in 1991, 2001, 2013 and again last year. The member for Keppel knows that the proposed levee on the south side of Rockhampton will make a difference to a thousand homes and businesses in that part of the city. This is nothing new. This project has been around for 30 years. There has been extensive community consultation conducted by the Rockhampton Regional Council since 2013.



Nearly one year ago, the Palaszczuk Labor government committed funding of \$25 million to build that levee. That levee would give greater confidence to local residents and to businesses. In particular, in my new role as Minister for State Development, it will give confidence to businesses to keep on doing what they do well—create jobs and invest in the community. We put \$25 million on the table. We thank the Rockhampton Regional Council for putting \$10 million on the table. Where is the \$25 million from the federal government, and where is the Leader of the Opposition in the debate? What has she said on this? Nothing. She has been completely silent, as has the LNP party room. In fact there has not been so much silence in the LNP party room since the member for Whitsunday gave his leadership speech.

If I can digress, I recall the member for Whitsunday saying that what Queensland needed was more of the larrikin style of Barnaby Joyce. Can I say to the member for Whitsunday that Queensland does not need the larrikin style of Barnaby Joyce. What we need is the Leader of the Opposition to stand up for Queensland and, as the Minister for Housing said, not stand up for Canberra. When is she going to be heard on this? In one year, there has been nothing from the federal government. I was up there last week on the day that the Premier announced the Queensland government would fund 50 per cent of the Rookwood Weir—50 per cent of the capital and operating costs. Where are the opposition on that? They are completely silent.

I say to the new members of the LNP that this is not leadership. What we need is for the Leader of the Opposition to stand up. Queensland needs the LAND 400 combat reconnaissance vehicle. Get behind our campaign, Leader of the Opposition. Queensland needs the Rookwood Weir. Get behind Queensland, Leader of the Opposition. South Rockhampton needs the levee. Let us see the Leader of the Opposition finally stand up for Queensland and not for her mates in Canberra.

### State of Origin

**Mr LAST:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Premier, I refer to the farcical decision for the State of Origin to be played in Adelaide instead of Queensland. Premier, was it the Minister for Sport or the Minister for Tourism Industry Development who dropped the ball and lost Queensland a State of Origin game? What are you going to do to get a game played in North Queensland?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before the Premier answers the question, I say to the member to please in future pay close attention to your questions. The questions need to be coming through the chair and not referring to the members directly.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. First of all, I was just as angry and shocked as I think everyone else here was in terms of—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, you have asked the question. I suppose you want to hear the answer.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Same old LNP. Same old LNP.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Tourism, I warn you under standing order 253A. I was on my feet.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I would like to see a State of Origin game played in the Townsville stadium—a stadium which Labor is building. Come in spinner.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Manager of Opposition Business!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Speaker, it is this government that committed to building the Townsville stadium. The last time I was up in Townsville, which was just recently for Australia Day celebrations, I went past the stadium and I was pleased to see that the stadium is being built. It is rising out of the ground due to the commitment of this government backing Townsville. I welcome back our three Townsville members who have been re-elected for another term.

**Mr Dick:** Where is the member for Hinchinbrook?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. Someone is missing, that is, the previous member for Hinchinbrook. However, we cannot talk about absent friends. As I said—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Manager of Opposition Business, I have already given you some leeway today because you are the leader of opposition business. That will not last. I ask members to come to silence so the Premier can be heard.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, and that made me smile. As I said very clearly, my government's commitment is to build the stadium. Once that stadium is built, it will be the home for the mighty Cowboys.

**Mrs Frecklington:** What about the State of Origin?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, and we are very much behind our State of Origin team as they are Queenslanders. If the opposition were Queenslanders, they would get behind our push to get our fair share of funding when it comes to health in this state, when it comes to education in this state—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b) and relevance. The question was not about GST. It was about the State of Origin and the Queensland game and why we have not got it in Queensland and why on earth we have to watch it being played in Adelaide.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, can you make sure you are staying relevant to the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Speaker, I am talking about State of Origin, Queensland and backing Queensland. It is highly relevant, Mr Speaker, and I know how much you back our Queensland team as well. In conclusion, let me say this: My government will continue to build and open that stadium this term. I will be there with the member for Townsville, the member for Thuringowa and the member for Mundingburra to open the Townsville stadium for the mighty Cowboys.

### Education, Kindergarten

**Ms LINARD:** My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's support for kindergarten provision and the Commonwealth government's position?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the honourable member for the question. It is an excellent question. As the honourable member is the mother of two young children, I know that she understands how important early education is to children's wellbeing and for them to succeed in life. It is a great question and I am delighted to reconfirm the Palaszczuk government's commitment to universal access to kindergarten for Queensland children in the year before school.

A key focus of this government is to ensure that all children benefit from the opportunities provided by a kindergarten program regardless of their background, family circumstances or location. Research clearly shows that early learning through kindergarten leads to improved school outcomes. This is a known. Kindy children are more likely to complete year 12 and less likely to need additional support. A quality kindergarten program is also linked to better health and employment prospects. We are especially aware of the significant benefits of early childhood education for those from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

The good news is that more Queensland children are enrolled in kindergarten than ever before. In 2016, for the fourth year in a row, more than 95 per cent of children were enrolled in kindergarten in the year before school. Queensland has record participation rates of Indigenous children and the highest kindergarten attendance rates of all states and territories.

It is especially disappointing, therefore, that I have to report that the Turnbull government has once again failed to provide sustainable funding for Queensland kindergartens. Last year the federal government announced it would extend the kindergarten funding by one year to the end of 2018. The Commonwealth provided this stopgap funding with a promise to work with states and territories on how to guarantee continued provision of 15 hours of kindergarten per week from 2019—so we had a bit of time to work on it. It failed to deliver on that promise.

I look forward to working cooperatively with the Turnbull government to bring much needed certainty to Queensland families. However, the federal government has proposed yet again another one-year funding extension, to 2019. We are going to be in this House for two years without any sustainable funding from the federal government. This will be the fifth short-term extension to the original 2009 agreement for early childhood education. It is just not good enough.

The federal government needs to recognise the critical role early childhood education plays in our society. They need to get on board and give us sustainable funding. Those opposite who support early learning for children in this state should join us on this side to get the guaranteed funding this state needs to deliver our quality program throughout Queensland.

### Dugald River Mine

**Mr KATTER:** My question is for the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. The Dugald River mine is located 65 kilometres north-west of Cloncurry. It has come to my attention that only two people from Cloncurry out of the 400 jobs available have been employed at the mine despite it being on the draft list of projects covered by the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act 2017. In light of this, does the minister believe this legislation has been effective, and will the minister act to ensure local employment is increased at the Dugald River mine site?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Traeger for his question. It gives me an opportunity to restate to the House the principles of the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Act, a bill that passed through all stages of this House on 31 August 2017. The bill will commence on 30 March this year. As honourable members who served in the previous parliament would know, the object of the act is to ensure residents of communities near large resource projects benefit from the construction and operation of those projects. The benefit of mining development in particular is felt by all Queenslanders. That is a very important aspect of the bill. As honourable members may know, that act prevents the use of 100 per cent fly-in fly-out operational workforce arrangements on large resource projects, prevents discrimination against locals in the future recruitment of workers and, amongst other things, adopts a recruitment hierarchy, prioritising recruitment from local and regional communities first. I again thank my predecessor, the member for Stafford, for his work in bringing that legislation forward and ensuring that it passed successfully through the parliament.

The honourable member for Traeger may not know that shortly after I became the minister I was briefed on the progress of the act to ensure that it commences successfully. The Coordinator-General has started consulting affected parties and stakeholders including councils, industry project proponents, unions and other key stakeholders on the projects which should be listed or captured by the act and their associated nearby regional communities. In relation to Dugald River, the Coordinator-General has advised me there are communities nearby that will be captured by the legislation, and those two communities are Mount Isa and Cloncurry. Those communities will be captured for the Dugald River project by this legislation, which is what the legislation was meant to do.

Before the act commences, we wanted to consult widely, which is what we are doing. The feedback so far has been generally positive on what is proposed and how the act will come into effect when it comes into operation. The Coordinator-General who is conducting that will consider all submissions made as he is consulting further. We want to ensure that the act does what it is meant to do and operates effectively when it comes into effect in March.

### Training and Skills, Funding

**Mr PEGG:** My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister please update the House on funding for training and skills and any risks to that funding?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Stretton for his question. I know what a strong supporter he is of apprentices and trainees in his local community. The Palaszczuk government continues to invest in the skilling, reskilling and upskilling of Queenslanders, getting them ready for work and supporting them for a very successful career in the workforce. Until recently this vital area of policy has had strong support and funding from both the state and federal governments. Unfortunately, like with many areas as we have heard from other ministers today, Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP have walked away from skilling Queenslanders.

The previous national partnership agreement on skills reform ran out almost 12 months ago. Yesterday, nearly one year on, we finally got a new draft offer from Malcolm Turnbull, and what did it have to say? The offer on the table from Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP is \$40 million less than it was last year. That is a \$40 million cut from training and skills. What does that mean for Queenslanders? That means almost 4,000 training places are at risk in this state.

We know that the real challenge over the next decade is to make sure that Queenslanders have the skills they need for the jobs of the future, so it beggars belief that the federal government and Malcolm Turnbull are cutting skills and training funding by \$40 million. It is shocking, but we should not be surprised because the LNP in Canberra have been cutting funding in this vital area since they were first elected: \$914 million for the Tools for Your Trade Program, cut; Industry Skills Fund, gone completely; the Australian apprenticeships mentoring program, slashed.

Where is the member for Nanango on fighting for Queensland's funding for trainees and apprentices? Where is the opposition leader, the member for Nanango, fighting for Queensland's fair share? Has she picked up the phone to Malcolm Turnbull to ensure that Queensland gets the apprentices and trainees it needs? Has she picked up the phone? Almost 500 training places are at risk in the member's own regional area in the South Burnett.

The member for Nanango's record on skills and training funding was clear for all of us to see during the recent election campaign. In their own election costings, \$90 million was reprioritised from training and skills including slashing Skilling Queenslanders for Work, slashing Back to Work programs and cutting \$20 million from the VET investment program. It is time the opposition leader stood up for apprentices and trainees in Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### Women in Sport

**Mr LANGBROEK:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier counsel her Minister for Sport following his sexist dismissal on 4BC of the Brisbane Roar women's team's recent premiership?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I know that the Minister for Sport is a strong supporter of all codes of sport and all genders who play sport. I know he is a big supporter of the Roar, he is a supporter of the Townsville Fire and he is a supporter of our State of Origin team fighting for Queensland.

**Ms Jones:** He called me a mean girl and he said I have blonde hair.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. I can assure members of the House that the Minister for Sport will continue to be a very strong advocate for growing sport in this state, for ensuring that there are facilities that are needed. One of our policies from last term is about ensuring that women's and girls' facilities are also provided in sporting clubs. The Minister for Sport actually came to me and talked to me about that very idea and I said to him immediately, 'Go ahead and make sure that program happens.' We are also trying to ensure that young people participate more in sport. We have our vouchers there for people who may not be able to afford grants. I know that all members of this House advocate for that strongly in their local communities. In conclusion, people have no stronger supporter of sport in this state than our Minister for Sport.

### Remote Communities, Social Housing

**Mr HARPER:** Whilst I am on my feet I take this opportunity as a fellow North Queensland regional member to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your successful election as Speaker of this House. It is great to have a regional member in that position. What a disgrace we saw when the people opposite—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable member, whilst flattery will get you everywhere, I ask that you put your question.

**Mr HARPER:** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister update the House on how housing construction in remote communities is delivering jobs for North Queensland?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. I know that the member has been a champion of jobs in Queensland, particularly North Queensland.

Over the past 10 years the much needed housing construction program—which was delivered through the national partnership agreement—has created 2,640 jobs in remote communities. Eighty per cent of that work has been carried out by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. Parliamentary leaders have stood in this place today and talked a lot about jobs. The Premier has said many times that there is dignity in work and she spoke about the 152,000 jobs which have been created. That is a fantastic record.

The shadow Treasurer wanted to talk about jobs and job goals. I have a goal for the shadow Treasurer. There are 850 jobs, including 515 jobs in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities—97 of which are apprenticeships—which are at risk because of the historic withdrawal of Commonwealth funding for housing in Queensland. The goal for the shadow Treasurer is to stand up for those 515 people who live in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The impact of the Prime Minister's \$1.1 billion cut to Closing the Gap funding will be felt by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Queensland. I know that the member for Cook is standing up for those constituents and I know that the member for Townsville is doing the same,

particularly the men and women of Palm Island. Surely the destruction of dozens of jobs for the people of Woorabinda, which is in the electorate of Gregory, would receive the attention of the Leader of the Opposition. The Prime Minister's \$1.1 billion cut will mean the reallocation of state funds from cities and towns to those remote communities, which will mean a 50 per cent reduction in new social housing to be built in every city and town across this state. This will have a massive impact on the delivery of homelessness services from Cape York to Coolangatta. Double the number of homeless people will be turned away from homelessness services in every community across this state because these cuts mean fewer homes not just in remote Queensland but also across the state.

The Leader of the Opposition has been conspicuous and complicit by her silence. I invite the member for Nanango to visit her own community of Cherbourg with me. I will show the member for Nanango the 309 social housing dwellings that we have built, and surely then the Leader of the Opposition will end her silence. The Prime Minister and the LNP have turned their backs on 193 Queenslanders. Maybe a visit to Cherbourg—

*(Time expired)*

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The question will be heard in silence.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I warn the member under standing order 253A.

### **Petrol Prices**

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Mr Speaker, congratulations on your appointment. My question without notice is to the Premier, and I ask: will the Premier adopt the LNP's real-time monitoring of petrol prices, which is known to save motorists hundreds of dollars a year at the petrol bowser in New South Wales?

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

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Liquor Trading Hours**

**Ms BOYD:** My question is for the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the government's strategy with regard to liquor trading hours for the Commonwealth Games?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for her question and for getting behind what will be Queensland's largest ever event. As we heard this morning, it is now 48 days until we will hold the best Commonwealth Games ever here in Queensland on the Gold Coast. Our government is absolutely committed to working with the federal government and the City of Gold Coast to make sure that we put our very best foot forward so that all of our international visitors and guests feel welcome when they come to our home state: the Sunshine State. As I said this morning, we have now completed all of the venues. We have invested in more than \$1 billion worth of transport infrastructure and we are now at the stage of delivery. Goldoc is working closely with the venues to get them ready for the athletes.

The local community has been very interested in the issue of extended trading hours. In this regard I point to the advocacy of the member for Surfers Paradise, who has described a movement to relax or extend trading hours during the Commonwealth Games as a 'no-brainer'. I am very pleased to say that, through consultation the Attorney-General and I have had with representatives from clubs and other businesses on the Gold Coast, the mayor of Gold Coast and the Gold Coast tourism industry, we have arrived at the position of extending trading hours in line with what happened in Glasgow during the most recent Commonwealth Games. This announcement was supported by both Tom Tate, the mayor of Gold Coast, and the Gold Coast tourism industry, who described it as 'getting the balance right'.

We want everyone who comes here to feel welcome and to have a great night out, but we also want to make sure they have a safe night out. Of course this decision to extend trading hours by an hour to all licensed venues was done in consultation with the police, so you can imagine my surprise when the new Leader of the Opposition criticised us for extending liquor licensing laws after the member for Surfers Paradise has spent the last 12 months saying it should be 24 hours. I will table the article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 22 December 2017, titled 'Drinking Games Talk' [\[157\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 12 February 2018, titled 'LNP doubts cops can handle Games Hours' [\[158\]](#).

Maybe it is because the Leader of the Opposition is not quite back to talking to the member for Surfers Paradise after the—

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I rise to a point of order. I have never advocated for 24-hour trading. I have advocated for—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, do you find the statement offensive? That is not a point of order.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I am just clarifying the record, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I take this opportunity now to warn members about taking frivolous points of order. I call the minister.


**Ms JONES:** For the sake of clarity I will take that interjection and say that that is right: the member for Surfers Paradise has been on the record for extending trading hours to 5 am. A number of clubs on the Gold Coast have been advocating for 24-hour trading. When the government listened to the community and took action, the new Leader of the Opposition came out and criticised us for doing so. That shows the disunity which was alive and well in the LNP. The member for Nanango, the new Leader of the Opposition, was critical because I do not think she bothered to talk to any of the Gold Coast members—

*(Time expired)*

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

## QUEENSLAND COMPETITION AUTHORITY BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.07 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018 [\[159\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[160\]](#).

The main purpose of this bill is to amend the access criteria under Queensland's third party access regime. These criteria are used to determine whether it is appropriate for access regulation to be applied to a particular service. The bill clarifies and enhances the access criteria to ensure that it remains appropriately targeted to economically significant natural monopoly infrastructure.

Appropriate access regulation is important to Queensland because it enables competition, efficiency and innovation in key resources in Queensland. It assists in avoiding inefficient and unnecessary duplication of costly facilities like railways and ports. The bill will amend the access criteria under the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 which needs to be satisfied before a service may be declared under the Queensland access regime.

The amendments the bill seeks to make to the criteria are twofold: firstly, the bill will clarify the law in light of a 2012 High Court decision which changed the test for regulation from 'uneconomic to duplicate' to one of 'private profitability'. The amendment will restore the previous test rather than the one that considers whether it is profitable for anyone to develop another facility. Secondly, the bill will change the public interest access criterion from its current negative framing to an affirmative test; for example, that the declaration must be in the public interest. These amendments will better address the economic problem of natural monopoly in markets for infrastructure services. This supports investment confidence in regulated significant infrastructure and in industries dependent on access to that infrastructure such as the coal industry.

Importantly, this bill brings consistency to the access criteria as it reflects and corresponds to amendments that have already been made by the Commonwealth government to the national access regime established under part IIIA of the Commonwealth's Competition and Consumer Act 2010. Three important services are currently declared under Queensland's access regime. These are the rail transport services provided by the Central Queensland coal network operated by Aurizon Network Pty Ltd, the rail transport services provided by Queensland Rail Ltd's intrastate passenger and freight network, and coal-handling services at Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal. The Queensland Competition Authority is soon due to assess and recommend whether each should be declared for a further period. Accordingly, increased certainty in the interpretation of the access criteria is critical. The second element of the bill introduced today will assist in improving some of the regulatory processes contained in the QCA Act, particularly in relation to the development of access undertakings. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.10 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 Economics and Governance Committee

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

## EDUCATION (OVERSEAS STUDENTS) BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.11 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the approval of schools to provide courses to overseas students and the approval of schools and not-for-profit organisations to provide international secondary student exchange programs, to repeal the Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996, and to amend this act, the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014, the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018 [\[161\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[162\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018 into the House today and, in doing so, want to acknowledge the work of my predecessor as minister for education, Kate Jones MP, the newly elected member for Cooper, in the development of this bill. The bill before the House today modernises the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students, establishes a new legislative regime for the regulation of providers of international student exchange programs and supports the implementation of the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems. This is the same package of legislative amendments that was introduced into the last parliament through the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017. I will turn to the detail of these amendments again in a moment. Before doing so, I want to outline several additional amendments to the bill that was before the parliament last year.

Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, the 2017 bill was considered by the former Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee of which you were the chair. I thank the members of the former committee, including you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for their consideration of the 2017 bill and the stakeholders who provided submissions to the former committee. I note that the former committee made four recommendations suggesting amendment to the 2017 bill, and these recommendations have been considered in the development of this bill. In response, one amendment has been made to the previous 2017 bill to limit the use of information or documents obtained when the privilege against self-incrimination is waived to proceedings relating to the false or misleading nature of the document and proceedings for offences under the act and the Commonwealth act. This amendment aims to provide the protections sought by the former committee while also ensuring the capacity of the regulator to effectively monitor compliance with the scheme and protecting Queensland's reputation as a destination for international students and education.

The bill also includes amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990. In 2017 the parliament passed significant reforms to trading hours arrangements in Queensland, modernising and simplifying trading hours in the act for the benefit of the community, business and workers. Recently the National Retail Association drew the government's attention to the inadvertent omission from the act of an existing provision permitting the larger retailers—non-exempt shops—to trade on the Easter Saturday public holiday in those regional areas that otherwise do not have public holiday trading.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** It is ironic that I take the interjection from the member for Kawana, who stood in this House for an hour debating their stance in support of small business yet now is very concerned that larger retailers cannot open in those areas. The irony is not missed by all of us in this House. There was never an intention by the government to stop trading on the Easter Saturday public holiday in those areas, which include towns such as Mount Isa, Kingaroy, Bowen, Ayr, Charters Towers, Proserpine, Weipa, Charleville and Longreach, and I have to say that many of those towns have excellent small business bakeries. Consistent with the government's public statement that this matter would be urgently rectified, this bill, if passed, will amend the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 before Easter 2018 to allow large retailers to trade on Easter Saturday in those towns. This will provide early notice and assurances to businesses and consumers in the affected areas that existing Easter Saturday trading arrangements remain in place.

I return now to the details of the original amendments contained in the bill and, in accordance with standing order 25, I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of my explanatory speech in the *Record of Proceedings*. I can confirm that incorporation of the speech has been approved by the Speaker.

Leave granted.

On 18 October 2016, the Palaszczuk Government committed to introduce new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems for Queensland students commencing Year 11 in 2019.

The reforms are the most significant changes to Queensland's senior assessment and tertiary entrance processes in over 20 years, and will affect more than 50,000 Year 12 students each year.

The new senior assessment arrangements will combine the flexibility of school-based assessment, set and marked by classroom teachers, and the comparability of external subject-based assessment, set and marked by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority—the QCAA.

Under this approach, results in senior QCAA subjects will be based on three school-based assessments, and one external assessment.

The external assessment will generally contribute 50% of the overall subject result in mathematics and science subjects, and 25% of the subject result in other subject areas.

Reliance upon the professional judgement of teachers is a key strength of Queensland's current school-based assessment system. The new processes will build on this strength, by supporting teachers in the design and administration of high quality school assessments.

Under the new arrangements, the QCAA will:

- endorse school-based assessments prior to their use, to ensure they provide sufficient opportunity for students to demonstrate the syllabus requirements;
- select and review samples of school-based assessments to confirm teacher judgements about the qualities of student responses; and
- develop, administer and mark external assessments for senior subjects.

The new tertiary entrance arrangements will see Queensland move from the current Overall Position (OP) Year 12 tertiary rank to the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), as used in other Australian states and territories. The Queensland Core Skills Test, which is currently used to support the calculation of the OP, will no longer be required.

The Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre—QTAC, will generate ATARs for Queensland students under the new system.

QTAC provides centralised tertiary application services for a range of tertiary institutions, including Queensland's seven public universities, Bond University and TAFE Queensland.

The Bill amends the QCAA functions to ensure it has the powers to deliver the new senior assessment system and the ability to share student results with QTAC for the purpose of tertiary entrance.

The reforms to the senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems are the result of extensive consultation with education stakeholders, and have been informed through the work of a Ministerial Senior Secondary Assessment Taskforce with members from the Catholic, Independent and State schooling sectors, parent groups, secondary principals' associations, teacher unions and tertiary institutions.

I am pleased to advise that all schooling sectors, the QCAA and QTAC support the Bill.

The QCAA continues to work with the Department of Education and the schooling sectors to develop procedures and guidelines to support the new arrangements.

I now turn to the new regulatory regime for providers of courses to overseas students and student exchange programs.

International education is Australia's third largest export. In the 2016–2017 financial year international education provided over \$4 billion to the Queensland economy. While the majority of this export revenue comes from the tertiary and training sectors there are over 100 non-state schools and 150 state schools that provide education to overseas students in Queensland.

The Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996 commenced on 7 December 1998 and regulated providers of courses to overseas students.

Since its enactment there has been significant change in the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students, in particular, with the establishment of the national framework under the Commonwealth Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000.



The national framework establishes a cooperative model between the Commonwealth and the states and territories for the regulation of this sector.

The Commonwealth Act requires providers of education to overseas students to be registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students—commonly referred to as CRICOS. Registered providers must have met, and continue to meet, the requirements prescribed in the Commonwealth Act and the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students.

Queensland's role under the national framework involves approving school providers as the first step of CRICOS registration and undertaking monitoring and enforcement activities.

The current Queensland Act does not adequately reflect the State's role in the national framework or provide the Department of Education with sufficient powers to monitor compliance with the Commonwealth Act and National Code.

In addition, the Queensland Act duplicates the CRICOS registration requirements by requiring Queensland-based providers to also be registered on a separate state-based register.

The Bill therefore provides a timely and important regulatory reform for this sector by introducing a new legislative scheme that better reflects Queensland's role and responsibilities under the national framework and reduces unnecessary duplication. It will also improve the Department's capacity to monitor compliance by providing for the appointment of authorised persons with appropriate investigatory powers, coupled with the usual safeguards on the exercise of those powers.

In 2017, 144 international students and 162 Queensland students participated in international secondary student exchange programs.

International students participating in international secondary student exchange programs travel to Australia on a student visa and attend a secondary school for a period of up to 12 months.

Under similar arrangements, Australian students have the opportunity to attend a secondary school in another country. No tuition fees are paid by students participating in these student exchange programs because reciprocity of exchange is accepted in lieu of payment of the fees.

Most of the students participating in these exchange programs are under 18 years and travel without a parent or guardian.

Providers of international student exchanges are currently regulated in Queensland under an administrative scheme, which applies nationally consistent guidelines.

The Bill introduces a statutory regime for the regulation of providers of student exchange programs. The legislative scheme reflects the requirements and obligations imposed on providers under the existing administrative regime.

Importantly, the scheme also provides the Department with appropriate regulatory oversight powers to safeguard the welfare of international exchange students coming to Queensland to study and Queensland students travelling overseas on exchanges.

The new legislative regime does not apply to short-term cultural exchanges that occur under visitor visa arrangements.

I commend the Bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.17 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 Education, Employment and Small Business Committee

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

## TOW TRUCK AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.17 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Tow Truck Act 1973, the Tow Truck Regulation 2009, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Transport and Public Works Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [164].

*Tabled paper:* Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [165].

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Has the Speaker seen and consented to the material sought to be incorporated in accordance with standing order 25?

**Mr BAILEY:** Correct; yes.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 53:**

**ALP, 47**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Independent, 1**—Bolton.

**Greens, 1**—Berkman.

**NOES, 39:**

**LNP, 39**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

This Bill is essentially, save some minor adjustments, the same as the Bill first introduced during our previous Parliament. I am bringing the Bill back to the House under this Parliament to ensure the delivery of key reforms to the tow truck industry and other important amendments to youth justice legislation and tolling legislation.

I note that the previous Bill was the subject of an inquiry conducted by the former Public Works and Utilities Committee.

During that inquiry, submissions were invited from industry and the public and written submissions were received from a range of interested stakeholders including the RACQ, the Queensland Trucking Association and the Queensland Law Society.

After consideration, the Committee recommended the tow truck and youth justice amendments in the Bill be passed, although I note the Member for Southport submitted a statement of reservation about maximum towing distances and signage relating to private property towing and I will address those matters.

The Committee did suggest an amendment to the tolling demand notice provisions which I will also address.

There have been some minor changes made to the Bill prior to its reintroduction.

Specifically, the commencement clause has been updated, a number of cross-references have been corrected, a reference to a repealed Act has been updated and a transitional provision has also had an update. There are also minor changes about which tow truck offences need to go to court versus those dealt with by an infringement notice. However, the policy direction and the detail of how that is implemented in the Bill remains unchanged.

The Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 will implement recommendations made by former District Court judge Mr Michael Forde from the independent investigation into the towing industry, and I again thank Mr Forde for his thorough and thoughtful consideration of the issues.

His report, titled Independent Investigation into the Towing Industry: Removal of Vehicles from Private Property, was delivered in August 2017.

The report made 22 recommendations to reform the towing industry for the removal of vehicles from private property and outlined eight matters for consideration regarding broader issues in the tow truck legislation.

Importantly, the report's recommendations and matters for consideration were developed through a comprehensive analysis of the complex legal environment surrounding private property parking and towing, while also taking into account considerable input from a variety of stakeholders who provided information throughout the investigation.

As a result of the rigour of that investigation, it is with confidence that I present the reforms to the towing industry outlined in this Bill. These reforms include clear requirements for industry and consumer protections so that motorists are not exploited, along with appropriate penalties and powers to ensure the department and police can respond to rogue operators.

Regarding industry requirements, where previously there was no limitation on who could provide private property towing services, this Bill will require, in regulated areas, the licensing of tow trucks and the accreditation of tow truck drivers and any assistants.

This will mean tow truck drivers, assistants and licence applicants who are involved in towing vehicles from private property in regulated areas will now be subject to suitability and conduct requirements, including criminal history checks.

New requirements relating to safety and security will apply to business premises and holding yards used to store vehicles towed from private property.

Significantly, this Bill will mean there must be an occupier consent document before a towing operator can remove a vehicle from private property.

The occupier consent document aims to ensure there is an arrangement with the private property occupier before the tow truck operator removes the vehicle—stopping operators from enforcing parking restrictions on their own initiative.

Also adopted through this Bill are conduct requirements for those performing private property towing to ensure their practices are fair and reasonable. For example, before a vehicle parked on private property can be loaded onto a tow truck, the tow truck drivers will have to take reasonable steps to locate the motorist. Further, if the motorist is found before the vehicle is fully loaded, and agrees to move the vehicle, the vehicle must be released at no charge.

The Bill also addresses inappropriate conduct relating to the towing of vehicles from private property such as intimidating, abusive or insulting behaviour by ensuring offences with a maximum penalty of \$6307 apply.

Vehicle owner and driver privacy will be also safeguarded by the Bill restricting the disclosure of personal information.

To provide protections from motorists being exploited, the Bill adopts Mr Forde's recommendations about the regulation of fees.

In particular, the Bill introduces a maximum charge of \$250 for a standard private property tow. This fee includes three days' storage. The Bill also ensures no additional or separate fees, such as fuel or administration fees, can be added to that charge. Also, the Bill introduces an on-site release fee of \$150 to apply where a vehicle has been fully loaded on the tow truck—but the driver returns before the vehicle is towed.

This Bill does not impose maximum towing distances as doing so could leave property occupiers with no options for removal of an unauthorised vehicle if there are no holding yards within that distance.

However, to assist motorists, the Bill requires vehicles towed from private property to be taken by the most direct route to the towing operator's nearest holding yard, thereby limiting inconvenience for motorists when recovering their vehicles.

Once a vehicle has been towed, the towing operator must also notify the police as soon as practicable—reducing driver confusion about the location of towed vehicles.

Underpinning these new industry requirements and protections for motorists are significant amendments to increase penalties and facilitate effective investigation and enforcement by the department to deter noncompliance by rogue operators.

This Bill is a comprehensive approach to address private property towing issues.

However, I note that since this Bill was previously introduced there has been some comment about the fact this Bill does not regulate private property parking signage.

In this matter the government is again consistent with the recommendations in Mr Forde's report.

As he noted, there is no general right to park on private property. Private property parking is a complex area of common law. Imposing signage requirements through legislation could alter property occupiers' common law rights to remove unauthorised vehicles.

Potentially, this could lead to property occupiers who usually do not have any concerns about parking having to install regulated signs just to ensure they can remove a vehicle at some point in the future—that is not what this Bill aims to achieve.

This Bill aims to balance the competing interests of property occupiers and motorists so unauthorised vehicles can still be removed, but motorists are not exploited in the process.

In addition to the towing industry reforms, the Bill also proposes changes to ensure young drivers are accountable for their driving behaviour.

The Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016, which commenced on 12 February 2018, moved 17-year-olds into the youth justice system and this has consequential effects for young drivers.

The amendments contained in this Bill, however, will ensure that, following the youth justice reforms, 17-year-olds continue to be accountable for their driving behaviour.

In particular, the Bill will ensure 17-year-olds will be liable for mandatory driver licence disqualifications if they commit serious driving offences. In addition, the Bill will ensure there is enforcement action for recovery of unpaid fines for demerit point offences and any consequential demerit points will be recorded against their traffic histories.

The Bill will also allow the State Penalties Enforcement Registry to continue to enforce any debts owed by 17-year-olds that were registered with SPER at the time 17-year-olds transferred to the youth justice system.

Finally, the Bill introduces amendments to provide a clear statutory basis for demand notice aggregation where toll road operators may issue a single demand notice for multiple unpaid tolls.

The former Parliamentary Committee made one recommendation in its report with regard to demand notice aggregation.

To address this, the Bill has been amended to put beyond doubt the requirements for toll road operators issuing aggregated demand notices to limit administration charges to one per notice.

Demand notice aggregation benefits toll road users by reducing fees and providing a clear record of outstanding debt.

This Bill is the first step in overhauling the towing industry, thereby ensuring a fair outcome for motorists, property owners and the towing industry. It promotes road safety by ensuring our young drivers are held accountable for their actions and provides motorists and toll road operators with the basis for a fairer tolling system.

I commend the Bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.26 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 Transport and Public Works Committee

**Mr SPEAKER:** In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport and Public Works Committee.

## POLICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (IDENTITY AND BIOMETRIC CAPABILITY) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.27 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Liquor Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 and the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes and I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018 [166].

*Tabled paper:* Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [167].

I rise to introduce the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. Over the term of the previous Palaszczuk government, this House passed into law three important wideranging amendment bills that have given police enhanced powers to combat terrorism and respond effectively to emergencies. On every occasion that we have addressed the threat of terrorism, the House has unanimously supported the legislation. While we have never had to use these new laws, we must ensure that, as threats to community safety continue to evolve and the technology to combat them evolves, police and emergency responders have all the tools they need to keep the Queensland community safe.

The ability to identify people via their facial features is the latest in a catalogue of forensic tools that have been used over more than a century—tools like fingerprints and DNA matching. All are biometric matching capabilities available to police to prevent and solve crime. Facial recognition is the newest addition to this catalogue of police investigation and crime prevention tools.

On 5 October 2017, the Premier, along with all Australian first ministers, signed the Intergovernmental Agreement on Identity Matching Services. This agreement commits Queensland to further boosting the powers and tools available to our state and national police and security agencies by agreeing to establish a National Facial Biometric Matching Capability. This capability will be delivered through the implementation of the identity matching services. Identity matching services is an overarching term used to describe a number of specific services. Those services include—

- the Face Verification Service—to enable an image associated with an individual to be compared with an existing government record to confirm their identity;
- the Face Identification Service—to enable an image of an unknown person to be matched against multiple images to determine their identity; and
- the One Person One Licence Service—to enable comparison of images across jurisdictions to prevent an individual holding multiple licences.

Identity matching services will be available through a central hub or exchange, which will be hosted by the Commonwealth and linked to the systems of participating agencies.

While jurisdictions already share identity information on a manual and ad hoc basis, the identity matching services will make it simpler and faster for law enforcement and security agencies to share information in the interests of national security, law enforcement and community safety. The capability

will also be of significant benefit in preventing identity crime, which is a key enabler of terrorism and organised crime. Identity crime impacts one in 20 Australians every year. The annual cost of identity crime to the Australian community is estimated to be \$2.2 billion.

Ultimately, all jurisdictions will be able to access driver licence, passport, visa and citizenship images from across the country. The sharing of identity information, including facial images, between approved agencies will help meet a number of national security, law enforcement, community safety, road safety and identity assurance objectives.

Signing the Intergovernmental Agreement on Identity Matching Services represented the first step in Queensland's participation in the National Facial Biometric Matching Capability. The next step is making the legislative change detailed in this bill to allow for this important new level of information sharing.

To achieve the necessary legislative change, the bill amends the Transport Planning and Coordination Act, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, the Police Service Administration Act and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act. The amendments to the Transport Planning and Coordination Act and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act will enable the sharing of identity information collected under transport legislation, including digital photographs, to support Queensland's participation in the identity matching services. The bill authorises the Commonwealth host agency, which will be the Department of Home Affairs, to use or share the information with other participating entities. Identity information can only be disclosed or used for a permitted purpose. The permitted purposes are consistent with the intergovernmental agreement and encompass national security, law enforcement, identity assurance, protective security, road safety and community safety.

These new provisions will allow identity information to be disclosed to the host agency and will authorise further disclosure of identity information by the host agency. However, the disclosure will only be made to other entities that Queensland has entered into an agreement with. It will also authorise the Department of Transport and Main Roads to collect and use data from the hosting entity and other entities that are parties to an agreement under the identity matching services. The amendments also create a new offence provision for the collection, disclosure and use of information for a purpose that is not a permitted purpose.

In conjunction with amendments to the Transport Planning and Coordination Act, the amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act allow for improved access to images for the Queensland Police Service. Specifically, the amendments remove the current need for the Queensland Police Service to obtain the authority of a justice of the peace to access images for non-transport law enforcement purposes. The amendments will instead ensure that information provided directly by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to the Queensland Police Service is treated consistently to that shared via the identity matching services with other policing jurisdictions.

The bill amends the Police Service Administration Act to create a specific legislative framework to facilitate Queensland Police Service participation in the identity matching services. Division 1A of the Police Service Administration Act currently contains provisions governing the disclosure of information by the service to external agencies. However, existing provisions are not adequate to authorise the disclosure of information in the manner required for the use of the identity matching services. Therefore, the bill expressly authorises the Queensland Police Service to disclose information to the hosting agency for the purposes of the identity matching services. It also makes provision for the on-disclosure of that information to government agencies with whom a participation agreement has been signed.

There are a range of robust privacy safeguards in place at the state and Commonwealth level that protect individual and community rights while still giving full effect to this nationally consistent approach to the exchange of biometric facial information. The Commonwealth has introduced legislation to implement a framework that will include criminal penalties for unauthorised use and disclosure and reporting requirements. The intergovernmental agreement also details a range of privacy safeguards that will be in place for the capability, both in terms of participant obligations to have data security measures in place and in-built system controls. Detailed data access policies will also be required for participating entities, such as the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Queensland Police Service. The Commonwealth will retain discretion to refuse, modify, suspend or terminate access should an agency breach any of the associated conditions.

An authorisation regime will be developed for Queensland Police Service and Department of Transport and Main Roads personnel to access the capability. Access by authorised staff will be auditable through the IT system and any access or disclosure breaches would be dealt with through either internal discipline processes or criminal charges as appropriate. Staff are subject to a rigorous statutory framework that governs improper disclosure.

If this bill is enacted, it is anticipated that during the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games the Queensland Police Service will, at a minimum, have access to components of the identity matching services through collaboration with relevant federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies. The Queensland Police Service is currently examining options to accelerate access to some components of the capability for the games. Apart from enacting this proposed legislation, significant further activity is required prior to the capability becoming fully operational and available in Queensland. These issues include finalising the participation agreements across Australia and data access policies; modifying information technology systems; and updating internal agency policies around access control and oversight.

It is anticipated that access to the identity matching services will be of real, practical benefit to law enforcement and community safety, particularly in relation to terrorism and serious and organised crime investigations. These services will also boost police capabilities with regard to community safety by assisting in identifying missing persons, deceased persons or human remains and victims of disaster events; in road safety by assisting in the detection of people holding multiple licences across jurisdictions; and also with identity verification to combat identity theft and fraud.

I have said it before in this House that the safety of the community is of paramount importance to our government. The intergovernmental agreement and this bill, as a first step in establishing a new identity and biometric matching regime, will ultimately provide a simple, speedy and practical tool to our police for the entire community's benefit. It will enhance law enforcement and community safety, particularly in relation to terrorism and serious and organised crime investigations. It will also enhance police capabilities with regard to identity crime, community safety, road safety and identity verification. New technologies, coupled with existing sources of data and biometrics and a nationally consistent approach to the threat of terrorism and serious crime, must now be harnessed to provide new responses to challenges. This bill helps us take another step on this unwanted and unsolicited journey.

The bill also amends the Criminal Code to strengthen the penalties associated with particular offence provisions that address the unlawful possession and manufacture of explosives.

The unlawful possession and manufacture of explosives, including highly volatile homemade explosives, pose an increasing risk to the safety of the community and emergency services personnel. Section 470A of the Criminal Code makes it an offence to unlawfully deposit explosives and noxious substances. This offence currently attracts a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment. The bill increases the maximum penalty for this offence to seven years imprisonment. The bill also extends the application of this existing offence provision to ensure that the making of explosives in circumstances where there is a risk of injury to a person or damage to property is captured.

The bill further increases the maximum penalty associated with the offence in section 540 of the Criminal Code from three to seven years imprisonment. This offence provision addresses the possession of explosives and dangerous or noxious things with an intent to commit a crime. The current maximum penalties associated with these offences are not consistent with other criminal offences that target the misuse of explosives or deal more generally with conduct that poses a serious threat to community safety. By increasing the maximum penalties associated with these offences, the bill will address this inconsistency and ensure that appropriate penalties exist to deter this dangerous conduct and protect the community.

Strengthening these Criminal Code explosives offences will better protect the Queensland community by providing a strong deterrent to anyone contemplating this type of criminal activity. It also reflects community expectations that offences of a serious nature should carry an appropriate maximum penalty.

The bill also includes amendments to the Liquor Act 1992 to provide an extra hour of liquor trading during the 2018 Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast safe-night precincts of Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise. The Commonwealth Games in April represents a once-in-a-lifetime event that will demonstrate to the world the great things Queensland has to offer. In particular, the Palaszczuk government recognises that the Commonwealth Games presents a significant opportunity for

restaurants, pubs, clubs, bars and nightclubs to showcase their exceptional hospitality to visitors from around the world. The government also recognises that, due to the massive influx to the Gold Coast in particular, demand for these services will be high.

That is why the bill amends the Liquor Act to create the Commonwealth Games Extended Liquor Trading Hours Authority. The authority will automatically grant all licensees of liquor licensed premises located in the Broadbeach CBD and Surfers Paradise CBD safe-night precincts the ability to sell liquor for an additional hour beyond their permanently approved liquor service hours for each day between 3 April 2018 and 17 April 2018 inclusive. For instance, if a restaurant has approval to serve liquor until midnight every day, the licensee will be able to serve liquor until 1 am every day during the games period. Similarly, if a pub has approval to serve liquor until 2 am on weeknights and 3 am on weekends, the authority will allow the licensee to serve liquor until 3 am on weeknights and 4 am on weekends during the games period. This change will allow Commonwealth Games visitors extra time to enjoy a meal with a liquor service or attend entertainment venues after the conclusion of evening sporting events. The amendments also ensure that application fees or risk-criterion fees that would otherwise be charged for post-midnight liquor service approval will not apply in respect of the extra hour granted by the authority.

With regard to ID scanning, the bill clarifies that licensees who are currently required to scan patron photo IDs at the point of entry will continue to be subject to this requirement during the extra hour granted by the authority. The bill also clarifies that licensees who are not currently required to scan patron photo IDs will not be required to do so during the games period, despite being able to serve liquor beyond midnight under the authority. This recognises that it would be unreasonable to require licensees not currently required to scan IDs to install an ID scanner for a two-week period for an extra hour of liquor service between midnight and 1 am.

This government acknowledges that allowing licensed premises in the two Gold Coast safe-night precincts to serve liquor for an additional hour each night of the games has the potential to increase the risk of alcohol related violence and public disorder. That is why the bill amends the Liquor Act to create a power for the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming to issue a public safety restriction notice to a licensee to restrict liquor trading in a licensed premises operating under the authority in the Gold Coast safe-night precincts, if it is considered necessary to minimise harm. A restriction notice can only be issued by the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming upon receiving advice from the Police Commissioner or an assistant police commissioner that the operation of a licensed premises is or is likely to adversely affect public safety or public order. The restriction notice can immediately revoke the extra hour of liquor service, further reduce liquor service hours, impose conditions on the licence or suspend the licence for a premises. A restriction notice only has effect for a stated period, which cannot be longer than the Commonwealth Games period. The Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming can also lift or vary the restriction notice if he is satisfied there is no longer a risk to public safety.

The amendments further provide that a restriction notice cannot be reviewed by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and no compensation is to be paid in respect of persons affected by the issuing of a restriction notice. These very stringent provisions recognise that public safety must be paramount during the celebration of the games.

Additionally, the bill amends the Liquor Act to waive the application fee for temporary late-night extended hours permits sought by Gold Coast safe-night precinct licensees on days during the Commonwealth Games. This will facilitate licensees in being able to apply to serve liquor to 5 am to cater for increased tourism during the games. Licensees will still only be able to be granted a maximum of six of these permits per calendar year. However, as the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming considers the Commonwealth Games is a special occasion that spans the 15-day period, permits will be able to be granted for multiple and consecutive nights during the games. The government has provided for licensees who want to be able to serve liquor for a longer period during the Commonwealth Games celebration. We have also provided police with the power to immediately address any problems that might occur. The bill balances these concerns and achieves an outcome that reflects the government's commitment to showcase Gold Coast hospitality to the world.

In closing, the amendments contained in this bill are directed at making the 2018 Commonwealth Games a secure, safe and enjoyable event for all Queenslanders, visiting athletes and spectators, in addition to, of course, ensuring our police have the necessary powers and legal framework to keep Queenslanders safe. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.47 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 Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION (VALIDATION OF RATES AND CHARGES) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.47 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the City of Brisbane Act 2010 and the Local Government Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Local Government Legislation (Validation of Rates and Charges) Amendment Bill 2018 [\[168\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Local Government Legislation (Validation of Rates and Charges) Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[169\]](#).

The bill being introduced today seeks to provide retrospective validity to rates and charges issued over a number of financial years by the Fraser Coast Regional Council, whilst also noting the potential for other councils across the state to be affected. Retrospective legislation is rarely put before this House and that is for a range of very good reasons. However, in this instance there is a clear and compelling case to take this step. A failure to do so could see local governments financially exposed and their sustainability threatened.

On 6 November 2017, the Supreme Court of Queensland delivered its judgement in the matter of Linville Holdings Pty Ltd v Fraser Coast Regional Council. The court declared that, for each of the financial years ending 30 June 2015, 30 June 2016 and 30 June 2017, the Fraser Coast Regional Council failed to validly make and levy rates and charges within its local government area. At its budget meeting for that year it did not decide by resolution what rates and charges were to be levied as required by section 94(2) of the Local Government Act 2009.

The Local Government Act section 107A requires a resolution to adopt the budget. This requirement was fulfilled by the Fraser Coast Regional Council for the relevant financial years. The budget was presented in a number of attachments, including a schedule of rates and charges and a revenue statement detailing rating categories and a description for each category. However, the council failed to make an express resolution to adopt rates and charges as required by section 94(2) of the Local Government Act.

The court found that a resolution to adopt a budget does not, on its own, satisfy the requirement for a resolution to decide what rates and charges are to be levied. Although the court's declaration applies to the Fraser Coast Regional Council, other local governments may have constructed their resolutions with similar deficiencies to those outlined in the court's decision. These local governments may therefore be similarly affected if similar declarations are made in relation to those local governments' rates and charges.

The bill amends the City of Brisbane Act and the Local Government Act to validate rates and charges made and levied, or to be levied, by a local government for a financial year up to and including the financial year ending on 30 June 2018, without an express resolution at the local government's budget meeting for the financial year. The validating provisions apply to rates and charges made and levied under repealed local government legislation, comprising the City of Brisbane Act 1924, the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government Act 1936.



The bill also declares that anything done, or to be done, in relation to the rate or charge is as valid as it would have been or would be if the local government had decided to levy the rate or charge by resolution at the local government's budget meeting for the financial year. Examples of things done or to be done include the bringing by the local government of proceedings against a person, the sale or acquisition of land by the local government, and the charging of interest on the rate or charge.

The amendments are aimed at providing clarity to local governments and to the communities they serve so that local governments can continue to function effectively and with financial certainty in providing essential services. The Palaszczuk government values and supports the role of councils in our community. To assist local governments with making future resolutions in line with legislative requirements, the government and my department will continue to work in partnership—as we have in relation to this legislation—with the Local Government Association of Queensland and with councils to provide advice through its website, bulletins and letters. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.52 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 Economics and Governance Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

## CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.52 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Ambulance Service Act 1991, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Director of Public Prosecutions Act 1984, the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, the Ombudsman Act 2001, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Public Service Act 2008 and the Public Service Regulation 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [[170](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [[171](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. From the outset, I acknowledge that this bill replicates the content of the lapsed Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 introduced last March in the previous parliament. As such, this explanatory speech is largely the same as the speech for the bill when it was introduced last year.

Prior to the 2015 election, the Queensland government committed to making a number of changes to the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 to restore the independence and integrity of the Crime and Corruption Commission and ensure that Queensland has a government that lives up to the highest standards of integrity. Whilst a majority of these changes have already been implemented with the passage of the Crime and Corruption Amendment Act 2016 and the Electoral and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2015, today marks another important day in this government's commitment to ensuring Queensland has a robust integrity system that serves the people of this state.

The Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 has two core objectives. Firstly, the bill delivers on the government's election commitment to widen the legislative definition of 'corrupt conduct'. On 25 February 2016, the government released an issues paper titled *Corrupt conduct* under the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. The paper was designed to canvass the views of all relevant stakeholders, including the Crime and Corruption Commission, Public Service departments, key statutory bodies and non-government stakeholders, as to the appropriateness of the current

definition and any possible changes. On the whole, stakeholders indicated support for the scope of the current definition of 'corrupt conduct'. However, stakeholders did request some simple changes to provide greater clarity and assist units of public administration in their interpretation of the definition.

In responding to this, the bill removes the existing requirement that conduct is engaged in for the benefit of, or detriment to, a person. It also omits the list of offences in section 15(2) which are not conclusive of corrupt conduct, but could constitute corrupt conduct. The bill also widens the definition of corrupt conduct in section 15 of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 to capture the conduct of people outside the public sector that impairs or could impair public confidence in public administration, even where the actions of a public sector employee have not lacked or could lack probity. For example, this type of conduct might involve collusive tendering, fraud in relation to applications for licences or permits issued by government, or where a person fraudulently obtains or retains an appointment within a unit of public administration.

This enlarged definition is appropriate given the increasing degree of outsourcing and public-private partnerships in the delivery of government services as well as the increased potential for private citizens engaged in these service delivery arrangements to engage in corrupt conduct. It is also consistent with recent changes made in both New South Wales and Victoria and has the support of the commission and units of public administration.

More broadly, the bill includes amendments which will expand the commission's investigatory jurisdiction. Specifically, the commission's corruption functions have been widened to allow the commission to investigate and otherwise deal with conduct liable to allow, encourage or cause corrupt conduct and conduct connected with corrupt conduct. The commission will be able to investigate this conduct, as well as corrupt conduct, that may have happened, may be happening or may happen. The change will enable the commission to investigate and proactively address corruption risks.

This new jurisdiction may be enlivened through a variety of methods, including by way of a complaint, by the commission on its own initiative or through a referral of a matter by the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee with bipartisan support. In deciding what action to take when dealing with these types of matters, the commission will be required to have regard to the public interest principle in section 34(d) of the act, which requires consideration of the nature and seriousness of the conduct, including whether it may be prevalent or systemic within a unit of public administration. If the commission decides to investigate the matter, it will be able to utilise all of the existing coercive powers available for a corruption investigation under the act, including the power to hold hearings and require the production of documents.

The second core objective of the bill is to implement recommendations of PCCC report No. 97 titled *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission* and report No. 99 titled *Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall*. On 30 June 2016 the PCCC tabled report No. 97 into the operations of the commission conducted pursuant to section 292(f) of the act. The government's response to report No. 97, which was tabled on 16 December 2016, supported in full or in principle all 23 recommendations that were addressed to the government, and noted the six remaining recommendations that were addressed to either the PCCC or the commission. I seek leave to have the balance of my speech incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Has the Speaker seen and consented to the material sought to be incorporated in accordance with standing order 25?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Yes, he has.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 52:**

**ALP, 47**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**KAP, 2**—Dametto, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Independent, 1**—Bolton.

**Greens, 1**—Berkman.

**NOES, 39:**

**LNP, 39**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

A number of the recommendations which called for legislative amendments have been included in the Bill and I will turn to some of the main amendments now.

The Bill lengthens the timeframe for the Commission, or a prescribed person, to seek a Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT) review of a reviewable decision from 14 to 28 days.

The extended time period of 28 days will provide parties with sufficient time to consider the original decision and whether a review is appropriate and aligns with the standard time afforded parties to seek a review by QCAT under the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009.

The Bill streamlines the process that the Commission must follow to commence disciplinary proceedings against current and former public sector employees, in both its original or review jurisdiction.

No longer will the Commission be required to seek Governor in Council approval for a regulation declaring the employee's appointment to be subject to QCAT's jurisdiction.

The Bill removes this unnecessary requirement and declares any person who holds an appointment in a unit of public administration to be within the jurisdiction of QCAT.

A further amendment will require units of public administration to keep appropriate records in relation to any decision not to notify the Commission of an allegation of corrupt conduct.

Currently, this information is not necessarily documented and, prescribing this requirement in the Act will allow the Commission to more effectively exercise its monitoring function.

A number of other amendments will improve the operations of the Commission.

These include: addressing anomalies in relation to post-separation disciplinary proceedings so that the Commission and other public sector entities may transfer a disciplinary finding or delegate the authority to make a disciplinary finding to one another when an officer changes employment; allowing the Commission and public sector entities to share information relating to the disciplinary history of current and former Commission officers in prescribed circumstances; and improving civil liability protections for the Commission, its officers and police service review commissioners.

Recommendation 21 of the PCCC Report No. 97 recommended the government review the disclosure provisions of the Act—this review has been undertaken.

The Government considers it important that the Commission is supported by a disclosure regime which enables it to meet its obligations to cooperate with other entities, as recognised under section 34 of the Act.

As a result, the Bill includes amendments which will replace the existing disclosure regime with a single provision based on section 16 of the Independent Commission Against Corruption Act 1988 (NSW).

This new provision will provide the Commission with a broad power to disclose information to entities the Commission considers appropriate. For example, this may include a unit of public administration, a law enforcement agency or other Queensland integrity bodies like the Ombudsman or Auditor-General.

As part of this review, consideration was also given to the current disclosure provision in the Ombudsman Act 2001.

The Bill provides the Ombudsman with greater discretion to disclose information to Queensland and Commonwealth agencies when the Ombudsman considers they have a proper interest for the performance of their functions and liaise with the Commonwealth Ombudsman and State and Territory equivalents, when appropriate.

Finally, on 29 November 2016, the PCCC tabled its report into a complaint by Mr Darren Hall.

The PCCC referred the complaint of Mr Hall, a former Queensland Police Service officer, to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner for investigation.

The Commissioner concluded that the principles of procedural fairness required that, prior to publishing adverse allegations about Mr Hall in its report "Dangerous Liaisons—A Report arising from a CMC investigation into allegations of police misconduct (Operation Capri)", the Commission should have provided Mr Hall with an opportunity to show why the contemplated comments should not have been made.

On 27 February 2017, the Government response to Report No. 99 was tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

The Bill gives effect to the Government's support for Recommendation 1 by making it a legislative requirement for the Commission to provide procedural fairness to persons who may be adversely affected by a Commission report to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, or published to the public, under the Act.

This amendment is consistent with procedural fairness requirements placed on other Queensland bodies, including the Ombudsman, Public Advocate, Public Guardian, State Coroner and Auditor-General.

To provide a sufficient implementation lead in, the Bill proposes that the changes to the definition of corrupt conduct, and associated transitional provisions, will commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation.

This will allow the Commission to work with units of public administration to provide education and guidance on the appropriate assessment of how and when a matter impairs or could impair public confidence in public administration.

The remainder of the Bill will commence on assent.

The Bill is the product of close consultation with the Commission as well as other key stakeholders and I would like to formally thank officers for their consideration and cooperation.

The Bill draws together an assortment of amendments which, in their totality, reaffirms this Government's commitment to an independent and strong Crime and Corruption Commission.

This Government never takes for granted the important role of the Commission and all public sector bodies in the fight against corruption in Queensland.

I commend the Bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (1.05 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

Sitting suspended from 1.05 pm to 2.05 pm.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, before calling the honourable member for Cook, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

**Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.05 pm): Mr Speaker, it is an honour that I, the first Torres Strait Islander elected to this place, be given the opportunity to move—

That the following address be presented to the Governor in reply to the speech delivered by His Excellency in opening this, the First Session of the 56th Parliament of Queensland—

May it please Your Excellency—

We, the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, wish to assure Your Excellency of our continued respect for the Crown and loyalty to the system of government in this State and to tender our thanks for the speech with which you opened the First Session.

The various measures to which Your Excellency referred, and all other matters that may be brought before us, will receive our careful consideration, and we shall strive to deal with them so that our endeavours may contribute to the advancement and prosperity of the people of this State.

Today I bring with me a traditional island mat. For Torres Strait Islanders this mat signifies life's journey from womb to tomb. It is used for housing material, sleeping, conceiving, birthing, initiation, education, marriage, welcoming, meetings, transport, hunting, ceremonies, shelter and to our final journey. As I begin this new journey I will embrace the significance of what this mat represents as a place to sit down and create an open dialogue around various issues.

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land. Koeyma eso and au esoau, which means thank you for allowing us to be here on your beautiful and sacred country and I pay my respect to elders past and present. I acknowledge His Excellency the Governor of Queensland and the Premier of Queensland, the wonderful and very honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk. Adhapudhay koeyma eso and au esoau, which means my heartfelt gratitude and thank you for this wonderful opportunity to deliver my first speech to mark the 56th Legislative Assembly. To my Aboriginal sister Minister Leeanne Enoch, it is an honour to embark on this journey with you. Just as you have inspired me with your courage, I hope to inspire others with the same courage to break barriers.

Today I stand on the shoulders of giants. I remember the 1936 maritime strike, the 23 August 1937 meeting of the Torres Strait Islander council, World War II, the 1967 referendum, 1970s 'Border not change' and the Mabo High Court decision. I honour nguzu muruygul, my ancestors, and nguzu buway, my Torres Strait heritage, as I accept this significant role in history to become the first Torres Strait Islander to enter any parliament in Australia.

I would also like to acknowledge some of the traditional owners from Cape York here today. It gives me great pleasure to deliver my speech before you all today, so thank you. I am a proud lamalaig woman of the Kulkalgal nation of the Torres Strait, and my connection extends from the central to the eastern islands of Mer and Erub islands. I am humbled and honoured to be blessed with this wonderful opportunity to be part of the 56th Legislative Assembly.

I acknowledge and I thank my parents, Getano and Lizzie, who are and continue to be my biggest role models who have inspired me with the act of giving. Having a teacher for a mother and a politician for a father shaped my values from a very young age to stand up and fight for people, to give voice to those who do not have a voice and to be a passionate advocate for regional and remote communities. I want to thank my siblings—Tom, Andrew, Harry and Florie—and their families and my children—Lizabel, Jonah, Mosiah and my precious Shaylii—for their love, strength and ongoing support.

I acknowledge and thank my campaign team for all their effort and hard work in winning the seat of Cook. No campaign is a success if not for our hardworking volunteers—Mick and Bronwyn Hodgkins, Ann Kreger, Di Forsyth, Bill Allison, Sharryn Howes, Ken Schaumberg, Duncan McInnes and Kevin Howard. I would also like to make special mention of Jan McLucas, Liam O'Reagan and Riley Lang for the hard work they put into managing my campaign and for leaving no stones unturned. I also acknowledge and thank the many volunteers across Cape York and my families in the Torres Strait who came forward to offer their support.

I come from humble beginnings. I was born and raised on Yam Island, a remote Indigenous community in the Torres Strait. As an Indigenous child growing up, I was not raised to see what I did not have nor question why I did not have certain things. My parents worked hard to make sure we had food on the table, shelter over our head and a bed to sleep in. I had access to a good education, but I pay tribute to the generations before me who did not have the same opportunity. If I got sick I knew I could access health care, a service that became a fundamental part of the society I knew growing up. My strong cultural practice and traditions allowed me to grow into a person who stood firmly in her own identity. No matter where her journey would take her she would respect and embrace all people and culture the same. I was not raised to see the challenges my parents faced living in a remote community but, rather, I saw two people who worked hard to achieve a brighter future for their community.

In my life I always had strong influences around me. There is a saying that it takes a village to raise a child. My standing here today to address the highest house in this state is evidence of the strong influence I had throughout my life. I come from a culture where I remember the good teachings of my grandmothers, mothers and sisters to stand with pride. I watched my grandfathers, fathers and brothers work hard to make a living off the sea. Growing up on an island I learnt that it takes perseverance and hard work to get things done. I was not just the child of my parents; I was the child of my community and Torres Strait. Now I consider myself the woman of Cook. I was fortunate to be raised during a time where there was no electricity, running tap water, telecommunications or adequate means of transport as I got to experience firsthand what hardship was all about—or was it? The transition to accessing adequate service made life easier and people adjusted very well to the change.

I received my education predominantly on Yam Island and was taught mostly by my mother, Lizzie Lui, and my aunty and uncle Ian and Thamey Unicomb. My kindergarten was built from corrugated iron walls and roofing with no insulation, and my primary school was built of fibro walls set on bare concrete floors. As with every remote child, I left my home and family at the age of 11 to attend high school. I experienced major detachment from my family because suddenly I had to stand on my own two feet.

I was raised in community housing that was different from all the other dwellings on the island. However, the community housing I was raised in had cupboards fall apart, holes in the floor and leaks in the ceiling. The chipboard material used to build my house would now be deemed inadequate to withstand certain weather conditions. We all come from different backgrounds and we all embrace our experiences in different ways. I have embraced my earlier experiences to give back to society—to help people, to help communities and, most importantly, to contribute to positive change in society through the fight for equity, fairness and social justice.

My journey to this point was never clearly defined. I have aspired to do many different things in my life, but the one thing that remained certain was my passion for helping people, and with that life took me through a series of experiences. One could say my journey to politics started after high school when I began my first job as a trainee health worker. I worked in a clinic staffed predominantly by Indigenous health workers, a visiting nurse and a doctor. My maternal grandmother died at 65. I was on call the night my paternal grandfather passed and I remember sitting at the end of his bed. Unfortunately, I experienced the passing of many loved ones in my community and each time it felt like I failed.

I was passionate about making a difference in health, and I worked hard to educate and raise awareness for better health outcomes in my community, but I did not quite understand nor appreciate the much larger issues. Health is not an isolated issue, and as a then health worker with a strong passion to make a difference I could not solve the larger issues of employment, housing, education and the high cost of living. I held the responsibility of my community on my shoulders, but I always felt that everything was beyond me.

I would like to acknowledge Robyn White, a clinical nurse consultant, my mentor and dear friend who saw in me what I could not see in myself and for continually pushing me to my limits and to see life beyond the stereotypical norm. I choose to tell my story today because I want members to understand that people in regional and remote communities do not often get a choice and they accept what they are given and do not question why things happen the way they do. However, we, as members of this Legislative Assembly, do in the decisions we make.

When I finally left Yam Island I was frustrated and tired. I moved to working in areas of child protection and women's issues around domestic and family violence and homelessness in both government and non-government organisations. This experience allowed me to see how, as a society, we have become so immersed in policies that the worst affected are the most vulnerable. I am now at this point where I feel truly blessed to be given this opportunity to represent the unique electorate of Cook—in a position where I could do so much more in my capacity to make a difference to people's lives.

I know that each and every one of my colleagues in this place believes that their electorate is special, but I put it to them that Cook is unique in its diversity—geographically, culturally, socially and environmentally. In a policy sense we cannot think of the electorate of Cook as a single community with one set of priorities. Issues that are at the forefront in one part of the electorate may not resonate in another part. Each part of the electorate warrants attention to its specific agenda.

Cook has the largest number of local authorities of any electorate, with 17 LGAs either fully or partly included. I want to work closely with all of these councils as a partnership to achieve the economic and social outcomes that they desire. I acknowledge that each township and community has its own priorities and goals and that will be the basis of my work to build stronger communities. I see my role as very much working in partnership with the local government leadership to achieve their aspirations.

The Mareeba Shire Council is partly included in my electorate. Mareeba is a growing and vibrant community. The economy is based on the strong agricultural sector, which is growing and dynamic. Sugar, bananas and mangoes provide a stable economic base, with developing agricultural industries, like coffee, showing the ability of this farming community to innovate.

The Douglas shire is proud to be the only place in the world where two World Heritage areas that are listed for their natural values adjoin—the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The Great Barrier Reef is the world's most extensive coral reef system and the Wet Tropics contains an extremely rich and unique biodiversity, but these values are under threat due to climate change. Their environmental values demand protection and it is our responsibility as Queenslanders and as Australians to do our part to ensure that these significant values are protected into the future. It is also important to note that the economy of Douglas shire is very much linked to the health of these two iconic places. Tourism along with sugar and other primary industries in the Douglas shire are the key economic drivers which must be supported.

The vast Cook Shire Council is based in Cooktown, which also has a significant tourism industry. Grazing, fishing and land management are significant employers across the shire, along with education and health services. The Cook shire is home to the largest network of roads in my electorate, and the investment we have seen in the last few years into the Peninsula Developmental Road has been really successful, with significant numbers of local people successfully tendering for a range of work.

Cape York Peninsula is home to the Aboriginal shire councils of Wujal Wujal, Hope Vale, Lockhart River, Mapoon, Napranum, Aurukun, Pormpuraaw and Kowanyama, along with the Weipa Town Authority. Creating employment is fundamental to growing the economy of the communities. I want to point to the growing economy based on local arts practice on Cape York and Torres Strait. I want to recognise the engagement of Arts Queensland with these existing and emerging artists. The Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair is integral to growing these opportunities, and I thank the Premier and the government for their ongoing support of CIAF. The bauxite mining on the western cape provides significant employment based mainly in Weipa. There will be growth in this area in years to come, and I want to work with the industry to increase local employment in the interests of both local residents and the mining companies.

The Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council is home to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Injinoo, Umagico and New Mapoon along with Bamaga and Seisia. The NPA is a service centre with great opportunities for development, particularly in tourism and fishing.

People of the Torres Strait are represented through the Torres shire and the Torres Strait Island Regional Council along with the Torres Strait Regional Authority. The service sectors are the major employers, including health and education, with Commonwealth and state government departments providing regional presence. Fishing provides significant employment, and tourism has enormous potential.

However, climate change is providing a real challenge. We have seen the recent events that have resulted in inundation of some of the outer island communities in the Torres Strait, and we know that the impact of the annual high tides at this time of year is becoming more problematic. I urge the Commonwealth to take their responsibilities to respond to climate change seriously. We need to work on the global stage to discuss the causes of climate change and also at a local level to address the impacts on local communities. The Torres Strait is Australia's only physical border, which brings a huge range of consideration when developing policy.

My electorate has great opportunities and also challenges. It is my strong belief that we all have a responsibility to work together to build stronger communities. I know already of the strong support for the people of my electorate from our government, whether it be Minister Miles visiting Mareeba in his first week as health minister, Minister Craig Crawford's visit to Yam Island in the Torres Strait to assess the devastating impact of rising sea levels as a result of global warming, or Minister Mick de Brenni in his strong advocacy for the continuation of Commonwealth funding for housing in remote Indigenous communities. The Palaszczuk government has been instrumental in keeping communities connected through the engagement of all the ministerial and government champions who take their obligations to work with local people seriously. I stand proud to support a government that works hard for all Queenslanders.

I remember the words of my grandfather, the late Mr Getano Lui Snr: 'Do your best. Never give up.' While I have this opportunity, I will strive to do the very best in my capacity to serve the people of Cook and contribute to this great state.



**Mr SPEAKER:** Eso, member for Cook. Eso. I will allow some time before the next speaker if people wish to congratulate the member for Cook.

Before calling the honourable member for Jordan, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasion.



**Ms MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.32 pm): I rise to second the motion moved by the member for Cook for the address-in-reply to the opening speech by His Excellency. A well-known Greek poet Constantine Cavafy wrote in his most famous poem *Ithaca*—

When you start on your journey to Ithaca,  
Then pray that the road is long,  
Full of adventure, full of knowledge.

As a new member of this House embarking on my parliamentary journey, those are wise words indeed. Certainly you pray that the road will be long, but you also hope that you will encounter amazing experiences and gain great wisdom.

I know that most of what I will learn and experience will come from the people of the Jordan electorate. Their hopes, their fears, their aspirations and their disappointments will all be there for me to embrace, to allay, to advocate and to share. Jordan is an electorate that is of many parts—parts of

five former electorates to be exact. It is also one of the four new electorates created in last year's state redistribution. Whilst there were some who did not necessarily agree with the revised boundaries, there is a common theme that runs through this electorate. It is transformation and growth.

At the very top of the Jordan electorate are the long established suburbs of Gales, Camira and Carole Park. Gales, a traditional working-class suburb subdivided in the 1920s, is still dotted with the occasional wooden cottage of the times. Whilst Gales like many other areas has its challenges, the people of Gales are warm, supportive and resilient. Organisations like Gales Community House do much to foster this spirit. I have spent some time with Cassie, the director, and the volunteers who run Gales Community House. Each time I leave more awe inspired at how much they do on limited funds to support children, older residents and families within this community. They are transforming Gales through their wideranging programs, activities and service.

I am fortunate to have the industrial hub of Carole Park within the Jordan electorate. This is an area that is seeing incredible technological change and an increased focus on advanced manufacturing. There is no better example of the transformation from traditional industry to new than the company Mylan. Mylan is one of Australia's leading suppliers of medicines. They locally produce more than 200 medicines at their Carole Park facility that I have been privileged to visit, making them one of the largest pharmaceutical manufacturers in the country. Of the three billion doses of medicines they produce at this local plant, more than half is exported to 50 countries. They also employ over 700 staff across their operation. This is an incredible local success story not only in creating regional employment but also in supporting the industries of the future.

Of course, when talking about transformation, I cannot look beyond Greater Springfield. Situated on a former eucalyptus plantation, declining to the Opossum Creek in the west, the land was acquired by the Springfield Land Corporation in 1992. I would like to acknowledge Maha and Raynuha Sinnathamby and family, and Bob Sharpless and the team at Springfield City Group for their vision, commitment and sheer determination in driving and investing so heavily in Greater Springfield. Represented by the suburbs of Springfield Central, Springfield Lakes, Brookwater, Augustine Heights, Spring Mountain and Springfield, it is Australia's largest master planned community, with 2,860 hectares under single ownership, and the 10th largest globally. There are currently close to 36,000 residents living in Greater Springfield with an anticipated final population of 138,000 by 2030. Dominated by young families, many buying their first home, the area has become a symbol of people's desire to live, work and play all within their local community—something we need to be encouraging as good planning across the state.

The Jordan electorate also crosses into the Logan City Council areas of Greenbank, New Beith and Flagstone. Greenbank and New Beith date back to the 1840s with dairying, farming and timber being the main industries at the time in the region. In the 1890s farming estates were being subdivided and the area has until recently retained its rural residential identity. I am deeply aware that transformation is not always seen as a positive and I am mindful that the decision to be included in the greater Flagstone priority development area is not sitting comfortably with some residents within Greenbank and New Beith.

In Flagstone, the existing Flagstone estate, with its 4,000-strong community, is expected to transform with the massive \$6.7 billion Flagstone City project underway, which will see an additional 12,000 dwellings once completed. In the next 25 years South-East Queensland is expected to grow by two million people. Much of this growth will occur in the south-western corridor where my electorate resides. Too often I hear people within my electorate ask, 'Where's the plan for all this growth?' To be fair, there is a significant framework for our growth. *ShapingSEQ*, the most recent version of the South East Queensland Regional Plan, is comprehensive, thoughtful and innovative. Its aim is to help manage the potential impacts of this incredible population growth that we will experience by delivering affordable housing and supporting the planning and delivery of critical infrastructure while at the same time protecting our natural environment.

While there are incredible opportunities that come with this growth, there are also challenges that need to be acknowledged. The first one is the most obvious for a Labor government and it should always occupy our greatest investment, and that is employment and, more importantly, local jobs. We need to think beyond the traditional areas of manufacturing and construction, though they will continue to play a significant part. I want our region to attract growth industries: health, defence, aged and community care, retail and hospitality and, of course, technology. However, these cannot be casual and low-paying jobs; we need long-term and sustainable employment for our region, particularly for our young people.



We need to look at how we better support small business. I recently met with five fantastic women in my electorate, all establishing small, local businesses, many of them working from home and juggling family responsibilities. This is the growing face of small business in our region. Importantly, we need to create opportunities so people can work near where they live. This will also help relieve the pressure on roads and public transport, but we know it will not happen overnight.

I fully understand that the infrastructure bucket of money is limited, but for many within my electorate road and public transport infrastructure remains one of the most critical issues. The Ipswich Motorway, the Centenary Highway, the Mount Lindesay Highway, the extension of the Springfield rail line to Redbank Plains and Ripley, and the construction of the Flagstone-Salisbury passenger rail line, are all important road and public transport infrastructure projects that I will continue to advocate strongly for as the member for Jordan. I make no apologies for this. I want to see dads and mums getting home to their families sooner, not sitting in traffic or worrying about the day-care or after-school pick-up.

The Palaszczuk government has committed significant funding and commitment to addressing congestion frustrations: \$400 million for the upgrade of the Ipswich Motorway, Darra to Oxley; \$60 million for significant upgrades to the Mount Lindesay Highway; \$44 million for the upgrade of the park-and-ride facilities at Springfield Central train station which will see more than double the current car parking capacity at the station, allowing more commuters to travel by train and taking 650 more cars off busy roads; and a commitment that the Palaszczuk government will construct the extension of the Springfield rail line and the new Flagstone-Salisbury rail line once Cross River Rail has been completed, relieving the blockage within the city that is preventing new rail services.

Capacity issues for health, education and police will need to be continually assessed as the population grows. As we all know, community is not about bricks and mortar. The Jordan electorate has an incredible community spirit. Through the election campaign I met all our local P&C committees, presidents of sporting clubs and the many and varied community organisations. Many of these people undertake these positions as volunteers and do it with such passion and drive.

As this electorate continues to grow there is a risk that that sense of community can be lost. As the member for Jordan, I pledge to be a champion for these wonderful organisations that are at the electorate's core. I will work closely with them to ensure they continue to grow and with it the community's heart. I will be an advocate for more local jobs, a strong voice for the needs of this growing electorate and a champion for the community.

Before the election I met with someone who had been in the electorate a long time. This person told me that there were no new jobs to be found, no point in skilling young people and no more infrastructure or services to pursue. I left that meeting feeling very sad, because in some way this person was telling me there was no hope. I refuse to believe that. There is always something more that we can do—more options on the table, more solutions to be found. If we, as elected representatives, are not offering people hope, then what are we here for? I will always fight for more and I will help those who need it when I can. I will not give up on the people of the Jordan electorate.

Someone who certainly had that fighting spirit was the woman who inspired the naming of my electorate. Ellen Violet Jordan was elected to the Queensland parliament on 28 May 1966 in the seat of Ipswich West. She was only the second woman to ever be elected to the Queensland parliament and the first Labor woman to get there. Over four decades Vi Jordan was a leading figure in both politics and the Ipswich community. She was a friend and compatriot of Gough Whitlam and Bill Hayden, and she won a competitive preselection in what was, in 1965, a Labor held seat. In fact, when launching her general election campaign Gough Whitlam, then deputy federal Labor leader, noted that this was the first time in a generation that an Australian political party nominated a woman in a held seat.

In her first speech Jordan raised bread-and-butter electoral issues such as the need for more local government infrastructure funding and—a then Labor favourite—the spectre of rail privatisation. She also called for better kindergarten funding and support for the children of single and working mothers. In the first session of parliament she moved a private member's motion calling for equal pay for women working in the Public Service. As a local member Vi was effective. Under early premiers Nicklin and Pizzey she would go to the top fellow and was successful in obtaining school funding and more money for council infrastructure.

Throughout my campaign I thought often of Violet Jordan. I always felt she was watching over me. Soon after I was declared the member I received a special card in the mail written by Keith Jordan, Violet's son, who is now 82 and who still lives in Ipswich. He wrote about how happy he was to see me win and how proud Vi would have been to see a Labor woman elected as the first state member for

Jordan, a seat named in her honour. Something that Violet Jordan would have understood, and something that I always remind myself of, is that politics is about hard work, certainly, but there is always an element of luck and timing.

I have been particularly fortunate to have been surrounded by some amazing people who have looked out for me, supported me and pushed me forward even when I have shown reluctance or fear. I want to thank some former members of parliament who have been mentors to me: Jim Elder, John Mickel, Desley Boyle and the late Nita Cunningham. I want to thank current members of this House who have been loyal friends for over 20 years: the Premier and member for Inala; the member for Woodridge; the member for Sandgate; and the member for Logan.

I want to thank Milton Dick, who has been one of my closest friends for the last 25 years. Like all good friendships it has ebbed and flowed over those years, but I have to say that for the last year that friendship has overflowed. Milton showed me incredible support and encouragement in his desire to help me win the seat. He is undoubtedly one of the best campaigners around and I have learned so much from him. What I have learned most is that, if you truly care for people and if you want the best for them, it shows through no matter how slick the campaign is. To be authentic is the best campaign tool you can have, and Milton taught me that. I will be beside him fighting to see him re-elected as the federal member for Oxley and to repay all of the incredible goodwill and support he has shown me.

To Jacki Power and Justine Bond—my friends forever with whom I would entrust with my life—Sarah Mawhinney, Daniel Cheverton and Anika Wells: thank you for your support and for keeping me sane. To all of the wonderful members of the ALP and greater Springfield branch, in particular our amazing campaign team Sharon Mitchell, Riley Williamson, Jon Persley, Brent Cue, Dylan Kerr and Michael Quirk: I could not have done this without you all. To my union, the AWU: I always said that working at the AWU was like coming home, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have fought for the industrial and social interests of working people in this state. Thank you Ben Swan, Steve Baker, Mark Raguse and the amazing union team.

I want to thank my family. My dad and mum, Leon and Kathy, raised me to be a believer in a fairer world, a just world, a world where we are equal and where we want the very best for people. I did not need anything more from them. I want to thank my father-in-law, Vince, and late mother-in-law, Maxine, for warmly welcoming this city girl into their Dimbulah lives; my brothers, for never letting me get too big for my boots but who always showed me incredible love; and, finally, my husband, Sean, and my daughters, Zoe and Mary. We always said that this would be an adventure for our family. You knew this was something I needed to do so that I would never wonder 'what if'. I am so grateful to them for allowing me this opportunity and I am so excited to see what our future holds. Cavafy finishes his poem by saying—

Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage.

Without her you would never have taken the road.

But she has nothing more to give you.

And if you find her poor, Ithaca has not defrauded you.


With the great wisdom you have gained, with so much experience, you must surely have understood by then what Ithacas mean.

It seems strange to think about the end of your parliamentary career as you deliver your first speech, but I believe that the best politicians are the ones who have an end date in mind—if, of course, the electorate does not decide it for them. They are the most effective in this House because they know they have a small window of opportunity to make a significant contribution and difference to the lives of their constituents and to the state of Queensland. I hope that at the end of this amazing journey in the Queensland parliament I too will understand what my Ithaca meant.

Debate, on motion of Mrs D'Ath, adjourned.

## MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES (FINANCIAL PROVISIONING) BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.48 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message 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 2018

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

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

A Bill for an Act 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, the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Act 2017 for particular purposes

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 14 February 2018

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 14 February 2018, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018 [172].

### Introduction

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.48 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, the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Act 2017 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018 [173].

*Tabled paper:* Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018, explanatory notes [174].

Mining and resources industries are part of Queensland's past, present and future. These industries contribute significantly to the economy, create jobs and support our local communities. Developing the wide variety of resources naturally found in Queensland such as coal, minerals and gas has allowed Queensland to grow into a prosperous state and benefitted all of us. Queenslanders recognise that mining activity does not have to come at the expense of the environment. Companies have obligations to manage their operations to minimise impacts to the community and ensure that they clean up as they go. Most mining companies are good corporate citizens and generally meet their financial and environmental obligations.

However, when companies do not manage their sites to ensure that environmental impacts are managed and progressive rehabilitation occurs over the life of the mine or the rehabilitation outcomes are not clear, the risks to the state, the environment and communities increase. In 2016 industry and community expressed concerns regarding the effectiveness of the current financial assurance framework such as the impact of the current framework on investment in the industry and the performance of resource site rehabilitation. Recently, cases of resource companies unable to complete their rehabilitation activities have further highlighted issues with the framework. These issues are significant for the Queensland government and have resulted in a large financial burden for the state. They must be addressed to ensure the long-term sustainability of this important industry. A review by Queensland Treasury, the Department of Environment and Science, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and Queensland Treasury Corporation, QTC—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Sorry, Deputy Premier. Members of the House, while you are congratulating the particular member on their maiden speech, I ask that you do it quietly. We still have business that we are conducting.

**Ms TRAD:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I will congratulate the member for Jordan as soon as I finish my introductory speech.

This review by the Department of Environment and Science, Queensland Treasury, Queensland Treasury Corporation and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy found that the current framework could be improved to achieve better environmental performance, better protection of the state's financial risks as well as support the resource sector's continued presence in our state. The review also showed that this is a complex problem. There is not a simple solution, but this government does not shy away from a challenge. That is why, during the last term, the Palaszczuk Labor government embarked on a major program of reform of the mine rehabilitation and financial assurance regime to better protect the environment and taxpayers and encourage jobs, more

investment and growth in the resources sector. The development of these reforms is a clear demonstration of this government's commitment to consultation. Departmental officers have extensively consulted with the industry, with the public and with community groups on each of the key reforms, travelling the state to hear their views in person and ensure that their concerns could be addressed. Key stakeholders from the industry and from environmental and community groups have been engaged throughout the process, collaborating and problem solving to ensure a balance between the needs of the mining sector and environmental and financial protection is reached.

These reforms represent the most significant upgrade to Queensland's multibillion-dollar resource sector financial assurance and rehabilitation framework in nearly 20 years. While the full package of mine rehabilitation and financial assurance reforms will be rolled out over a few years, change and implementation begins now with this bill. In addition to the central reforms of the bill and following consultation with beverage manufacturers, the recycling sector and local governments, this bill contains an amendment to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Act 2017 which will change the commencement of the container refund scheme from 1 July 2018 to 1 November 2018 to ensure a successful container refund scheme is delivered on commencement. Together, the implementation of the container refund scheme, the financial assurance framework and progressive rehabilitation demonstrates the government's commitment to a consultative approach to practical environmental reform.

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 mine sites. The bill introduces two major reforms. Firstly, this bill establishes an improved financial assurance scheme to better manage the state's financial risk. The government requires financial assurance from resource companies to use as a last resort when a company does not meet its environmental obligations. The innovative new scheme proposed combines the best of worldwide financial assurance schemes to enable the state to proportionately manage its risks and provide balance sheet relief to those companies most highly rated while ensuring full coverage of rehabilitation liability where needed.

The redesigned financial assurance framework is tailored to manage operators based on their size and level of risk. The scheme manager will assess all companies with relevant resource projects to determine their risk of defaulting and subsequently leaving the costs of rehabilitation to the state. Each project will be individually assessed under the scheme and many will make an annual contribution to the pooled fund. This contribution will be calculated for each project by applying their assessed risk based rate to the total cost of rehabilitating land disturbed by mining activities. There will be thresholds applied to the pooled fund to ensure its financial integrity. The pooled fund was recommended by the review and provides benefits to both resource companies and the government. Companies that contribute to the fund will have small annual payments rather than the need to provide very large bank guarantees and the government will have a pool of funds to draw on to rehabilitate a site when a company has not fulfilled its obligations. Other operators that the scheme manages assessed as carrying a higher risk for a variety of reasons will be required to provide surety for the full amount of rehabilitation liability. For the companies required to provide sureties, the bill provides for more options than currently available such as insurance bonds.

The other part of the bill amends the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to implement the rehabilitation reforms. These reforms will ensure land disturbed by mining activities is rehabilitated to a safe and stable land form that does not cause environmental harm and can sustain an approved post mining land use. The bill introduces a requirement for mining companies with site specific environmental authority approvals to develop a progressive rehabilitation and closure plan for its current operations which will be assessed and approved by the environmental regulator. Progressive rehabilitation and closure plans will be required when a company applies for a site specific environmental authority for a mining lease. By requiring companies to plan for closure from the beginning, progressive rehabilitation can be factored into day-to-day mine operations, making completion of rehabilitation more likely. By requiring ongoing progressive rehabilitation, these reforms will encourage improved mine design and encourage regional job opportunities in the developing mine rehabilitation industry. Communities will appreciate having publicly available progressive rehabilitation and closure plans that demonstrate how mine land will be rehabilitated over a mine's life and a clear picture of what the final land use will be.

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. The two parts of the bill are closely interconnected and have been developed together to encourage better rehabilitation over the life of the

mine while covering the risks to the state if it does not occur or if the company walks away. These reforms in themselves are a huge step forward, but it does not end there. These two reforms are part of a comprehensive package of measures that will support and enhance rehabilitation outcomes. More information on these measures, including expansion of the abandoned mines program and enhanced policy on the residual risk regime, will be provided in coming weeks and months.

The policy underlying these reforms and this bill is based on an extensive review by Queensland Treasury, the Department of Environment and Science and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy of the existing financial assurance laws and has benefited from the independent research and financial modelling undertaken by QTC. Departments across government have come together to develop these reforms, ensuring the new scheme is fair, efficient and integrated, and I thank them for their cross-agency collaboration. Subject to the passage of this bill, the new financial provisioning scheme will commence mid-2018, with a three-year transition period for existing operations. The rehabilitation requirements will commence in early 2019 in order to better prepare industry and government and existing operations will be transitioned to the new requirement over three years to ensure a smooth transition. The government has received constructive and useful feedback from the community, industry reference groups, resource companies and environmental organisations throughout this reform process and I want to thank them all for their time and their valuable contribution and efforts. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.58 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 Economics and Governance Committee

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

### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.58 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Economics and Governance Committee report to the House on the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill by 20 April 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## GUARDIANSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.00 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Integrity Act 2009, the Powers of Attorney Act 1998, the Public Guardian Act 2014 and the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [175].

*Tabled paper:* Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [176].

I am pleased to introduce the Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. As this bill is substantially the same as the bill introduced to the parliament in September 2017, this speech is largely the same as the explanatory speech for the bill when it was

introduced last year. Minor changes have been made to the bill since it was introduced during the last parliament. These changes address minor drafting issues in the revised healthcare principles in the Powers of Attorney Act 1998—in clause 56 of the bill—to make them consistent with the revised principles in the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000. Amendments have also been made to clauses 68 and 76 of the bill to address a recommendation made by the Queensland Law Society in its public briefing to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on the bill last year. These amendments will ensure a consistent approach to the authorisation of conflict transactions for administrators and attorneys so that it is clear that QCAT can authorise a conflict transaction by an attorney both prospectively and retrospectively.

This bill will amend Queensland's guardianship legislation—that is, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 and the Public Guardian Act 2014. Guardianship legislation will have relevance for most of us at some point in our lives. Many of us have an older parent or relative who can no longer make their own decisions because they have a cognitive impairment such as dementia. Sometimes an adult's capacity to make decisions may be impaired due to an acquired brain injury, intellectual disability or mental illness. Queensland's guardianship legislation establishes a scheme for substitute decision-making for adults with impaired decision-making capacity. The legislation provides for the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal to appoint a guardian or an administrator to make personal and financial decisions on behalf of an adult with impaired capacity.

Under Queensland's guardianship legislation, a person is also able to plan for a time when they do not have decision-making capacity by executing an enduring power of attorney to authorise another person—an attorney—to make personal and/or financial decisions or an advance health directive to provide directions about their future health care. Under the Public Guardian Act 2014, the Public Guardian also plays an important role in protecting the rights and interests of adults with impaired capacity including by investigating allegations of neglect, exploitation or abuse, acting as a guardian, and providing the community visitor program. Overall, Queensland's guardianship legislation is working well. These amendments will make the law clearer and more user friendly, strengthen the safeguards for adults with impaired capacity and better align the law with contemporary practice and human rights.

The amendments in the bill progress and support a number of actions in Queensland: an age-friendly community action plan, launched by the Hon. Coralee O'Rourke MP, the then minister for disability services, minister for seniors and minister assisting the Premier on North Queensland, at the International Federation on Ageing 13th Global Conference on Ageing in Brisbane on 22 June 2016. In particular, it strengthens safeguards and remedies for adults who have appointed attorneys under enduring documents to reduce risks to older persons of financial abuse and exploitation.

The amendments also implement a number of recommendations from the Queensland Law Reform Commission's report, *A review of Queensland's guardianship laws*, tabled in parliament in 2010. The bill implements those QLRC recommendations that strengthen the focus on contemporary practice and human rights for adults with impaired capacity, enhances safeguards for adults with impaired capacity and improves the efficiency and clarity of Queensland's guardianship system. The government has had strong support from a broad range of stakeholders from legal, medical and disability advocacy organisations on the amendments to guardianship legislation in this bill. I thank these organisations for their feedback, which has helped to ensure that the amendments achieve their purpose.

One of the significant amendments included in this bill is the introduction of a statutory exception to ademption. Ademption occurs where the gift of a specific item of property in a will fails because, prior to the testator's death, the property is sold or otherwise disposed of. A common example is where a person leaves their house as a specific testamentary gift in their will but then sells the house to fund their own aged care and the person does not update their will to reflect the changed circumstances. Upon the person's death, the gift is adeemed because it no longer forms part of the testator's estate. Any remaining proceeds from the sale fall into the residue of the estate and go to the residuary beneficiaries, potentially leaving the intended beneficiary of the specific gift of the house with no interest under the will. As such, the rule of ademption may significantly distort the testator's intention and/or result in unjust outcomes. This is especially the case if the testator is an adult with impaired capacity who will not have the capacity to change their will to deal with the situation and it is an attorney or administrator who deals with the adult's property.

The bill will amend the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000 and the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 to create a statutory exception to ademption so that, when an attorney under an enduring power of attorney or an administrator deals with the testator's property that is a gift under a will, the

beneficiary is entitled to the same interest in any surplus money or other property arising from the sale or other dealing with the property. This will give effect to the testator's intentions before he or she lost capacity.

The bill will also create a limited missing person's jurisdiction for QCAT. When a person goes missing it may be some time before the adult is presumed to be dead at law or a coroner makes a finding that the person has died. The bill will provide that, when a person is missing and there is a pressing need to preserve the adult's assets and property, QCAT will be specifically empowered to appoint an administrator to exercise financial decision-making powers on behalf of the adult. The bill will also make it clear that QCAT can order an attorney, or a former attorney, an administrator, or a former administrator, to compensate a principal or an adult for loss caused by the attorney or administrator for a failure to comply with their duties under the guardianship legislation. Previously, it was not clear if QCAT could exercise this jurisdiction in relation to former attorneys and administrators—for example, after the appointment had ended the enduring power of attorney had been revoked or the adult had died. This amendment will enhance the availability of financial compensation to older persons who are subject to financial elder abuse, which is an action in the Queensland: an age-friendly community action plan.

Some of the other reforms that will enhance safeguards for adults with impaired capacity include requiring QCAT, when carrying out its functions or powers under the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, to the greatest extent practicable to seek and take into account the views, wishes and preferences expressed or demonstrated by the adult and any members of the adult's support network; strengthening the eligibility requirements for an attorney under an enduring power of attorney so that the eligible attorney must have capacity for a matter and must not have been a paid carer for the principal, being the adult, in the previous three years; clarifying the capacity needed for an adult to execute an advance health directive or an enduring power of attorney; strengthening the prohibition on attorneys and administrators entering into conflict transactions—transactions where their interests are in conflict with the adult for whom they are making financial decisions; providing that both a court and QCAT can order an attorney, or a former attorney, an administrator, or former administrator, a guardian, or former guardian, to account for any profits the attorney, administrator or guardian has accrued as a result of the attorney's or administrator's failure to comply with his or her duties; and broadening the protection available to whistleblowers who disclose confidential information when making a disclosure about conduct they believe could involve abuse, neglect or exploitation of an adult with impaired capacity.

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

Finally, to improve the efficiency and clarity of Queensland's guardianship legislation, the bill also clarifies how the presumption of capacity is to be applied in certain circumstances; simplifies the certification process required for proving copies of enduring documents—advance health directives and enduring powers of attorney; and clarifies that an advance health directive, or an enduring power of attorney, made under the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 by an adult residing interstate is effective in Queensland.

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



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

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

### First Reading

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.11 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.11 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 9 April 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## HOSPITAL FOUNDATIONS BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.12 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the establishment, administration and oversight of entities to hold and manage property for particular objects to benefit public health in Queensland, and to amend this act, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987, the Fair Work (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Provisions Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Hospital Foundations Bill 2018 [177].

*Tabled paper:* Hospital Foundations Bill 2018, explanatory notes [178].

This bill will repeal and replace the Hospitals Foundations Act 1982. The new legislative framework will be easier to understand and apply in practice, ensuring hospital foundations can continue to focus on their important work supporting Queensland's public health system. The bill also amends the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to allow industrial cannabis to be grown for use in hemp based foods following a change to the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code which commenced in November 2017.

I would like to acknowledge the role of my colleague, the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, in preparing this important piece of legislation and note that this speech is substantially the same because the bill is substantially the same as was introduced last term.



Hospital foundations support Queensland's world-class public health system, funding initiatives like new and improved facilities, state-of-the-art medical equipment, training and development opportunities for staff and life-saving medical research. Last financial year foundations raised over \$74 million for our public hospital and health services. There are 13 foundations across the state, run almost entirely by dedicated volunteers who do great work raising money for our hospitals to the benefit of patients, staff, families, carers and communities.

The Gold Coast Hospital Foundation, for example, runs a cancer patient transport service, providing a bus service for locals undergoing treatment. The Ipswich Hospital Foundation runs a wig library for cancer patients who through treatment have lost their hair. They also run a sun protection program providing schools, pools and community groups with free sunscreen. The Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation has raised \$1.4 million toward a second cardiac catheterisation laboratory at Cairns Hospital, expected to be operational by the end of the year. Wishlist, the Sunshine Coast hospital foundation, runs the Clown Doctors service, helping to make sick children spending time at the hospital laugh. Then there is the PA Research Foundation raising money for life-saving breast cancer research through Project Pink and skin cancer research through the Smiddy Fun Run. These are just a few examples. This bill will allow foundations to continue their important work supporting the public health system, patients and their families without the burden of unnecessary administration.

The current act has not been substantially updated since it was introduced in the early 1980s. It is important that the legislative framework for foundations reflects their current work and operational needs. The bill streamlines governing and operation provisions for foundations to ensure they reflect contemporary practices, including provisions relating to financial transactions. This will provide foundations with more flexibility to manage their operations and finances. The minister and Treasurer will continue to maintain oversight of higher risk financial transactions. Under the bill, foundations will be established as statutory bodies. Each must be governed by a board made up of at least six members nominated by the minister and one person who is a hospital and health service board member.

The bill gives the minister increased powers to respond to concerns about a foundation's financial viability, administration or management. The minister is able to request further information or documents if he or she has concerns and boards will be required to notify the minister of a matter that raises significant concern about a foundation's financial viability, management or administration. If it is in the public interest to do so, the minister may recommend that Governor in Council remove all members of a foundation's board and appoint an administrator to manage the foundation.

The bill also includes amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986. In November 2017, the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code was amended to permit some hemp seeds to be sold as food or used as an ingredient in a food for sale in Australia. This change followed a comprehensive review of the safety of hemp seed foods by Food Standards Australia New Zealand and was endorsed by all Australian ministers responsible for food regulation. Food Standards Australia New Zealand found that low THC hemp seed foods contain protein, dietary fibre and polyunsaturated fatty acids, particularly omega-3 fatty acids, which are recognised as being healthy. However, the Drugs Misuse Act currently prohibits industrial cannabis being grown for food. Without amendment to this act, the Queensland industry will not be able to grow industrial cannabis seed for use in hemp seed foods and would instead need to import seed from interstate or overseas.

The amendments in the bill not only align Queensland with the legislation of most other Australian jurisdictions, including New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, but also allow Queensland industry to have access to the food export market. Hemp based foods are a growing industry and the amendments in this bill will allow Queensland to be part of this growth industry. The amendments in the bill will also tighten the regulatory control of researchers as they can grow high-THC varieties of cannabis by requiring applicants for a researcher licence to submit a plan outlining proposed risk management strategies, including supervision of contracted growers. The two existing categories of researcher licences will be replaced with a single researcher licence.

The amendments also provide more flexible options for responding to breaches of the Drugs Misuse Act, including specific regulatory offences for a breach of record keeping, notification requirements or a licence condition. The bill will make it an offence to fail to comply with a compliance notice issued by inspectors, and a breach of a licence condition is grounds for cancelling or suspending a licence.

I note that before the bill lapsed it was considered by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. I thank the committee for its consideration of the bill to date.

**First Reading**

**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.19 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 Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family  
Violence Prevention Committee**

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

**Declared Urgent; Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date**

**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (3.19 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 137 the Hospital Foundations Bill be declared an urgent bill and the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report to the House on the Hospital Foundations Bill by 15 March 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT  
BILL**

**Message from Governor**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.19 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): The message from His Excellency recommends the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

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

A Bill for an Act to amend the Duties Act 2001, the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2010 and the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 for particular purposes

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 14 February 2018

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 14 February 2018, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [\[179\]](#).

**Introduction**

**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.20 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Duties Act 2001, the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009, the Transport

Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2010 and the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Transport and Public Works Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [\[180\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[181\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill will amend the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 and the Queensland Duties Act 2001. The purpose of this bill is to introduce a range of initiatives that will contribute to improvements in safety outcomes in the road transport sector by aligning the Heavy Vehicle National Law, commonly known as the HVNL, more closely with national safety legislation and introduce road safety amendments aimed at helping achieve this government's target of reducing death and serious injury on our roads by 30 per cent by 2020, in particular, through an increase in penalties for driving offences involving death and grievous bodily harm. The Palaszczuk government is committed to making our roads safer for all those who travel on them and for those who make their living in the road transport industry.

The HVNL provides a single national law for the consistent regulation of heavy vehicle operations across most of Australia. All Australian states and territories, except for Western Australia and the Northern Territory, are participating jurisdictions and have applied the HVNL as a law of their jurisdiction. The HVNL regulates matters relating to the operation of heavy vehicles such as mass and dimensions, vehicle safety standards, fatigue management, heavy vehicle accreditation and the use of intelligent transport systems. The HVNL also established the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to administer the law. The HVNL was developed to improve productivity and safety, and to streamline the regulatory environment for the heavy vehicle industry so that industry could operate across state borders without conflicting regulatory requirements. It was this level of regulatory consistency that the heavy vehicle industry had sought for years and the introduction of the HVNL into this parliament in 2012 went a long way to achieving that goal. However, an ambitious reform of this nature benefits from continual review and improvement.

HVNL amendments are jointly developed by the National Transport Commission, the NTC, and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator in consultation with state and territory transport authorities, enforcement agencies and heavy vehicle industry associations. While Western Australia and the Northern Territory are not participating jurisdictions at this time, they were consulted during development of the policy amendments. The HVNL changes proposed in this bill were supported by all jurisdictions at the May 2017 Transport and Infrastructure Council meeting.

As host jurisdiction for the HVNL, the Queensland parliament must first consider and pass amendments to the national law before it can be applied by participating jurisdictions. While recent amendments to the HVNL, including those within this bill, will lead to improvements in productivity and less conflicts in the regulatory environment across the country, there has also been a particular focus on improving safety. The amendments before the House today will contribute to improvements in safety outcomes in the heavy vehicle industry by aligning the responsibilities of executive officers in the HVNL more closely with national safety legislation, such as the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, and reduce the requirements and costs associated with enforcing and prosecuting breaches of the HVNL.

The HVNL places obligations on drivers and also on off-road parties involved in the transport and logistics chain or chain of responsibility, known as CoR, and includes a range of enforcement powers. In November 2015, the council approved a three-phase approach to reform chain of responsibility and executive officer liability provisions within the HVNL. The first phase of amendments reformulated existing obligations on all current chain of responsibility parties as a positive due diligence obligation to ensure they comply with their primary duty of care. This brought the HVNL in line with the model Work Health and Safety Act. Those amendments were passed by this parliament on 1 December 2016 within the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016.

The second phase of amendments, contained within this bill, extends those positive due diligence requirements to include non-chain-of-responsibility safety related offences for which executive officers are currently liable. These amendments will improve safety by requiring that executive officers take positive steps to ensure their organisation meets its safety obligations under the HVNL. Amendments arising from the third phase of chain-of-responsibility reform, a National Transport Commission review of investigative and enforcement powers, were approved at the November 2017 council meeting. Those amendments will come before the Queensland parliament later this year.

This bill also includes a range of amendments related to how heavy vehicles will be registered in future. At the November 2016 council meeting, ministers decided that jurisdictions would continue to have ongoing responsibility for registering heavy vehicles. As a result, a proposed national heavy vehicle registration scheme is no longer required. That decision requires the removal of 'Chapter 2 Registration' from the HVNL, which provides for the establishment of a national heavy vehicle registration scheme. That chapter has not yet commenced, but was set to automatically commence on 1 July 2018. The bill will omit chapter 2 from the HVNL, as well as making a range of consequential amendments to the HVNL to reflect that registration matters are not dealt with under the HVNL. This will ensure jurisdictions can continue to perform registration related functions.

In lieu of a national heavy vehicle registration scheme and to allow the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator access to registration data to perform its functions, jurisdictions agreed to the development of a national operator fleet dataset. This dataset is to be maintained by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator and will have common definitions, business rules and policies and is to be populated by clean and consistent data from all jurisdictions. The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is to have full access to that resource by 1 July 2018.

In conjunction with proposed amendments to HVNL registration, the Federal Interstate Registration Scheme—FIRS, as it is known—will be closed. The closure of FIRS will require all heavy vehicles registered under FIRS to transition to state or territory based registration systems by 30 June 2019—that is, all registration functions for heavy vehicles will be administered directly by each state or territory based on a vehicle's garage address. FIRS was established under the Commonwealth's Interstate Road Transport Act 1985 and commenced in 1987 as an alternative to state based registration for heavy vehicles weighing more than 4.5 tonnes. FIRS provided uniform charges and operating conditions for heavy vehicles engaged solely in the interstate carriage of passengers or goods. Under FIRS, heavy vehicles were exempt from paying stamp duty.

Consequently, the proposed bill will also amend Queensland's Duties Act to provide a one-off exemption from vehicle registration duty for heavy vehicles transitioning from FIRS to the Queensland registration scheme. This exemption will cease on 30 June 2019. The bill also contains some minor maintenance amendments that will remove unnecessary administrative or regulatory requirements, or will clarify a range of existing provisions such as driver information recording and drivers giving information to a record keeper.

While much of this bill is dedicated to the regulation of heavy vehicles, the bill also contains some important road safety amendments with broader application. Road crashes can have devastating consequences for individuals, their family and friends, workplaces and communities. The Palaszczuk government is progressing a range of initiatives to address this, including important initiatives outlined in Queensland's road safety action plan, Safer Roads, Safer Queensland. Amendments in this bill are just one part, but an important part, of our efforts towards achieving our vision of zero fatalities.

There has been growing concern, including from coroners, about the appropriateness of penalties available to courts in matters where careless or dangerous driving results in someone being killed or suffering grievous bodily harm. This is further exacerbated where the offender has no licence or is suspended or disqualified from holding a licence at the time of the offence. Driving when unlicensed shows a fundamental disregard for the safety of other road users.

This bill outlines new increased maximum penalties to address these issues by giving the courts more scope to apply penalties appropriate to the circumstances they have before them. In instances where death or grievous bodily harm has occurred in a crash, this bill will also apply or increase mandatory minimum periods of licence disqualification for careless or dangerous driving.

To be more specific, in October last year the government announced that it is proposing to increase the mandatory minimum licence disqualification period to 12 months where a person is convicted of a dangerous driving offence that results in the death or grievous bodily harm of a person. This doubles the current minimum licence disqualification period for this offence and is in addition to the proposed changes to the penalties for offences of driving without due care and attention.

The penalties for careless driving offences will also be significantly increased in the event of the death or grievous bodily harm of a person, with a further increase to apply where at the time of the offence the offender was also unlicensed. In addition, a mandatory minimum licence disqualification of six months will apply in relation to careless driving offences that result in the death or grievous bodily harm of a person.

The bill also makes amendments to the obligations of drivers at the scene of an incident. There will be a significant increase to the maximum penalty where a driver leaves the scene of an incident where someone has been killed or seriously injured. In addition, the bill will introduce a mandatory driver licence disqualification period for a person who flees or otherwise leaves the scene of a serious crash.

The bill will also allow the Department of Transport and Main Roads to notify the registered operators of vehicles of traffic offences committed in their vehicle by other persons. This will enable parents and guardians of P-platers using the family car to better monitor their driving behaviour. I am sure that that will be welcomed by many Queenslanders, particularly a number in this House.

This change will also provide employers and vehicle fleet operators with improved information about offences committed in their vehicles. For example, where a driver commits and is convicted of a heavy vehicle fatigue offence, the registered operator of the heavy vehicle can be notified by email once the driver pays the fine, the fine is referred to the State Penalties Enforcement Registry for nonpayment or a court convicts them of the offence. This approach will place both parents and employers in a better position to influence driving behaviour for improved road safety outcomes.

Consistent with our road safety action plan, the bill also includes an amendment to make roadside drug testing enforcement more efficient. As a result of significant improvements in the accuracy of saliva-analysing instruments and the incorporation of memory functions into those instruments, it is now possible to allow the officer who does the initial roadside test to also conduct the subsequent saliva analysis. This will be of particular benefit to road safety in regional areas where there may only be one police officer deployed.

The bill also extends the period of time the department is able to retain a digital photo and signature of a PrepL applicant from six months to 12 months. PrepL is a new interactive online learning and assessment tool for learners that may be completed at their own pace over a 12 month period. At any time during that period the learner may attend a customer service centre to provide their digital photo and signature. The proposed amendment will ensure the department can use that photo and signature to issue the person's licence without the person having to revisit the customer service centre if they take more than six months to complete the PrepL training.

The bill before the House clearly demonstrates the importance this government places on road safety and its commitment to ensuring that all road users can travel more safely on our roads, and also its ongoing commitment to improving the regulatory environment for industry. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** The still small voice from the past.

### First Reading

**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.34 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 Transport and Public Works Committee

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

### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.34 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Transport and Public Works Committee report to the House on the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 20 April 2018.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 99.

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before calling the honourable member for Southern Downs, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasion.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.35 pm): It is with great gratitude and pride that I stand here today to deliver my first speech in the Queensland parliament. At the outset, I would like to thank the people of Southern Downs for electing me and I offer my promise that I will do all I can to repay their trust throughout the coming years. I acknowledge His Excellency's address at the opening of parliament. I would like to confirm my allegiance to the Crown, to this parliament and to people of my country and my electorate of Southern Downs. To coin a phrase, this is my first go at a maiden speech. I trust that I might be pardoned for sticking to that tried and true formula of giving an account of myself, talking about the people who have made me who I am in my life and talking about the special people and places that are Southern Downs.

I believe it is also customary for a new member to acknowledge their predecessor. He, of course, is the Hon. Lawrence Springborg, who was a steadfast and well-respected identity in this chamber and around our state. Given that he did not make a valedictory speech before he departed parliament, I think it is appropriate that I start by paying tribute to him.

It is more than a generation since there has been a new member for the areas which we now know as Southern Downs. Lawrence Springborg served as a member of this parliament for 27 years 358 days. He is quite simply a colossus of Queensland politics and it is my great pleasure to recognise his excellence as a servant of Queensland, as a person and as my campaign manager, mentor and mate.

Lawrence was first elected to the district of Carnarvon at the general election in 1989, following the retirement of former National Party member the late honourable Peter McKecknie. Lawrence was just 21 years old and at the time the youngest person ever elected to the Queensland parliament. He went on to win and hold the new larger seat of Warwick for the National Party until the redistribution in 2001 created the seat of Southern Downs that we know today. Lawrence held Southern Downs until retiring at the last election—giving him the distinction of being 28 years a member of this parliament and having been elected on 10 consecutive occasions. In his time as an MP Lawrence served on many committees, as a whip, a shadow minister, deputy leader, Leader of the Opposition, father of the House and minister—some of these roles on multiple occasions. He is widely regarded, along with my honourable colleague the member for Caloundra, as a founding father of the LNP.

Following my preselection as the LNP candidate for Southern Downs in March 2017, Lawrence offered to be my campaign manager. That is an offer that I seized without a second thought because I cannot think of a more fortunate position for a new candidate to find themselves in than to have the support, wisdom and clout of a much loved retiring member. Lawrence emphasised to me the importance of defending and sticking with one's values and of cherishing, above all other things in politics, the fundamental privilege of being elected as an MP. I am thankful for Lawrence's ongoing support as I settle into this role of MP. On behalf of the people of Southern Downs, I thank him and his family for their long and dedicated service to the people.

I was born on the Gold Coast in 1976. My father, Paul, was in the restaurant business and my mother, Jennifer, had been a flight attendant with TAA back in the days of Fokker Friendships, DC-9s and 727s. She stayed home to raise my younger sister, Holly, and me. My mother and father are here in the gallery today, and I want to pay special tribute to them for the sacrifices they made and for the love and understanding that they gave me and still give me today. Thanks, Mum and Dad, especially for being such supportive grandparents throughout the past tumultuous 12 months. My sister, Holly, who could not be here today, is an ambulance paramedic at Stanthorpe, and I am delighted to say that she and her husband, Peter, only three weeks ago celebrated the birth of a healthy baby boy—well done, Holly.

When I was very young my family moved to Brisbane where we lived in a lovely old Queenslander in what was then the unremarkable suburb of Newmarket. I remember its prominent and at the time still functioning smoke stack at the old PGH brickworks. I remember the busy Telecom depot nearby and the sound of children being rebuked over a loudspeaker for running rather than walking at the nearby

Newmarket public swimming pools. I had a happy childhood marked with bikes and bilycarts, climbing mango trees, going to cubs and judo, making model aeroplanes and, strangely for a young boy, keeping an eye on electricity strikes, the Fitzgerald inquiry and the plight of Sir Joh.

I progressed through Wilston State School and Brisbane Grammar School and then went on to university next door at QUT where I gained a Bachelor of Applied Science. I spent a year working at the University of Sydney's wheat research station at Narrabri and, whilst I was at uni in Brisbane, I worked delivering pizzas and also as a medical orderly at the Wesley Hospital.

In 1998 I was employed by the National Party as the Young Nationals development officer, and that was a job that I really relished. I travelled the state recruiting young Nats, organising balls, toga parties and toad races. At the time I also contested the 1998 state election in the seat of Logan. I was also employed by Graeme Haycroft at Labour Hire Australia, where I worked with small business in recruiting and labour hire services.

In 2000 I made the decision to join the Royal Australian Air Force, or perhaps I should say the Royal Australian Air Force agreed to take me on. My initial officer training was at Point Cook. After that I was posted to RAAF Base Amberley where, as a young flying officer, I cut my teeth as a section commander and learnt the value of taking advice from my boss, my warrant officer and my sergeants. They saved me from myself on more than one occasion and I am grateful to them, particularly Wing Commander Glen Campbell and Warrant Officer Errol Reidlinger, whose patience and wisdom set me up for a happy and varied Air Force career.

Over the next 17 years I undertook postings all over Australia, and I am proud to have spent time deployed in the Middle East as part of the International Coalition Against Terrorism. I had a wonderful time as an Air Force officer, and there are two postings in particular upon which I reflect with pride and satisfaction. In 2004 I served as aide-de-camp to the then Governor-General, the Hon. Major General Michael Jeffery, and for nine months over 2007 and 2008 I was aide-de-camp to the then Governor of Queensland, the Hon. Dame Quentin Bryce. These jobs gave me a glimpse of the highest level of executive government and the eccentricities of protocol with ambassadors, presidents, judges and generals.

As I travelled all over Australia with the vice-regal persons, those aide-de-camp roles exposed me to the great good that is done in our communities everywhere by volunteers and local community groups. They also gave me the chance to sample and observe Australian life far and wide in all its rich diversity. I saw up close the importance of pomp and ceremony in recognising and thanking people from all walks of life for the good things that they do. There is much to be valued in the grandeur of Government House and the status of viceroy as a way of signalling our community's true esteem for the worthy deeds of both humble and mighty Queenslanders and Australians alike. It was an honour to serve the Crown and the people of Australia and Queensland in those roles, and I will cherish the many happy memories I have of those military postings until my final hour.

During my appointment as aide-de-camp to the Governor, I met and then married my wonderful wife, Belinda. She had been an army officer and we met shortly after she had transferred to the Royal Australian Air Force. We have two wonderful children—Jeremy, who turned seven years old this month, and William, who turns four next month. They bring us great joy and satisfaction, and of course frustration, but they love us in the way that only small children can love their parents—innocently and without design. It is very hard to be away from them, as I am sure all parents in this chamber would understand.

Belinda has been a most wonderful partner in life. Always calm and wise and, it must be said, right, she has stood by me and supported me and our kids throughout the strains of military postings and separations. There has been no better demonstration of this support than in the hard work and love which Belinda put into the campaign for my election in Southern Downs. Never one to be idle, Belinda threw herself into politics for the first time, taking on several local party executive positions and being always at the centre of the myriad of things which go on in a year-long push for election. To say that she worked harder than me is no exaggeration, and I am quite certain I speak for everyone who joined me in the campaign that Belinda was, and remains, a most effective and beloved part of the team. In fact, even prior to my election Belinda had been asked to speak and give presentations in her own right. On one occasion at least the hosts suggested that if Belinda could not make it then perhaps I could attend to represent her.

In late 2016, when Lawrence Springborg announced that he would retire from parliament at the next general election, I decided to contest my party's preselection for Southern Downs. Whilst my parents and my sister have lived in Stanthorpe for more than a decade, I had not as I had spent years

in the military and had been posted all over the country. In spite of this, the membership of the seven local LNP branches in my electorate, whose decision it was to choose a candidate, have been most welcoming to Belinda and me, electing me to be their candidate with an overwhelming majority of votes.

They also came out in strength throughout the 2017 election campaign, raising funds and, along with many non-LNP volunteers, manned our 35 polling booths on election day and for the long pre-poll period before. I must thank in particular my local branch chairs—Dell Thompson, Les Kable, Dawn Scrymgeour, Sue Johnson, Councillor Vic Pennisi, Helen Piedl-Horton and Councillor Lachlan Brennan, who is also the chairman of my local electorate council. They, along with their branch members, have guided and supported Belinda and me throughout a very busy and challenging year. Vic, Sue, Lachie and Dawn have worked particularly hard throughout the 10 months of my candidacy and, along with our photographer, Glenda Riley, gave generously of their time and resources throughout the campaign.

Other local identities who worked very hard and provided advice, guidance and support in all sorts of ways include, in no particular order, Andrew Gale, Steph Ingall, Chris Bell, Darryl Evans, Ross Bartley, David Kemp, Trish Roberts, Clair Johns, Lewis von Stiglitz, Peter Kemp, Bev Jordan, Dr John and Joan Shrapnel, Tori DeMamiel, Joe Coorey, Jim Samios, Andrew Cooper, Sue Lloyd and her daughters Erin, Abbie, Shelby and Ebonie, Phil Bowles, Denis Reynolds, Alistair Logan, Col Glasser, Betsy Turner, Noel Smith, Michael Offerdahl, Shirley Carrigan, Joy Phillips, David Eglington, Ewan Young, John Boucher, Reverend Alan Colyer, Angelo Puglisi, Bill Humble, Len Rigg, Peter and Heather Watters, Steven Tancred, Ian Henderson, Mark and Councillor Marika McNichol, and Bev Hall—special thanks to you all and particular thanks to the Hon. Lawrence Springborg for managing our campaign and providing the wisdom, experience and leadership that all successful campaigns demand.

For as long as I can recall I wanted to be an MP. I have always wanted to be the one who was both the servant of and leader to his community. I have always wanted to employ my values and strengths to fight for local interests and to do good for people. I clearly remember coming to parliament in 1988 with my grade 7 class from Wilston State School. We were treated to a tour of the building and a talk about the workings of parliament and, afterwards, the obligatory small glass of very weak orange cordial and a small rectangular biscuit. My honourable friend the member for Pumicestone has similar recollections of her visit in that same year I believe. My most memorable exposure to this place, however, was on 16 October 2007 when, as the Governor's aide-de-camp, I marched stiffly on to the floor of the House—buttons shining, sword in hand—to deliver a rolled up message to the Speaker. To the obvious merriment of members on both sides, I was taunted and jeered at riotously, although *Hansard*, true to its tradition of understatement, merely described the event as 'Messenger admitted.'

After giving the Speaker the Governor's message, I hastily about-faced and retreated from the chamber wondering why on earth the honourable members were being so hard on me. The last things I heard above the cacophony before exiting the chamber were, 'Well, he's better than the last one,' and 'Yeah, he can come back.' Well, indeed I have come back and I look forward to the opportunity to revisit that good-natured fun when one of my successor aides-de-camp brave the Assembly to deliver another message.

My electorate of Southern Downs is a wonderful place, with friendly and involving communities, a strong economic base and a remarkable and varied landscape. It is bounded by Weengallon in the west, Cecil Plains and Allora in the north, Goomburra, Tregony and the Great Dividing Range in the east, and the Queensland-New South Wales border to the south. The current electoral boundaries, which incidentally were unaltered by the recent statewide redistribution, encompass three major centres—Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe and Warwick. Smaller, though no less valued, centres include Wallangarra, Ballandean, Allora, Killarney, Maryvale, Yangan, Leyburn, Inglewood, Millmerran, Texas, Yelarbon and Talwood.

The electorate is also home to many smaller towns and villages, frequently with their own local hall, sports club, gun club and primary school and, most importantly, a proud sense of community identity. There are way too many to mention, but I will refer to some as an indication of the extent to which these small communities comprise the wider electorate of Southern Downs. On the Granite Belt around Stanthorpe where I live are places like Lyra, Eukey, Glen Aplin, Kyoomba, Severnlea, Greenlands, Thorndale, Pikedale, Applethorpe, The Summit, Thulimba, Cottonvale and Dalveen. The Granite Belt is also home to some of the post World War I soldier settlements to which His Excellency referred in his speech yesterday—places such as Fleurbaix, Somme, Messines, Pozieres, Amiens—or, as the French more correctly say, 'Am-y-on'—Passchendaele and Bapaume—all named after scenes of unforgettable Western Front battles in which Australian soldiers fought and died.



Around Warwick there are localities such as Tannymorel, Freestone, Gladfield, Goomburra, Maryvale, Emu Vale, Mount Colliery, Swanfels, Murrays Bridge, Pratten, Sandy Creek and Karara. Around Goondiwindi we have North Talwood, South Talwood, Bungunya, Toobeah, Lundavra, Tarawera, Kioma, Kindon, Billa Billa, Yagaburne and Wondalli. In the north surrounding Millmerran are communities such as Cecil Plains, Condamine Plains, Lemontree, Yandilla, Pampas, Canning Creek and Leyburn.

The economic base of Southern Downs is founded on primary industries, tourism and services. We have large and efficient industries in beef, sheep, dairy, grain, cotton, forestry and fruit and vegetables, and we think that ours are among the most productive primary industries in the country. I note with delight that on every menu I have seen here at Parliament House produce and wines from Southern Downs take pride of place, and rightly too, and it would be terrific to see this example followed at this year's Commonwealth Games.

We are also blessed with a vibrant services sector across our towns. Small businesses abound in catering for domestic, rural and industrial demands, and their operators—often families generations old—proudly serve their customers and communities through thick and thin, good times and bad. Tourism is very important in Southern Downs. Our B&Bs, wine and fruit tourism, festivals and, in Stanthorpe, Queensland's coldest climate make Southern Downs a favourite for visitors.

Southern Downs is home to some very innovative large and emerging businesses such as the meat processor John Dee and fruit juice producer Grove Juice in Warwick, Australian Vinegar, Jamworks Gourmet Foods and Sweet's Strawberry Runners in Stanthorpe, the new Darwallah chicken hatchery in Allora and Carpendale Commodities and the Woods Group of companies around Goondiwindi. These businesses demonstrate that the future for industry does not exclusively lie in the big cities. It equally can be in electorates like Southern Downs where costs are low, where interstate and international markets are now easily at hand and where life is good.


What all of those industries have in common is that they are comprised overwhelmingly of small businesses and small farms. They are family concerns where proudly independent people with passion and ideas work very hard and invest with no certain outcome in order to create jobs and incomes and to generate the tax revenues upon which our necessary public sector activities and welfare measures depend. These small businesses contribute so much to the social and economic fabric of my electorate and our state. What they and the people who depend upon them need are a great business environment where governments tax and regulate sparingly, keep energy prices under control and provide the water and transport infrastructure that industry needs to be competitive, thrive and employ people.

I end my maiden speech where I began, in thanking the people of Southern Downs for giving me the honour of being their member in this parliament. I truly look forward to playing my part in this place as a faithful representative of my part of this great state.

Debate, on motion of Mr Lister, adjourned.

## **ELECTRICITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION (BATTERIES AND PREMIUM FEED-IN TARIFF) AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Introduction**

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (3.56 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Electricity Act 1994, the Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006 and the National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill 2018 [[182](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [[183](#)].

I wish to advise the House that this bill was introduced in the 55th Parliament by my colleague Minister Bailey and this explanatory speech is essentially the same. The Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill makes a number of amendments in relation to the non-reversion policy in regional Queensland, the Solar Bonus Scheme and embedded networks.

This bill brings into effect the Queensland government's decision to remove the restriction on residential and small business customers in regional Queensland from returning to Ergon Retail. This restriction is commonly referred to as the non-reversion policy and was introduced 10 years ago. Nonreversion has proved very successful in encouraging competition for large customers in regional Queensland—nearly 50 per cent of these customers on the east coast have switched from Ergon Retail. However, competition for small customers has not materialised, with only one per cent going to market contracts. Consequently, the Queensland government reconsidered the effectiveness of this policy for small customers and listened to the concerns raised in regional communities. Because nonreversion was introduced as a state-specific modification to the National Energy Retail Law, these amendments need to be made to remove the restriction.

These amendments are also about fairness, as all eligible small customers in regional Queensland will be able to consider whether the EasyPay Rewards package announced in October last year is appropriate for them. Under this package, Ergon Retail customers can receive an up-front payment—\$75 for households and \$120 for small businesses each year. The Solar Bonus Scheme amendments seek to remove ambiguity around when Solar Bonus Scheme customers can install energy storage systems, like batteries, and secondary generation systems. The bill makes clear the circumstances in which customers can install energy storage systems and secondary generators in their homes without putting their Solar Bonus Scheme payments at risk.

The bill also rules out the practice of oversizing Solar Bonus Scheme systems. Oversizing occurs when the overall size of solar panels exceeds the size of the solar inverter approved for use under the scheme. Oversizing has become easier with advances in technology and has the potential to increase scheme costs beyond what were anticipated when the scheme was designed. I do recognise there will be situations—such as warranty replacements and system reinstallations following disasters—where a customer has no choice but to oversize, particularly because original panel sizes are no longer available. I anticipate a pragmatic approach will be taken by the electricity distribution businesses to compliance and enforcement. Solar Bonus Scheme aspects of the bill are proposed to commence retrospectively from the date of introduction. This provides clarity.

A new framework to make it easier for embedded network customers to choose an alternative electricity supplier commenced in Queensland on 1 December 2017. The changes to the national electricity rules will enable embedded network customers to participate in the retail electricity market by allowing them to choose the products, services and suppliers of retail electricity services that suit them best. Common examples of embedded networks include shopping centres, apartment buildings, retirement villages and caravan parks. The changes will not prevent embedded network operators from continuing to sell electricity to the embedded network, but it will incentivise them to compete with retailers. The changes are part of a national market-wide reform program to give electricity consumers more opportunities to understand and take control of their electricity use and costs.

To support these changes, it is necessary to amend the Electricity Act 1994 to ensure there is no inconsistency with the national framework. This bill will also ensure that eligible embedded network customers who decide to purchase their electricity from a chosen retailer will have access to the free dispute resolution services of the Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland, just as direct customers can. I commend the bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.01 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 State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

### Declared Urgent; Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.02 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 137 the Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill and that the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report to the House on the Electricity and Other Legislation (Batteries and Premium Feed-in Tariff) Amendment Bill by 15 March 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MINERAL, WATER AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.02 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the Water Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [[184](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [[185](#)].

I wish to advise the House that this bill was introduced in the 55th Parliament and this explanatory speech is essentially the same. The Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 was previously introduced into parliament on 22 August 2017; however, it lapsed when parliament was dissolved. This version is largely the same as the bill introduced last year, with some minor modifications that improve on the statutory conduct and compensation process and correct minor identified errors.

In relation to the proposed amendments to the statutory conduct and compensation process, some stakeholders thought 10 business days for a party to accept or reject an arbitration election notice was too short. Fifteen business days was proposed as a viable alternative. This proposal has been accepted and the change will allow parties a more appropriate time frame to consider whether a binding arbitration process is suitable for their situation and needs. Secondly, we have put it beyond doubt that only non-determinative types of alternative dispute resolution can be utilised for clause 45 of the bill. These include, but are not limited to, case appraisal, conciliation, mediation or negotiation. This change reflects the policy intent outlined in the bill's explanatory notes. The other changes update definitions and correct minor and technical issues.

During the then Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee's consideration of this bill, some stakeholders asserted that the proposed redrafting of section 81 of the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 would reduce the compensation entitlement of affected landholders where resources activities do not occur on their land. This was claimed to be a significant policy shift. I would like to clarify that this is not the case. The policy intent of section 81 is that compensation should be payable for any compensatable effect suffered by a landholder on the land on which the resource activities are being carried out. This is borne out by the explanatory notes to the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014, which state—

A compensatable effect is a cost or impact that arises from the authorised activities being carried out on the land or entering an agreement for the chapter.

In addition, when the section is read in conjunction with the other provisions in the act, the view that this redrafting changes the policy intent of the section is not supported. There is nothing in the redrafting of section 81 that changes this policy intent, and in fact the redrafting will further clarify the parliament's intent in relation to these provisions.

This bill proposes amendments to the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 and the Water Act 2000 to improve the statutory negotiation and dispute resolution processes for parties negotiating conduct and compensation agreements and make-good agreements. The amendments will, amongst other things—

- clarify the options that are available for parties entering into a non-determinative alternative dispute resolution process and ensure that the resource authority holder is responsible for paying the costs of the ADR;
- allow parties to use arbitration where a CCA or MGA has not been agreed as an alternative to having the matter determined by the Land Court—arbitration may only be accessed by agreement between the parties;
- ensure that any professional fees reasonably and necessarily incurred by landholders during the negotiation of a CCA will be paid by resource authority holders, even if a CCA cannot be reached;
- expand the reasonably and necessarily incurred professional fees that can be recouped by a landholder to include the cost of an agronomist; and
- provide the Land Court the explicit power to determine the amount of any reasonable and necessary professional fees incurred during the negotiation of a CCA.

These amendments are in line with recommendations of the independent review of the GasFields Commission Queensland.

The bill also proposes amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989. I would like to particularly draw members' attention to the changes that—

- amend the process to refer compensation matters for mining claims and mining leases to the Land Court;
- confirm the activities that can be undertaken on land necessary for access to a mining claim, mineral development licence or mining lease;
- allow certain coal mining projects to apply for an exploration permit for coal without a tender process in limited circumstances;
- establish a process to add restricted land to the area of a mining lease application or existing mining lease at any time—landholder consent will still be required; and
- establish a head of power to apply confidentiality periods for geological data provided by mining companies and publish reports submitted under the act.

In relation to other resources legislation, the bill clarifies that the safety provisions in the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 apply to tenures under the Petroleum Act 1923 and will allow petroleum facility licences to be granted in more cases. It also makes amendments to ensure that the safety provisions for the overlapping tenure framework for coal and coal seam gas operate as intended and expands who a water observation bore can be transferred to before it is decommissioned. The bill also makes minor and consequential amendments to the resources legislation which will improve the operation of these acts.

Regarding amendments to the Water Act 2000, the bill addresses the consideration of climate change on water resources and the recognition of cultural values and uses of water resources to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders. The bill reaffirms the Queensland government's commitment to the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, released last year by my colleague Minister Miles during the previous government.

The bill clarifies and strengthens the approach to climate change by making the consideration of water related effects of climate on water availability an explicit requirement when preparing a water plan. This will ensure that climate change is consistently and transparently considered in water planning processes. This will give Queenslanders the confidence that climate change risks to water resources have been identified and that strategies have been included in water plans to respond to these risks.

The bill also improves the way the water planning framework recognises the cultural values and uses of water resources of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders. This will ensure that future water management decisions will consider cultural outcomes and that water plans will include strategies to achieve these outcomes. This amendment will support existing mechanisms for Aboriginal peoples

and Torres Strait Islanders to take and access water to support their economic development. Other proposed Water Act amendments include—

- supporting the productive use of unutilised allocations by providing temporary access to water that has been reserved for strategic water purposes;
- strengthening the water market by allowing water allocations to be traded multiple times per year;
- providing for collection and publication of price data for seasonal water trades;
- reinstating protections in water plans to mitigate potential risks when managing the capture and storage of contaminated agricultural water as growth of this take increases;
- providing a new direction power to take action to deal with certain urgent water quality incidents.

The water quality powers would only be used in exceptional circumstances and would take into account potential impacts on critical water supplies and the water security of water entitlement holders.

Finally, the bill also includes minor technical amendments to provide increased transparency and operational efficiencies in the Water Act. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.09 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 State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.10 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 136 the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report to the House on the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 9 April 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## LAND, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.10 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007, the Explosives Act 1999, the Explosives Regulation 2017, the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988, the Land Act 1994, the Land Regulation 2009, the Land Title Act 1994, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [[186](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [[187](#)].

I wish to advise the House that this bill was introduced in the 55th Parliament and this explanatory speech is essentially the same. This bill reintroduces, with minor changes, the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, which lapsed with the dissolution of the 55th Parliament last October and before the previous Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee could complete its inquiry into the bill. The Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 covers a wide range of amendments that will streamline and ensure the effectiveness of certain key regulatory frameworks within what is now the Natural Resources, Mines and Energy portfolio. The government remains committed to increasing the ability of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to access and utilise their land, as well as enhancing opportunities to achieve home ownership.

The bill proposes amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 to expand the circumstances in which registered native title bodies corporate may hold land, subject to a number of safeguards. This will provide flexibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owner groups to nominate an existing registered native title body corporate to be grantee of land which is not subject to a native title determination provided the land is adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, a relevant native title determination area and the traditional owner groups are the same or similar. This flexibility removes the need to establish and fund a new entity with the same or similar membership, and administrative and governance arrangements, if an otherwise suitable entity already exists.

Further amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 will provide greater options for the government and trustees to determine or agree on the sale prices for social housing. The purchase of social housing stock is the most feasible path to home ownership in Indigenous communities. These amendments allow the state and trustees to respond more readily to the unique circumstances in those discrete communities; recognise existing interests in property; and make adjustments in communities where there is limited or no active housing market.

The bill will also make amendments to the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 to support the protection and cooperative management of cultural and natural values of the Cape York Peninsula. These amendments will ensure that the existing prohibition on resource extraction activities on the Shelburne Bay and Bromley properties is retained following their transfer as Aboriginal freehold land. The prohibitions were originally put in place to protect the outstanding cultural, environmental and landscape values of these properties. The amendments will ensure that the protection of these values continues under Aboriginal freehold land tenure in line with the tenure settlement arrangements for the two properties, as requested by traditional owners of the land and supported by the Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

The bill amends the Land Act 1994 to provide a modern compliance framework. Currently, the Land Act provides only limited tools to allow the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to appropriately manage state land, particularly unallocated state land and reserves that have no trustees. Of particular note is the lack of contemporary powers required to address issues such as the illegal dumping of rubbish, noise and erosion caused by motorbike riders and four-wheel drives, and illegal camping. There is also an inability to deal rapidly with dangerous infrastructure of risk to public safety or to address the burden to the state and taxpayers of unsafe and inappropriate buildings and structures.

A range of compliance tools similar to existing provisions in equivalent state legislation is proposed, providing the government with the flexibility to respond more appropriately, effectively and in a timely manner to different compliance situations. Amendments to the authorised officer provisions in the Land Act are proposed to provide protection to government officers as well as modern safeguards to the community.

The bill also proposes minor amendments to the Land Act to streamline processes for tourism lease renewals on regulated islands. The amendments will allow marine term leases to become rolling term leases where they are tied by covenant to a perpetual lease and provide supporting infrastructure. This responds to stakeholder feedback, providing greater security for leaseholders of tourism leases which support and strengthen the tourism industry.

Queensland is well on the way to a completely online electronic conveyancing system after computerising its property titles register in 1994. Since that time, people have shown that they are increasingly comfortable with not requiring a piece of paper to evidence ownership, with only some 12 per cent of properties in the state still having a paper title in existence. Following Queensland's approach, all other states have eliminated, or are in the process of eliminating, duplicate paper certificates of title.

Amendments to the Land Title Act 1994 encourage and facilitate the take-up of online e-conveyancing by removing the legal effect of these duplicate paper certificates of title. Additionally, the bill has been amended to change the date of commencement of the amendments to the Land Title Act that remove the legal effect of duplicate paper certificates of title to 1 July 2019 to give stakeholders an adequate lead time following on from the reintroduction of the bill. The bill proposes to amend the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988 to make definitions for 'foreign person' and 'foreign corporation' consistent with those used in the Duties Act 2001, reducing duplication and red tape. Other minor amendments will generally update the act, including contemporary penalty provisions. The amendments to the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act will now commence by proclamation to ensure that the amendments are not inadvertently retrospective.

The bill also amends the Explosives Act 1999 to improve community safety by strengthening security provisions. Queensland is the largest user of explosives in Australia, predominately in the mining industry, using approximately one-third of the three million tonnes consumed annually. In Queensland, 'explosives' includes ammunition, blasting explosives, distress signals, flares, fireworks, propellants and pyrotechnics. Licence holders can purchase, possess, use, transport and store various amounts of explosives depending on their licence. Explosives safety and security are critical to the resources industry and for the protection of the Queensland community. As it stands, the Explosives Act is silent on security related matters and it is essential that explosives legislation is kept current with contemporary safety and security standards and meets community expectations.

The bill includes amendments to prohibit a person who is the subject of a domestic violence order from holding an explosives licence, contributing to this government's strategy to end domestic and family violence in Queensland by its support of the Not Now, Not Ever policy.

Further amendments will align Queensland with the national harmonisation process to achieve national consistency in explosives regulation.

The bill also amends the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004. This act regulates workplace safety of the gas industry so that the act remains relevant and contemporary for workers in the gas sector and gives confidence to the community around issues of gas safety. The bill aligns gas safety laws with both mining and general workplace safety laws, modernises safety reporting requirements, clarifies definitions and introduces a new framework for managing operating plant that has been abandoned. A regulatory framework that is effective and up to date is important to meet industry and community expectations for competent safety regulators. The explosives and gas safety amendments in this bill achieve another milestone by the government to ensure that Queensland resources safety legislation is contemporary and effective.

Amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 are proposed to address minor issues in the overlapping tenure framework for coal and coal seam gas. These amendments are technical and noncontroversial. The bill makes a range of minor amendments to the operational and technical provisions in each of the amended acts. These changes will ensure that the state's statute book remains up to date, effective and reflects contemporary drafting practices. I commend the bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.21 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### **Referral to State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.



### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (4.21 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 136 the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report to the House on the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 9 April 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (4.22 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency recommends the Plumbing and Drainage Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE BILL 2018

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intitled-

A Bill for an Act about plumbing and drainage, and the licensing of plumbers and drainers, and to amend this Act, the Planning Act 2016, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 and the Acts mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 14 February 2018

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 14 February 2018, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018 [[188](#)].

### Introduction

**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (4.22 pm): I present a bill for an act about plumbing and drainage, and the licensing of plumbers and drainers, and to amend this act, the Planning Act 2016, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 and the acts mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Transport and Public Works Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018 [[189](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018, explanatory notes [[190](#)].

I am pleased to rise today to introduce the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018. This bill will deliver a contemporary suite of plumbing and drainage laws which will meet industry and community expectations over the next decade. The bill also amends the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 to establish a mechanical services licence, including for medical gas. On 10 October last year I introduced this bill into the 55th Parliament, but following its dissolution the bill lapsed. The bill that I am introducing today is substantially the same as the one I introduced back in October, and as such so is my explanatory speech. However, three amendments have been made to this bill since its previous introduction which I will outline for honourable members as part of my speech. These amendments are relatively minor in nature. This bill delivers on the third instalment of legislative reforms under the Queensland Building Plan, and with the introduction of the bill today the Palaszczuk government is delivering on an election commitment.

Most of us only think about plumbing when something goes wrong. As a result, we tend to underestimate the critical role that our plumbing laws play in protecting public health and safety and the environment. We expect the water that comes out of the taps in our kitchen and the plumbing in our



bathroom to be safe and reliable. Our community has safe water and sanitation services because of the dedication of the licensed plumbers and drainers who install and maintain these critical services. As we move around our cities and urban areas going in and out of buildings, Queenslanders expect air-conditioning services to simply keep them comfortable and never pose a threat to their safety. We have that expectation because of the professional standards that are achieved by our air-conditioning industry. Some of the most critical times of our lives are when our loved ones are in hospital. Without knowing it, at that time we rely on the skills of professional gasfitters. These are the people who ensure that things like life-saving oxygen and anaesthesia are safely delivered to surgical theatres and recovery wards. This is something that Queenslanders often—and should—take for granted. Our aim is to keep it that way.

The new Plumbing and Drainage Bill will deliver a streamlined and contemporary regulatory framework that reduces red tape. It will deliver savings in time and money for people who are building a home; it will deliver a contemporary and consistent penalty framework for offences; and it will deliver increased protections for consumers when purchasing and having plumbing products installed. Our plumbing reforms will promote savings in cost and time by reducing time frames for approving permits to commence certain plumbing work. Most home owners will be able to fast-track their application and obtain a permit to start work in just two business days, which is a reduction from the current 20 business days. The time frame for more complex projects such as multiunit residential and commercial buildings will be halved from 20 business days down to 10 business days. Faster approvals mean faster construction. If you can start sooner you can finish the job sooner and move on to the next job. Queensland home owners could save an estimated \$640 in holding costs for a \$255,000 block by being able to commence plumbing work 18 days earlier. That said, Queenslanders can rest assured there will be no reduction in standards. There are no changes to the inspection process and all permit work will continue to be inspected by local government. The bill also provides greater deterrence for breaches of our important plumbing laws. There are increased penalties for unlicensed plumbing work and for offences that endanger health and safety.

The bill also amends the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 to establish a new licence for mechanical services and medical gas work. The licence will regulate mechanical services work in large or public buildings used by the general public and community such as hospitals, shopping centres, office blocks and other commercial buildings, residential apartment blocks and entertainment complexes, including aquaria. The licence will not have an impact on ordinary home owners. It will not cover class 1a buildings, meaning a single dwelling—for example, a detached house, townhouse or villa—or class 10 buildings, meaning a non-habitable building or structure; for example, a garage or shed. The licence has been designed to have no impact on our energy and resources industry and other industries such as manufacturing and processing.

The bill establishes exclusions from mechanical services work. This includes the installation of a single-head split system, gas work regulated under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety Act) 2004 or the manufacture of pipe or ducting. Poorly performed mechanical services work has the potential to cause significant health and safety issues in the community. Members of this place are well aware of the danger posed by legionella in commercial air-conditioning systems. In addition to dealing with public health risks such as legionnaire's disease in air-conditioning systems, the new mechanical services licence will address the serious risks posed by noncompliant medical gas installations. Members will recall the tragic incidents in 2016 at a New South Wales hospital where one infant died and other tragically suffered permanent brain damage as a result of mistakenly being administered nitrous oxide. It was later discovered that the medical gas system had been incorrectly installed. The loss suffered by those families is unimaginable and unfathomable. The changes will introduce formal qualifications and licensing requirements for medical gas work in Queensland to ensure that this work is performed by individuals who are suitably qualified.

The new mechanical services licence will be administered by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission as part of its ordinary business as Queensland's building industry regulator. There will be a period of transition before the new mechanical services licence commences. The transitional period will allow people who are currently unlicensed, including in the employ of a contractor licensee, to complete the necessary qualifications or demonstrate that they have the appropriate skills and experience to obtain a licence. This will allow the industry time to prepare for the changes and to transition to a new class of licence with limited disruption.

As I mentioned, since I first introduced the bill I have received further feedback from stakeholders. I am introducing a bill with some minor differences to the first one and I will canvass those now.

Part 7 of the 2017 bill contained provisions that related to QBCC investigators. They provided for matters such as the appointment, functions and powers of QBCC investigators. These provisions were originally included in the bill as they were needed to ensure the effective compliance and enforcement of the new Plumbing and Drainage Act. However, amendments to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 made by the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017 have established standardised provisions that relate to QBCC investigators and investigations. As these standardised provisions apply to the Plumbing and Drainage Act, part 7 can be omitted. The omission of part 7 has also resulted in a number of minor amendments to the bill. The commencement date in the bill has also been amended from 2 July 2018 to a date fixed by proclamation. This change ensures sufficient time for industry, local government and the community to prepare for the new Plumbing and Drainage Act.

Finally, the bill contains a minor amendment to insert the word 'not' in clause 78(2). This was omitted in error in the previous bill. This change will clarify the obligation on the owner of a premises which discharges kitchen greywater in an unsewered area. Amendments in the bill will also ensure the safety and integrity of plumbing products, including those certified under the national WaterMark Scheme that are installed in our homes, our places of work and local shopping centres, for example. The bill complements the Palaszczuk government's nonconforming building product laws, providing the ability for government to act swiftly to prohibit WaterMark products, whether it be a kitchen mixer tap or a prefabricated bathroom module which is considered defective, not fit for purpose or poses a public health risk.

From the boardroom to the local pub, we have listened to feedback that has shaped, reformed and refined the bill. In conclusion, the reforms in the bill are responsive to the needs of business, small and large. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (4.29 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Transport and Public Works Committee

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

### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (4.30 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Transport and Public Works Committee report to the House on the Plumbing and Drainage Bill by 9 April 2018.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Debate, on motion of Mrs D'Ath, adjourned.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.30 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, I be permitted to move at 5 pm today the motion for which I gave notice earlier today for the adoption of sessional orders for the 56th Parliament, with time limits for speeches and debate as follows—

- five minutes for each member, and
- total debate time before question put: one hour.

The motion before us is to establish time frames around the debate we will have on the further sessional orders for the 56th Parliament. The moving and setting of time frames around a debate is not unusual and is certainly not new. When I was on the other side of this House I remember a number of times those opposite moved time frames around debates.

**Mr Bleijie:** Never!

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection. The Manager of Opposition Business actually did that with a straight face! The opposing of this motion by the opposition and a debate occurring around this matter will be further evidence of how much more efficient our parliament could be and should be. This debate will be an important debate, but it is also important that this House be given the opportunity to get on with the important business before it, including the introduction of bills and address-in-reply. There should be no fear in setting time frames for reasonable debates before this House. In fact, the whole purpose of moving this motion is so that we can move on to a debate that talks about setting reasonable hours for this House, and that is exactly what we seek to do with this debate itself. This motion sets a time frame for this debate of one hour. We believe that that is a reasonable and sensible length of time to debate issues around procedures of this House.


As I say, it is an important motion that we will be debating at five o'clock, but it is also a motion that can be quite easily articulated within a reasonable time frame without being completely repetitious about the actual substance of the debate. The fact is it will go to what changes we would seek to make to the sessional orders and what the opposition does or does not agree with in relation to that. I will assume that most of that debate will be very similar and we will not take issue with that in relation to repetition, but we have to acknowledge that there only needs to be so much repetition when seeking to put a debate around a particular issue, and that is exactly what will happen tonight. We have also sought a time frame of five minutes for each member so that we can get more members into this debate within that one-hour time frame, allowing six speakers on each side to debate the substantive motion when the time comes. This is about efficient government. This is about an efficient parliament.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** There will be those on the other side who will call what we are seeking to do as gagging. What we are seeking to do is create efficiency in this parliament that I think is well and truly overdue.

**Mr Bleijie:** Abuse!

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection. I think the member for Kawana certainly understands the definition of abuse of the parliament, because he has certainly exercised that on many occasions in the past. This is a procedural motion that seeks to set a reasonable debate time to allow a number of speakers—12 speakers—to debate on behalf of government and non-government members the importance of sessional orders going forward for this parliament. We ask that all members of this parliament support this procedural motion.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.36 pm): This is what you get with an arrogant majority Labor government with everything it accused the LNP of over the years. Those opposite snuck under their little rocks for the last three years in a hung parliament and pretended to be accountable, open and transparent, realising they had to fight every fight for every vote they could, but the minute they get a majority they guillotine debate, they silence debate. There are more members in this place now. There are 93 members in this House and now it is guised by the Leader of the House as, 'It's appropriate to set time frames in these sorts of debates.' No, no, no. That is what they called a guillotine in the old days. That is what they call it when you cut off debate. That is what they call it when you silence members and you do not want to face scrutiny. That is what this is about.

The Leader of the House said that this is a very important debate that we are going to have at five o'clock—so important that we are truncating the debate to one hour and we are only allowing members to speak for five minutes. Out of the 93 members of parliament, that is only five or six opposition members, one crossbench member and those opposite. I would not say that that is a fair and reasonable debate time for 93 members of parliament to debate such an important issue.

This important issue, as the Leader of the House said, that we are talking about relates to the sessional and standing orders of parliament that have been in place now since Peter Wellington was the previous Speaker. He put in place those sessional and standing orders which we have abided by for over three years, and all of a sudden in one hour the Leader of the House wants to throw it out without really any consultation with other members of parliament. In one hour she wants to throw it all away because they are afraid of scrutiny. The member can sit there and pontificate and whinge about

what I am saying, but that is the reality. Incidentally, I feel sorry for the member for Pine Rivers. I do not know how she drew the short straw to end up on our side of the House out of the Labor Party. Heaps of new members got on the government side, but the poor member for Pine Rivers drew the short straw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, please come back to the motion.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will come back to the debate; of course, Mr Speaker. This is an important debate and the Leader of the House is saying that it is so important members get five minutes. The Leader of the House says that we do not want repetition. I am never repetitious.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I was going to jump to take personal offence at that, because let the record show: I am never repetitive. I always stay on message and I always talk about the issues that are important to the people of Queensland.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, could you repeat that please?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** No, Mr Speaker. It is also important for the new crossbench. We now have four or five new members of the crossbench—Independents, Katter party and One Nation—who have never seen the previous sessional orders that former Speaker Wellington introduced. They have never had the debate, so it may seem to them that given the debate we are going to have for sessional orders one six o'clock motion debate a week would be fine and they do not know about the three-minute speeches before question time. Those debates are just as important for the crossbench as they are for the opposition because that is their time to hold this government to account and they ought to have the same time as anyone else in this chamber to hold the government to account.

I put it to the crossbench—

**An honourable member:** And the Greens.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I include the Greens member in the crossbench. They will have a limited ability to speak in this one-hour debate. The matters that we will debate are as important to the crossbench as they are to us.

As I said at the start, this is what we get with an arrogant Labor majority government. Everything they accused the LNP of doing—and they were still doing it this morning by going back five or six years ago—they will do in a majority Labor government. One thing that came out of this election that I am glad about is that we have a clear majority because, finally, the people of Queensland will see what a Labor majority government will do. It will rush things. In the past we saw Andrew Fraser and Paul Lucas guillotine debate. We saw Cameron Dick, the member for Woodridge, guillotine debate. They were scared of scrutiny. They did not want to have debates on these matters.

The Leader of the House offered to brief me on these sessional orders, for which I thank her, and she did. I told her that we would not be able to agree with them. Not at any stage was I told that we would be having only a one-hour debate. All the sessional and standing orders are being thrown up in the air and we would have only one hour in which to debate these important issues. Motion debates are important for crossbenchers and opposition members. Three-minute speeches before question time are important for crossbenchers and opposition members. We know why the government does not want the three-minute speeches.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, I ask you to come back to the relevance of the motion. It is about time frames.

**A government member:** Always relevant.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** No, I said I am not repetitive. I put it to the crossbench and the opposition members that we will not be supporting this motion for this debate. We should have a proper debate on the sessional and standing orders. I am prepared to be here as long as it takes so that every member of the crossbench and every member of the opposition can debate the sessional and standing orders. If that means that a minister, who is paid over \$330,000 a year, has to stay past six o'clock at night, I think they should do that. Where else do they have to go? If a minister is whingeing that they get \$350,000 a year but they want to go home and tuck themselves into bed at six o'clock at night and not debate these sorts of things, that is their problem.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, I ask you to come back to the substantive part of this motion, which is time frames.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am prepared to debate these time frames all night and I challenge the Labor government to do the same. The Minister for State Development was squawking, 'We have to deal with the issues of parliament.' Guess what? The sessional and standing orders are important for parliament. They tell us what time we have to be here. They tell us what time we finish. They tell us how we debate.

The sessional and standing orders might not be important to you, but they are important to me and they are important to the other members on this side of the House. That is why this motion should be defeated.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you will direct your comments through the chair.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (4.42 pm): All I have to say to the new members to whom the honourable member kept referring, there is exhibit A. I have had the privilege of serving in this parliament on and off for the best part of 12 years and I say, 'Trust me. You are going to love these new sessional orders.' I acknowledge the former member for Callide. We all know that he used his whole 20 minutes just to use his whole 20 minutes. He thought it was a sport. I think the hour that we have is enough time for everyone to have a reasonable debate about the sessional orders. If we cannot get this across in one hour, then I give up.


**Mr Powell:** I'll move that motion.

**Ms JONES:** I take that interjection. He certainly made glowing reports about that mob. The member for Kawana demonstrated during his eight minutes in which there was repetition and the Speaker called him to remain relevant to the motion that there is a more efficient way we can deliver to the people of Queensland robust and honest debate. Working parents know that efficiency is really important. There is an old saying that if you cannot say it in a couple of minutes then you should not bother saying it at all. I say to the member for Kawana that this is not a vanity contest. It is not about how many times you can repeat yourself, supposedly making it funnier each time.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I refer to your rulings this morning and ask for your guidance to members, particularly ministers, about how they address people in the chamber.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Kawana. Minister, please refer your comments through the chair and do not use 'you'. Please use the member's correct title.

**Ms JONES:** I conclude after one minute by saying that I think one hour in which to have a debate about the reasonable way forward for our parliament without repetition, or members having to be warned by the Speaker to come back to relevance, is more than enough time.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.45 pm): I rise to oppose the time constraints being imposed by this lazy Labor government. Its changes to the sessional orders of this parliament are an arrogant attempt to escape scrutiny and transparency. These changes are political expediency at its worst. They are another example of a Labor political act of bastardry, as we have seen in this House—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, will you please withdraw that comment. The language is unparliamentary.

**Ms BATES:** I withdraw. These changes are designed to stop those opposite from being accountable to this parliament and the people of Queensland. Lazy Labor does not think that it should have to front up to Queenslanders. It does not mind that it does not have any record to stand on, as long as it can find a way to cling to power.

We know that those opposite have introduced less legislation during their time in office than was introduced under the LNP. We know that, in the last parliament, there were fewer sitting days than there were in the one before it. We know that 30 more bills were passed by the LNP than there were under Labor. We know that more LNP bills went to committees for consideration than did Labor bills. We know that the LNP debated bills for 70 hours longer than did those opposite.

**A government member:** This is a debate about time limits.

**Ms BATES:** I am talking about time limits—70 hours longer than they were debated by those opposite. Labor replaced these debates with 22 additional hours of waffle and spin.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is a debate on a procedural motion. It is not a walk through history; it is about the specific motion on time limits.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Miller. I am keeping a very close eye on the member. I will be addressing all members of the House very shortly about the issue you have just raised.

**Ms BATES:** Sadly, removing private members' statements is just the latest example of Labor's blatant disregard—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, the motion that has been moved talks to the issue of time limits: five minutes for each member, with the total debate time before the question is put to be one hour. That debate is scheduled to take place at 5 pm. I put all members of the House on notice. This is a procedural motion about time limits. I expect that all future contributions will deal with that matter and not the substantive matter of the motion that is to be put at 5 pm.

**Ms BATES:** There are some new members here in the parliament on both sides, including the crossbench, who have not been in this parliament previously and seen the way business was conducted in the House. I think it is appalling that, as usual with this Labor government, at the death knell these changes to the sessional orders are being brought in to stop members from representing their electorates by being given time to speak to issues that are relevant to their areas. We need to make sure that we have a robust debate. Mr Speaker, you said that this morning in the information that you gave us.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, can I clarify that you are speaking to the time in which members can speak on behalf of their electorates in the debate at 5 pm or are you talking in general? I have just made a very clear statement to the House about the substantive motion being debated at 5 pm.

**Ms BATES:** It is really quite brash of this government to come in here and reduce the time.


**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Education, we will hear the member in silence.

**Ms BATES:** We want to make sure that every member in this House has the opportunity to speak on why these sessional orders are being changed, which I know will be dealt with later. It is very important that people can actually get up and say, 'I am here representing my electorate. I want to be able to speak for a particular period of time on something that is really important to my electorate.' Everybody in this chamber has the right to do that. Everybody in this chamber was elected by the people in their electorate to enable them to do that. What we are seeing here tonight is the Palaszczuk Labor government being arrogant and out of touch and abusing their power in this House. There will be less time for non-government business and less time for scrutiny of this government.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, you are straying again to the substantive motion to be debated at 5 pm. If you have no further contribution regarding the time frames for that debate at 5 pm I would ask you to resume your seat.

**Ms BATES:** On behalf of the new members in this chamber who have not seen the arrogance of this Labor government, I think that we should have the opportunity to speak for as long in this place as we need to. If it is something the other side do not like that is just too bad. We are all here to represent our own electorates and everyone should be given that opportunity.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.51 pm): I rise to address the time limits that are being offered for the debate about our sessional orders. It is very important that we have an understanding that the honourable member for Cooper spoke for two minutes about why we should truncate the debate. That is three times longer than is being offered to the members to actually have the debate. She spoke for three times longer explaining why we should have a one-hour debate. She spoke for 120 seconds and there are 38 seconds being offered to each member to speak on this debate. I wonder why on earth we would have a situation where the opposite side would only like each member to have 38 seconds to discuss the sessional orders.

I am more than happy to come back to the sessional orders in that debate, but the job of this chamber is to hold the executive to account. All I have heard so far is the executive not wanting to be held to account by giving the members of this House the opportunity to speak on having themselves gagged by the executive. That is a very dangerous situation for our democracy here in Queensland. If the executive can gag the parliament so that they have one-third less time to talk about why they should not be gagged than the member for Cooper spent explaining why she should be gagged, it just makes a lunacy of the whole issue. The member for Cooper knows that she spoke three times longer than the members of this House are being offered the opportunity to speak in the substantive debate.

It is incredibly important for me that the members of this House have the opportunity to hold the executive to account. If they cannot hold the executive to account we will end up with a situation where an arrogant, lazy government will make this parliament jump through hoops. Giving someone 38 seconds to speak against why they should not be gagged sounds like a gag in the first place. We have a double gag going on. One has to ask why on earth would those opposite be working so hard to silence this chamber. If we are going to silence this chamber surely we can save the taxpayer a lot of money and all go home and move to a dictatorship, which we know the executive would like to have.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:** Why don't those opposite move a motion to dissolve the House, get rid of it all and appoint a dictator. The government wants a dictatorship. It is gagging this chamber from being able to express its will and hold it to account. It is using the weapon of the standing orders and restricting the time members can speak by gagging this motion to stop us from being able to explain why we need more time.

This chamber deserves to have time to discuss the standing orders. The standing orders are the rule book that governs this parliament. If that rule book is going to be torn up and the members of this chamber unable to hold the government to account then I cannot look my electors in the face and say that I can do the job they elected me to do. They elected me to make sure that the government of Queensland does a job on their behalf. I do not understand why a government that proudly announces how well it did at the election would be afraid of having the members of this House hold it to account. There can only be a couple of reasons. They are either very arrogant, very incompetent or possibly both. What concerns me the most is if you have an arrogant, incompetent government that is truncating debate in this chamber, what kind of service are we delivering for the people of Queensland. I am concerned for my constituents in Toowoomba North that I will be unable to do the job that they have elected me to do, which is to make sure that this chamber serves the people of Queensland well and truly.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members. It is getting a bit heated. Member for Cooper, be very careful.

**Mr WATTS:** In summing up, the only possible reason I can see for wanting to tear up the standing orders is to silence criticism of the government. The only reason for trying to stop us even debating the standing orders is because the government members are terribly afraid that the people of Queensland will realise they are both incompetent and arrogant.

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

**AYES, 50:**

**ALP, 47**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Independent, 1**—Bolton.

**Greens, 1**—Berkman.

**NOES, 42:**

**LNP, 39**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## MOTION

### Sessional Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.03 pm): I move—

That the sessional orders for the 56th Parliament circulated in my name be agreed to and effective from Friday, 16 February 2018.

#### Sessional Orders—56th Parliament (First Session)

##### Days and Hours of Sitting and Order of Business

1. (a) The House shall sit on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- (b) The House shall sit each day from 9.30am until the automatic adjournment is declared in accordance with Sessional Order 2(2)(c), unless adjourned earlier in accordance with Sessional Order 2(3).
- (c) The Order of Business for each Sitting Day shall be as follows—

**Tuesday**

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business \*

Prayers  
 Messages from the Governor  
 Matters concerning privilege  
 Speaker's Statements  
 Appointments  
 Petitions  
 Citizen's Right of Reply  
 Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk  
 Ministerial Papers  
 Ministerial Notices of Motion  
 Ministerial Statements  
 Any other Government Business  
 Personal Explanations  
 Tabling of Reports  
 Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—

Matters of Public Interest

3.00pm—5.30pm—

Government Business

5.30pm—7.00pm—

Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business (in accordance with Sessional Order 1(d))

7.00pm—7.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

**Wednesday**

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business \*

Prayers  
 Messages from the Governor  
 Matters concerning privilege  
 Speaker's Statements  
 Appointments  
 Petitions  
 Citizen's Right of Reply  
 Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk  
 Ministerial Papers  
 Ministerial Notices of Motion  
 Ministerial Statements  
 Any other Government Business  
 Personal Explanations  
 Tabling of Reports  
 Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument  
 Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (6.00pm—7.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—12.30pm—

Government Business



12.30pm—1.00pm—

Introduction of Private Members' Bills #

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—6.00pm—

Government Business

6.00pm—7.00pm—

Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.15am to take precedence)

7.00pm—7.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

*# (If there are no Private Members' Bills to introduce, or any introduction to complete, the next item of business to commence with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusted accordingly.)*

#### **Thursday**

9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business \*

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—

Private Members' Statements (Total time 60 minutes, 20 members x 3 minutes each)

3.00pm—4.00pm—

Debate of Committee Reports (in accordance with Sessional Order 3) if no reports to debate, Government Business

4.00pm—6.00pm—

Government Business

6.00pm—6.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

(d) On a Tuesday afternoon—

(i) if there are no Disallowance Motions or Private Members' Bills to debate (in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 59 or Sessional Order 5), the adjournment may be either moved immediately or otherwise continue with Government Business until automatic adjournment;

(ii) if there are Disallowance Motions or Private Members' Bills to debate (in accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 59 or Sessional Order 5), the House will commence with Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business until automatic adjournment.

(e) If the House sits on any day other than a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, then unless otherwise ordered, the order of business shall be as follows:

*From 9.30 am—10.00 am—*

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

*10.00am—10.30am—*

Question Time

*10.30am—1.00pm—*

Government Business

*1.00pm—2.00pm—*

Lunch break

*2.00pm—until adjournment moved—*

Government Business

#### **Automatic Adjournment**

2. (1) Standing Order 56 is suspended for this session.

(2) At the time specified for the Automatic Adjournment in the Order of Business for each Sitting Day, the Speaker shall:

- (a) notify the House that it is the time for the Automatic Adjournment of the House;
- (b) shall call on up to ten members to speak for no more than three minutes each to make an adjournment statement; and
- (c) at the conclusion of the members' statements in 2(b) above, shall declare the House is adjourned to the date and time previously agreed to by the House.

(3) Notwithstanding Sessional Orders 1(b) and 2(2), the motion "That the House do now adjourn" may be moved by the Leader or Acting Leader of the House at any time despite the order of business, in which case there will be an Adjournment Debate for 30 minutes and then the question shall be put.

#### **Debate of Parliamentary committee reports**

3. (1) If a committee report is tabled that is not:

- (a) a report on a bill pursuant to Part 5 of the Standing Orders;
- (b) an annual report of a Committee;
- (c) 'a report on travel undertaken by a Committee;
- (d) a report of the Ethics Committee; or
- (e) a report by a Committee on subordinate legislation

then a motion shall be set down on the notice paper by the Clerk that the House is to take note of the committee report.

(2) Motions that the House take note of committee reports will be brought on for debate in the time set aside each Thursday in the order in which they are placed on the notice paper.

(3) A debate of a motion in (2) not completed may be adjourned to the following Thursday.

(4) A motion in (2) cannot be amended.

(5) A motion in accordance with (1) is set down on the notice paper regardless of whether the report is tabled whilst the House is sitting or not sitting.

#### **Consideration of Ethics Committee Reports in regard to Citizen's Right of Reply**

4 When the Ethics Committee reports to the House regarding a Citizen's Right of Reply in accordance with Standing Order 283, the committee's recommendation will be considered by the House on the next sitting day following the tabling of the committee's report and at the time in the Order of Business as specified in Sessional Order 1.

**Private Members' Bills**

5. (1) A member who is not a Minister may introduce a Bill during time set aside in the Order of Business for Private Members' Bills. In such a case the Member introducing the Bill may either complete the speech in the time allotted or, if not completed, adjourn their speech to the next period allotted.

(2) A Private Members' Bill which has been reported on by a portfolio or other committee, will be brought on for debate on the sitting Tuesday evening next following the passage of three calendar months after the tabling of the committee's report on the Bill.

(3) The House will continue to debate the Bill on each following sitting Tuesday evening until consideration of that Bill has been finalised.

**Condolence Motions**

6. (1) A motion of condolence may be moved as the first item of business after Speaker's Statements in the Order of Business.

(2) If a motion of condolence is moved in accordance with (1), the debate on such motion will last no more than one hour, after which time the question shall be put.

(3) After a motion of condolence is moved, debated and resolved in accordance with (1) and (2), the Order of Business for the day shall then resume, with Question Time commencing 45 minutes after the motion of condolence was resolved and with starting times for all other items, except lunch and dinner breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.

**Matters of Public Interest, Private Members Statements and adjournment statements**

7. During the time set aside for Matters of Public Interest, Private Members Statements and adjournment statements, no questions can be put nor divisions called.

**Maximum time limits for debates, speeches and statements**

8. The maximum time limits that apply to debates, speeches and statements are contained in the schedule below.

Subject	Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders	Time
<b>Address in Reply Debate</b> – Total time – Mover – Other members – Mover in reply	SO 47	28 hours 20 minutes 20 minutes 30 minutes
<b>Adjournment Statements</b> – Total time – Each member	Sessional Order 2(2)(b)	30 minutes 3 minutes
<b>Adjournment Debate</b> – Total time – Each member	Sessional Order 2(3)	30 minutes 3 minutes
<b>Bills—Government Bills</b> Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech) First reading  <b>Government Bills reported on by a committee</b> Second reading debate – Minister – Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) – Other members – Minister in reply  Consideration in detail – Mover (Minister) – Other members (on each question)  <i>Government Bills declared urgent and not referred or not reported on by a committee</i> Second reading debate – Minister	SO 129 SO 130  SO 138  SO 146 & SO 147  SO 129, SO 137 & SO 138	1 hour No debate  30 minutes 30 minutes 10 minutes 20 minutes  No limit 3 minutes  To speak once only as per SO 129 for 1 hour
– Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) – Other members – Mover in reply Consideration in detail Mover	SO 146, SO 147 & SO 156	1 hour 15 minutes 30 minutes  No limit

Subject	Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders	Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) (on each questions)</li> <li>– Other members (on each question)</li> </ul>		1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes & 2 x 5 minutes 1 x 10 minutes or 2 x 5 minutes
<p><b>Bills—Private Members' Bills</b></p> <p>Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech)            First reading            Second reading debate            – All members            – Mover in reply            Consideration in detail</p> <p><b>Where Bill has been considered by portfolio committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mover</li> <li>– Other members (on each question)</li> </ul> <p><b>Where Bill has not been considered by portfolio committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mover</li> <li>– Other members (on each question)</li> <li>– Minister responsible for policy area (on each question)</li> </ul>	SO 129 & Sessional Order 5 SO 130 SO 138  SO 146, SO 147 & SO 156	1 hour No debate  10 minutes 30 minutes  No limit 3 minutes  No limit 3 minutes 1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes and 2 x 5 minutes
<b>Debate of Committee Reports—each member</b>	Sessional Order 3	5 minutes
<p><b>Disallowance of statutory instruments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Total time</li> <li>– Mover</li> <li>– Other members</li> <li>– Minister in reply</li> </ul>	SO 59	1 hour 30 minutes 15 minutes 10 minutes 20 minutes
<p><b>Dissent to ruling of Speaker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Total time</li> <li>– Each member</li> </ul>	SO 250	1 hour 10 minutes
<p><b>Election of Speaker</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Each member</li> </ul>	SO 39	5 minutes
<p><b>Extension of Time, by consent of a majority of the House, without debate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Motions and Second Reading Debates</li> <li>– Question Time</li> </ul>		5 minutes 2 minutes
<b>Matters concerning privilege</b>	Sessional Order 1, & SO 248 & 267	At discretion of Speaker
<p><b>Matters of Public Interest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Total time</li> <li>– Leader of Opposition or nominee</li> <li>– Other members</li> </ul>	Sessional Order 1 & 7	1 hour 10 minutes 5 minutes
<p><b>Motions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mover</li> <li>– Other members</li> <li>– Mover in reply</li> </ul>	Chapter 15	10 minutes 10 minutes 15 minutes
<b>Personal Explanations—each member</b>	Sessional Order 1	At discretion of Speaker
<p>Private Members' Motions            (Wednesday 6.00–7.00 pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Total time</li> <li>– All members</li> </ul>	Sessional Order 1	1 hour 5 minutes
	Sessional Order 1 & 7	

Subject	Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders	Time
<b>Private Members' Statements</b> – Total time – Each member		1 hour 3 minutes
<b>Tabling of Reports</b> – Chairperson of Committee on presentation of committee report – Member tabling report	Sessional Order 1 & 2	5 minutes 2 minutes
<b>Questions Without Notice</b> – Question time (total time)  – Member asking question  – Minister answering question	Sessional Order 1 & SO 113	1 hour, Tues, Wed, Thurs. 30 minutes on Friday At discretion of Speaker 3 minutes

### Dress standards

9. Dress standards in the parliamentary chamber should be appropriate to the Queensland climate and reflect general community standards. All members and staff are expected to dress in business attire.

Male members and staff may wear a long-sleeve business shirt and tie or coat and long-sleeve business shirt without tie.

This week 93 members, some new and some returning, took their seats for the first time in the 56th Parliament, pledging to well and truly serve the people of Queensland. While I have no doubt that all honourable members will strive to work hard and in the best interests of their constituents, I do believe that collectively we can take steps to make the business of this House more open, transparent, accessible and efficient for all Queenslanders. What is more, the proposed sessional orders for the 56th Parliament aim to bring the Queensland parliament in line with many other jurisdictions across this country by streamlining the work of the House and setting sensible working hours.

In the previous debate we heard that 93 members should be able to speak to this motion. However, the fact is that 93 members are not allowed to speak to this motion. In this House there are many new members who have not made their first speech so would not have that opportunity. What they will get is the right to vote on this important motion to set the sessional orders going forward.


The significant changes in relation to the sessional orders as proposed mean that the House will sit from 9.30 am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings and rise, after the adjournment debate, at 7.30 on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and 6.30 on Thursday evening. The changes will ensure that at certain times—private members' statements, matters of public interest and adjournment debates—there will be no questions put or divisions called, allowing that time to occur uninterrupted. Those are very important times for backbenchers. The time set aside for matters of public interest, private members' statements and the adjournment debate are very important times for both government and non-government members to talk about issues that are important to them. Under the proposals we are putting forward, those three times allocated for private members' business will be able to occur uninterrupted without any questions being put or divisions called. That is important.

In addition, it means that on Tuesday and Thursday, for one hour after the lunch break, no questions can be put or divisions called whilst matters of public importance and private members' statements are being made. That will allow parliamentary committees to undertake work in the parliamentary precinct, be it public or private hearings, knowing that they can do so uninterrupted, as members will not be called to attend a division.

We have changed the lunch break from one and a half hours to one hour, because we believe that is sensible. There will not be a dinner break because we will sit until 7.30 in the evening.

How does this compare to other jurisdictions? The Victorian parliament adjourns at 7.30 pm; the West Australian parliament adjourns at 10 pm on Tuesday, 7 pm on Wednesday and 5 pm on Thursday; and the South Australia and Tasmanian parliaments adjourn at 7 pm. For the House of Representatives in our federal parliament, Malcolm Turnbull changed the rules so that they now finish at 8 pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and at 5 pm on Thursday evening. Importantly, over a week the majority of those states average between 21 and 25 hours of actual parliamentary sitting hours. Under this proposal, we will sit for 26 hours.

We are not seeking to cut back on time. We are seeking to have a more efficient use of time in this parliament. It is not too much to ask this parliament to, over four days, work three full sitting days with committees sitting on a Monday, because that is an efficient way for this chamber to operate and it will ensure that members of the public can watch our work, rather than having important debates and decisions made at one, two or three o'clock in the morning. It is about time that we had a sensible, respectful and adult conversation about what reasonable working times are for this chamber, which is what this motion to change sessional orders seeks to achieve. It is about time that the Queensland parliament comes into line with many other jurisdictions. We ask members to support this motion.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.08 pm): Just because there might be other lazy politicians around the Commonwealth does not mean that in Queensland we ought to follow suit and become lazy, bludging politicians. Just because their little comrades from other Labor governments ring them up and say, 'We are the Dolly Partons of the world, working nine to five. We finish at five o'clock. Why do you blokes go to midnight?', does not mean we should do the same. Just because there are lazy Labor politicians everywhere else does not mean we ought to follow them.

This is lazy Labor. This is arrogance. For the information of the new members, this is what a majority Labor government brings. Last year the Premier stood and, with Peter Wellington, made a big deal about this new era in Queensland of openness, transparency accountability. Gone! Peter Wellington has gone and so has that openness, transparency and accountability.

They are now wanting to put committee meetings on Monday mornings. They say this is under the guise of family-friendly hours. What about the regional members who cannot fly out of places like Biloela or other areas in rural and regional Queensland on a Sunday so cannot get here for committee meetings on Monday mornings?

We are losing the three minuters. I know why we are losing three minuters. It is because their great strategy before every question time was to bring in poor little Duncan Pegg, the member for Stretton, with a big blockbuster three minuter. He would then sit down so embarrassed because we had the big guns get up on this side of the House. I felt sorry for the member for Stretton. They do not want transparency before question time. They do not want the grabs on TV before question time.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will take that interjection. I know why you do not want them. They made the government look bad and it showed the government up for what it really was—incompetent and lazy.

The other thing with these proposed timings for parliament is that we lose the motion debates every night. We used to have motion debates on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. They will be gone. There would be one of those a week. The opportunities the opposition and the crossbench have to deliver new speeches in the parliament and to hold the government to account are gone under this proposal. That is why they only want an hour to debate this. They want this issue swept under the carpet as quickly as they can. I move our amendments to the proposed sessional orders—

1. Sessional Order 1(a)(b) and (c) omit, and insert –

**“Days and Hours of Sitting and Order of Business**

1. (a) The House shall sit on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- (b) The House shall sit each day from 9.30am on Tuesday and Thursday and from 1.00pm Wednesday until the automatic adjournment is declared in accordance with Sessional Order 2(2)(c), unless adjourned earlier in accordance with Sessional Order 2(3).
- (c) The Order of Business for each Sitting Day shall be as follows—
 

***Tuesday***

*9.30am—10.30am—Preliminary Business \**

  - Prayers
  - Messages from the Governor
  - Matters concerning privilege
  - Speaker's Statements
  - Appointments
  - Petitions
  - Citizen's Right of Reply
  - Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk
  - Ministerial Papers
  - Ministerial Notices of Motion
  - Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business  
 Personal Explanations  
 Tabling of Reports  
 Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument  
 Private Members' Statements  
 10.30 am—11.30 am—  
 Question Time  
 11.30 am—1.00pm—  
 Government Business  
 1.00pm—2.00pm—  
 Lunch break  
 2.00pm—3.00pm—  
 Matters of Public Interest  
 3.00pm—5.00pm—  
 Government Business  
 5.00pm—5.30pm—  
 Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.30am to take precedence)  
 5.30pm—7.30pm  
 Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business (in accordance with Sessional Order 1(d))  
 7.30pm—8.00pm—  
 Automatic Adjournment  
 \* (If completed before 10.30am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

**Wednesday**

12.00pm—1.00pm—Preliminary Business \*

Prayers  
 Messages from the Governor  
 Matters concerning privilege  
 Speaker's Statements  
 Appointments  
 Petitions  
 Citizen's Right of Reply  
 Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk  
 Ministerial Papers  
 Ministerial Notices of Motion  
 Ministerial Statements  
 Any other Government Business  
 Personal Explanations  
 Tabling of Reports  
 Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument  
 Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (6.00pm—7.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)  
 Private Members' Statements  
 1.00pm—2.00pm—  
 Question Time  
 2.00pm—2.30pm—  
 Introduction of Private Members' Bills #  
 2.30pm—7.00pm—  
 Government Business  
 7.00pm—7.30pm—  
 Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.30am to take precedence)  
 7.30pm—8.00pm—  
 Automatic Adjournment  
 \* (If completed before 10.30am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

*# (If there are no Private Members' Bills to introduce, or any introduction to complete, the next item of business to commence with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusted accordingly.)*

**Thursday**

9.30am—10.30am—Preliminary Business \*

Prayers  
 Messages from the Governor  
 Matters concerning privilege  
 Speaker's Statements  
 Appointments  
 Petitions  
 Citizen's Right of Reply  
 Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk  
 Ministerial Papers  
 Ministerial Notices of Motion  
 Ministerial Statements  
 Any other Government Business  
 Personal Explanations  
 Tabling of Reports  
 Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument  
 Private Members' Statements

10.30am—11.30am—

Question Time

11.30am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—

Private Members' Statements (Total time 60 minutes, 20 members x 3 minutes each)

3.00pm—4.00pm—

Debate of Committee Reports (in accordance with Sessional Order 3) if no reports to debate, Government Business

4.00pm—6.00pm—

Government Business

6.00pm—6.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

*\* (If completed before 10.15am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)*

These amendments are reasonable. These amendments put the committee meetings back to Wednesdays to allow members of parliament to go to their party room, shadow cabinet or cabinet meetings on Mondays. They also bring back the three minutes before question time so we can hold the government to account. They also give the crossbench and other MPs more time each week to debate motions. That means more time for the member for Hill to get up in this parliament and fight for his constituents. That is what this is about.

I urge honourable crossbench members to support the amendments that I have moved because they are reasonable amendments. As I said at the start, the only reason we are debating this motion is because we have a lazy government. Members of the 55th Parliament who have returned to this parliament will remember that there were times when we were twiddling our thumbs because there was not enough legislation to debate in the parliament. The reason they need to finish at five is that they have no work to do.

I suspect it will be the same in the 56th Parliament as it was in the 55th Parliament—they ran out of things to do so then they had to bring in the real big guns. As I said, the member for Stretton used to get up and talk about all manner of things he had no idea about, but he did it for his comrades, did you not, member for Stretton? They had nothing to talk about so they would bring in all the big guns to talk about legislation they had no idea about. The reality was that they did not have enough bills going through the chamber and the committee process. They were filibustering. I do not know anything about filibustering.




**Government members** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will take that one. I do not believe in repetition in this place either. We have a lazy government. They are a continuing bunch of lazy ministers. They do not have enough work to do. I urge all honourable members to support the amendments that the opposition has moved so that we can truly do the work that the Queensland taxpayers pay us for.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Miller, I want to remind all honourable members that cross-chamber chatter is not the point here. If you wish to speak to this motion please rise and make a contribution. Apart from that, please do not interject across the chamber.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.13 pm): I rise to oppose the amendments moved by the member for Kawana and support the government's motion. This is a parliament. This is not a Young Liberals meeting or a Young Nationals meeting. This is not a place for amateur thespians like the member for Kawana who revels in having a captive audience—as bored as we might be by his performances.

Under the proposed sessional orders this parliament will still have more hours of debate than any other state parliament in the country. Let us have a look at that. The proposed sessional orders mean there will be 26 hours of debate in Queensland. There have been an average of 24½ hours of debate in the New South Wales parliament—the largest parliament in this country; Victoria, 25½ hours; Western Australia, 22 hours; South Australia, 21½ hours; and Tasmania 22½ hours. Only the Commonwealth parliament—

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, you unfortunately have a very loud voice. It is much louder than many others on your side of the House. I ask you to cease interjecting.

**Mr BAILEY:** Only the Commonwealth has more sitting hours, and they sit for four days. Let us not hear this pathetic argument about democracy and being gagged. That is the repetitiveness of the opposition. If ever there were an endorsement of this reform by this government it is the repetitive contributions from the opposition where they have two sentences on a loop going around and around. This parliament should be about teamwork and discipline. If someone cannot get their argument across in a reasonable time frame then they should not be here. That is what this is about.

It is the 21st century. This parliament is a workplace and it should be family friendly. We should not be having ridiculous late-night debates until two in the morning. Who were the greatest complainers during the last term about sitting late? It was them. They complained so many times about late-night sittings—it was a conspiracy; it was shocking. When we move to take those out all we hear is the repetitive, bleating loop from the LNP—around and around. This is sensible reform—three full days of debate and moving the parliamentary committee meetings to Monday. It is not exactly earth-shattering; it is just common sense and sensible.

We are moving the disallowance motions and the private members' bills from Wednesday to Tuesday—oh, my God, the world is going to fall in if we bring these reforms in! We are reducing some of the time limits. The time for the second reading contribution of the minister and the shadow minister will be reduced from one hour to half an hour. If someone cannot get their arguments across in half an hour then they are not doing their work properly and not being thorough.

There are a range of reductions which are not about curtailing debate. They are about discipline. They are about people getting to the point and not filibustering and being the amateur thespian that the member for Kawana is. This parliament could do with less of that and do with more teamwork and more discipline. These sessional orders will promote sensible discussion.

**Opposition members** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, please resume your seat. I am hearing continual interjections from the member for Mudgeeraba, the member for Toowoomba North and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Please cease your interjections. If you wish to make a contribution, then make a contribution on your feet.

**Mr BAILEY:** Let us compare these sessional orders to the sessional orders of the Newman government. Under the Newman government there was four hours and 30 minutes for preliminary business and question time. What is there under these sessional orders? There will be five hours and 15 minutes. That is hardly a curtailment of democracy. If we compare private members' business time it was 30 per cent of the total time under the Newman government and 29 per cent under these

sessional orders. That is almost identical. If we compare government business time we find it was 51 per cent and under these sessional orders it will be 54 per cent. As members can see they are relatively marginal adjustments, but sensible. Let us have a full Wednesday of debate during the daylight where there will be more time for media scrutiny rather than debate into the night—until the ridiculous hours of midnight or two o'clock.

The final thing in support of these sessional orders is that we will never again see opposition members gallop back into the chamber half dressed like we saw them do in the last term. We will not see that again under these sessional orders. I actually think it is a good thing for democracy to see the member for Hervey Bay with a shirt on in this House. These are sensible, modern, family friendly sessional orders. I speak against the amendments and in favour of the motion.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.19 pm): I rise to support the sensible amendments moved in the House by the member for Kawana. That contribution by the minister over there shows how out of touch this Palaszczuk government is. Family friendly what? Seriously! There are major issues with the changes to these sessional orders. Firstly, they are shutting down the opposition and the crossbench's ability to hold this government to account in this House which is exactly what we were elected by our electorates to do. The other thing is that they have made the week of parliament completely unfriendly for everyone who is from outside of Brisbane and who has to travel to Brisbane. They will now have to leave their family on a Sunday, not those members over there who live in inner-city Brisbane. We will have to leave our families on a Sunday.

Mr Speaker, your cabinet even moved the time it will meet to later on a Monday so that I believe you, Mr Speaker, will be able to travel down from Cairns after spending a full Sunday with your beautiful family. That is what regional members want to do and that is what we like to do. It is hard enough to be away from our families without having to extend it to a whole week.

Importantly, this motion is saying that this government does not want to be open and accountable. We should not be silenced. Neither the opposition nor the crossbench should be silenced in this place. They have taken away the ability for the opposition and the crossbench to have the three minutes before question time. They have taken away the ability for the opposition and the crossbench to have an evening debate—to debate an issue that is of relevance and importance to our side, not the government. It is a debate to prove to the government that things should be different, as the LNP did in opposition last time when we won several six o'clock debate motions. We no longer have that option here in this House.

**Mr Mander:** They don't want to be embarrassed.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** That is exactly right. I take that interjection. They certainly do not want to be embarrassed. This is about hiding away, and no wonder. The Palaszczuk government has a culture of cover-ups and we know it. It has all been proven. For the benefit of the House, I am more than happy to prove that by tabling the front page of some papers. The front page of the *Courier-Mail* from 21 July 2017 says 'Big little lies'.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition, who knows the standing orders, is deliberately flouting them using props in this debate. She should know better than anybody in this place.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Firstly, I think the honourable minister should let his colleague do her job as Leader of the House.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Be careful.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Secondly, the opposition leader has said she will be tabling the documents and she will table them if she has an opportunity without being interrupted.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I appreciate the assistance of members in trying to point out where some of those on the opposite side may not be meeting standing orders. I was going to remind the Leader of the Opposition, who does know because she has been in this place for some time, that she must table those items. Leader of the Opposition, please resume your contribution.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I table the front page of the *Courier-Mail* from 21 July last year with the big headline 'Big little lies'.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 21 July 2017, titled 'Big Little Lies' [191].

Another front page of the *Courier-Mail* that I will table is from 27 April with the headline 'Blind to scrutiny'.


*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 27 April 2017, titled 'Blind to Scrutiny' [192].

Finally, the front page of the *Courier-Mail* from 28 April clearly indicated a culture of secrecy in the Labor government with its headline 'Culture of secrecy'. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 28 April 2017, titled 'Culture of Secrecy' [163].

Here we are having a debate about what the government are trying to do to democracy in Queensland, and that is they are running roughshod over anyone who does not see it their way. There are many people in Queensland who do not see it their way. Those people are represented here by those of us who make up the opposition and the crossbench in this great House. That is what Queensland democracy is all about.

The Queensland opposition, the LNP, will not be silenced. We demand with our amendments, moved by the member for Kawana, to reinstate the three minutes before question time, rather than sitting in this House like we had to do this morning and listen to political speeches by ministers misusing ministerial statements and what they are supposed to be for, and also to reinstate the committee hearings on a Wednesday morning, which was the will of this parliament on both sides in 2011 when they understood that members from regional Queensland had a right to see their families and work in this place.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (5.25 pm): The accusations that we have heard from the LNP are that these changes to sessional orders are about secrecy and laziness. I have just been reading the amendments to the motion circulated by the member for Kawana. If you add up the hours, it actually works out to be about an hour to an hour and a half less time. That is what he has moved. He wants less time. I want to say to the Leader of the Opposition: if you do not want to be silenced, do not vote for your own amendments; vote with us. I am willing to be corrected. If you want to add it up and you come up with a different figure then let me know. The amendments to the sessional orders that you just circulated—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I am having difficulty hearing the member. I ask that you keep the interjections to a minimum so I can hear the member's contribution. I call the member for Cooper.

**Ms JONES:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am happy to be corrected. I did do journalism, not mathematics, at university. If you want to add up the hours yourself in the amendments that you circulated, honourable member for Kawana, you have half an hour to get up and say that there are more hours.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Cooper, please direct your contribution through the chair.

**Ms JONES:** I say to the member for Kawana that if he thinks I am wrong in my calculations—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you are having a very good go. You have already made a contribution. You are skating on thin ice.

**Ms JONES:**—then get one of the LNP members who is going to make a contribution tonight say that there is more time. When we add up the hours in the amendments that were circulated by the member for Kawana we see that there is less time in the parliament. Come on, what a joke! What I say to all members of parliament is that they cannot say there is going to be less scrutiny when there is going to be more time for parliamentary business during ordinary working hours. That is a time when the journalists are here—the same journalists that the LNP tried to kick out of the parliament when they were in government. That is a time when the journalists are here covering us to give—

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister is misleading the House. That is actually blatantly untrue and she knows it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, that is not a point of order; it is a point of view.

**Ms SIMPSON:** It is offensive and untrue and I ask the minister to withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, do you take personal offence to that statement?

**Ms SIMPSON:** Correct.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do not believe you were mentioned explicitly, so I do not think you can take offence to that, member for Maroochydore. I call the member for Cooper.

**Ms JONES:** The contribution from the LNP tonight to vote against—

**Ms Simpson:** It's a lie and she knows it. She thinks she can lie and get away with it.

**Ms JONES:** I find that offensive and ask for it to be withdrawn. It is unparliamentary. The Speaker can deal with that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I did not hear it. Was there unparliamentary language?

**Ms JONES:** She just said I was a liar.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please rephrase—

**Ms JONES:** I ask for that to be withdrawn. It is unparliamentary. Let us just move on. I have thicker skin. For particularly the new members and the Independent member, the two accusations we have heard from the LNP for why they should not support the government motion are that, firstly, we are lazy and there is less time. We have just proved that there is actually more time with our motion compared to the amendments moved by the LNP. The second accusation was that it was about secrecy. I say once again to dispel this second argument that this is going to allow for more parliamentary business during ordinary working hours when we have more scrutiny by the public and more scrutiny by the press. I do not know how anyone can cut that into being less scrutiny of what we are doing in the parliament.

The final thing I want to talk about is the parliamentary staff of this parliament—the mums and dads and people who work in this parliament every day to make it run efficiently. Why is it that we as parliamentarians of Queensland feel that we have a right to make them work into the early hours of the morning when we have just heard from the member for Miller the hours for every other parliament in our country?

Why would Queensland not bring itself into line with every other parliament in the country? If those opposite do not want to vote for themselves, I appeal to them to vote for the staff who work in this parliament. They deserve the right to have working hours in line with every other parliament across our country.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Cooper is not taking your interjections. I ask you to cease interjecting so the member can be heard.


**Ms JONES:** I take some of the points about that. The staff who work here do not get a bedroom. They do not get to stay here overnight. They have to drive home. If those opposite will not vote for the good of the people of parliament, can they please vote in favour of the parliamentary staff who work here? You want to talk about arrogance? Arrogance is saying that we need to talk for 20 minutes because we cannot get it across in 10 minutes, and we are going to make the men and women who work in this parliament work longer than any other parliamentary attendants in the country.

This idea that we should not provide family friendly working hours is prohibitive to many people who would choose to come into this House. We need sessional orders and parliamentary rules that make parliament inclusive and enable more people to come here. We want more women in this parliament—at least on our side of parliament we do. Maybe this is their secret plan. We want to make sure that it is inviting for as many people from different backgrounds to come into this parliament and represent our community—

**An honourable member:** What about regional people?

**Ms JONES:** Exactly, including regional people. When I was elected—guess what?—committees met on Monday. Whose sessional orders were they? That is right: the conservatives.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.31 pm): Mr Speaker, as you would know, this so-called family-friendly change to the sessional orders started back with the CLA in the previous parliament, the 55th Parliament, when the then member for Mermaid Beach raised it at the CLA and the CLA members all agreed. I think the member for Sandgate and the member for Logan were two of the members who agreed with this matter going forward. We sent the Clerk away to come forward with a report on what the hours would be, and the Clerk came back with the same ridiculous sessional order times that we have today, which is seven for a 7.30 finish, mainly because it suited the Parliamentary Service budget which he controls to keep it down so he could have more money to spend on other areas of the Parliamentary Service.

The CLA rejected that particular report. The CLA agreed eventually after a good debate that 9.30 was the appropriate time to pull up stumps in this parliament for three days and it enshrined the Wednesday morning for the portfolio committees, which are our upper house in terms of protecting the legislation. That was the important part—that we enshrine Wednesday morning for the portfolio

committees. Unfortunately, this new procedural regime we are voting on here today will force the portfolio committees to sit again on Mondays—pretty early Monday mornings—which means our regional members will all have to fly in on Sunday. There is no-one who can come in on a Monday morning and make it on time for portfolio committees, which are a very important part of this Parliamentary Service.

In relation to the Parliamentary Service officers, there will be complaints when they get a lower wage cheque for the lack of overtime that they will not get paid for. There will be some complaints going forward to the Clerk's office about the new shorter hours. Nine to five might suit some around the place, but there will be a decrease in some officers' wages.

As I have said, portfolio committees are integral to the success of this parliament and we are jeopardising them, I am sure, by making them take place on a Monday morning to fit in with this ridiculous new regime which this Labor government is putting in purely for political purposes. The political purposes are that there are 38 seats in Brisbane. Forget about the regional members. There are 38 seats in Brisbane drive time of which the Labor Party has 33. Unfortunately, at seven to 7.30 we will see a drove of Labor Party cars going out—

**Mr Costigan:** The red motorcade.

**Mr STEVENS:** I take that interjection from the member for Whitsundays. They will be off to all their P&C meetings, school meetings and local meetings. That is the driving force behind this, 'Let's leave Parliament House in Brisbane at 7.30.' There is no respect for regional members whatsoever in terms of the impost of another day out of their family time to fly down on Sundays. I am not even sure whether there will be regional flights on a Sunday afternoon, but that is what they will have to put up with to suit the Labor Party trying to fit in its politicking on weeknights when they have school functions in the Brisbane area.

It is an absolute shame that they are ignoring the portfolio committees. It should have been resolved by the CLA, as it was resolved by the CLA previously until they changed the personnel unfortunately—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mermaid Beach, please resume your seat. I have a question to ask you. Can you assure me that you are not breaching standing order 211 regarding the confidentiality of portfolio committees or committees of the Legislative Assembly? Has the Committee of the Legislative Assembly produced a report to the parliament?

**Mr STEVENS:** I am not aware of a specific report, but I am not breaching any confidentiality of the CLA other than the matters that were put in the minutes and put forward to all members.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is fine. I will take your assurance. You have provided me with an assurance.

**Mr STEVENS:** Mr Speaker, I cannot give you an assurance that the report did not cover all of the matters that I have raised but it was put in place—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will allow you to continue your contribution, but your assurance has been given that this is not breaching standing order 211.

**Mr STEVENS:** All these matters were resolved by the committee at the time.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Please continue your contribution.

**Mr STEVENS:** In terms of confidentiality, I believe that they were put in place out there, resolved and finalised. Unfortunately, there was a change in personnel, Mr Speaker, and those matters changed thereafter, and I do not know what happened after that particular time.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, please let the member for Mermaid Beach be heard.

**Mr STEVENS:** In terms of the sessional orders now becoming family friendly, that is not the case whatsoever. It is an arrogant and hubris effort in terms of further politicking by the Labor Party and ignoring regional members' interests by requiring them to fly here on a Sunday and taking a day out of their family life.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.37 pm): In 1863 at a coalfield in Pennsylvania there were two speeches made. One went for four hours.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I have already asked you to keep your contributions relevant.

**Mr POWER:** He did not get interjections in these speeches either. One went for four hours and another went for two minutes, or 272 words in total. We know which one was remembered. The Gettysburg address which was spoken by President Lincoln took only 272 words, but those words are remembered and had meaning for people. We can communicate meaningfully in a very short period of time in this chamber, and I would suggest that we should do that as much as possible. However, as has been said—and I do not wish to be completely repetitious, unlike the member for Kawana—these sessional orders give more time than any other state jurisdiction for the debate of government business, with 26 hours of debate.

I notice that the member for Mermaid Beach in his interesting speech made no attempt to say that the alternative has any more hours. We have 26 hours of debate. I assure the crossbenchers that, once they have heard the member for Kawana go for 26 hours, they will be wishing that we had truncated it more and they will ask that speeches only be 276 words. That is not the case with the sessional orders that we have. We have 26 hours of debate and I think we can make a great contribution on the important issues.

In the last term, this was canvassed backwards and forwards informally and formally between the parties. It is certainly something that outside of the chamber and committees the member for Mermaid Beach and I spoke about in terms of needing to improve the hours of the House to ensure that we worked sensible hours. This is something that has been a long-term discussion between the parties which has been blocked by a strange group within the leadership of the LNP who for some reason want to block this.

The public rightly do not understand why we have meetings that start at 6 am or 7 am and continue through until 1 am, 2 am or 3 am and then ultimately take our most important act—that is, of casting our votes on that important legislation—at that time. This should be a place that is not a test of endurance or exhaustion. That is not what this is about.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** Exactly. It should be about debating ideas when people are listening. It should be about debating ideas coherently, directly and without repetition. All of our energy should be about getting the right legislation. Writing speeches that few will listen to late in the night does not actually contribute to that.

I heard that the new opposition leader has claimed to have changed, but what I have heard today are all of the same things about blocking this. They are exactly the same as the Newman-Seeney years of opposition to these ideas. We need to actually go further and progress this debate in this parliament. The member for Nanango can actually show that she has changed if she supports this motion.


As the chair of a committee, I am confident that, although none of my committee members represent electorates that are within the boundaries of Brisbane city, we will all be able to find a time on a Monday to meet. We have all of Monday and the flexibility of the committee. As the member for Mermaid Beach knows, I am an accommodating chairperson. We will find a time throughout that whole day for the committee to meet and for all of the committee members to come from outside Brisbane. I am confident that members from outside of Brisbane in almost all cases will be able to do that.

We have also heard that Wednesdays are sacrosanct. Committees are sacrosanct. The process of committees debating intensely the legislation is very, very important. That process of hearing from the public is very important, but whether it is on a Wednesday or a Monday is not the key point. The key point is that we have that process of the committees and I feel confident that the Mondays will give us that chance to do it.

I endorse these changes. I think rationally everyone outside thinks that working these hours is more sensible. We will not get off. We will still attend functions here with members of the public after hours where we will be speaking to them about the ideas that matter in this place. I urge members to support these changes to make this a better parliament.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under standing order 253A. I have asked you repeatedly to stop your loud interjections across the chamber.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.43 pm): This is not the Brisbane parliament; this is the Queensland parliament. There is more to Queensland than Coronation Drive or Yeerongpilly. The members from the other side who have spoken in this debate have all been city based members who will be able to zip home within five, 10 or 15 minutes and get to functions, as the member for Mermaid Beach said. This is not about family-friendly hours. This is about the 38 seats in the area of Brisbane—

which are mostly held by the Labor Party—and the ability of those members to get to functions and P&C meetings and leave us regional members from the bush stuck here in parliament when there is no parliament that is actually sitting. Like I said, this is not the Brisbane parliament; it is the Queensland parliament.

The Labor Party's attempt to reduce the hours we work in this parliament is nothing short of laziness and it is robbing Queenslanders of their opportunity to make sure that we scrutinise legislation and keep this government to account. The sessional orders we are debating tonight go to the very essence of why we are all here. All of us have been honoured and given a privilege to represent the constituents in our electorate. Wrapping this all up as a move for family-friendly hours is a farce. How is this family friendly for regional members? Regional members are here all week. In fact, we will now have to jump on a plane or get here on a Sunday. The member for Callide will have to find a flight on Sunday, leave his family, leave his wife and be down here on a Sunday night. It is the same for the member for Traeger, me as the member for Gregory, the member for Whitsunday, the Gold Coast members and the Sunshine Coast members. These members will all have to leave on a Sunday to be down here because the government wants to change the sessional orders. The government wants to go out there and say that this is family friendly. This is not family friendly. This is about shutting down debate. This is about knocking off work early.

Regional members are here all week. We cannot just zip home at night and see our families. Members living in the Brisbane catchment area can get home within about five, 10, 15 or 30 minutes, but members from the regional areas will be stuck here. Let us be absolutely clear. We are here to work. We are one of the few parliaments in Australia with the least number of sitting days and now Labor want to cut the hours that we sit. Last term we got the feeling that they were running out of bills to table. We just got that feeling. They were running out of ideas. I guess in the 56th Parliament they have no idea now. They have absolutely no idea.

Members on this side want to work. We are not here to knock off early. We are given an opportunity to represent the people in our electorates and they want us to work. They do not want us to knock off early. How can I go back to my electorate and say, 'I'm not really putting in 100 per cent because we're knocking off early'? We need to have these sitting days and we need to have these hours to be able to scrutinise and keep the Labor Party accountable.


I would not like to see the Labor Party or those opposite run an agricultural business. Could you imagine them running an agricultural business? As a harvesting contractor, you get in there, you get the crop off and the machine works around the clock.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Gregory, it is actually those on my left who are drowning you out at the moment. I ask members to please keep their interjections to a minimum—even those on your own side of the House.

**Mr MILLAR:** Could you imagine those opposite running a harvesting contract business? They would hardly be able to do it properly. Let us just say that it is a wheat crop. You have worked all winter trying to get that wheat crop out of the ground and it is going well. It is looking good, but in November the storms are coming so you have to get the header out there. Could you imagine the Labor Party introducing those family-friendly hours when it comes to contracting? The clouds could be coming over but they would say, 'No, let's knock off early.' Then they would wonder why they were going broke. They would say, 'Why are we going broke?' Maybe it is because they knocked off a little bit early. Seriously, those members opposite and those new members should think about the member for Callide, the member for Traeger, the opposition leader and also their own members, including the member for Cook who has to come down here on a Sunday and leave her family.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.49 pm): I rise to oppose the amendment to the sessional orders moved by the Manager of Opposition Business and member for Kawana, and to support the sessional orders as provided and moved in this House by the Leader of the House earlier today. We heard earlier from the member for Kawana and other members with their moaning and whingeing about having to come down here on a Sunday night. They also used language like 'dictatorship' and 'arrogance'.

I say two words to the member for Toowoomba North: Campbell Newman. There was a man who ran a dictatorship and was full of arrogance. As a regional member I say that we in the north by our very nature—and you, Mr Speaker, are a fellow regional member, and I touched on it this morning—are a bit different. Even 'Costo' would agree with that! I mean no disrespect to my fellow MPs—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Thuringowa, can you please use members' titles as appropriate.

**Mr HARPER:** I am sure the member for Whitsunday would agree that we are a different breed in North Queensland—some of us are, anyway. I am still struggling to accept the words spoken by the member for Burdekin on Tuesday. It was an absolutely denigrating and disgraceful way to start this parliament—denigrating you, Mr Speaker, a fellow regional member, in your former role. He should apologise.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, please remain relevant to the debate at hand about sessional orders.

**Mr HARPER:** I return to the motion. We are different. As fellow regional MPs we regularly travel long distances to Brisbane for parliamentary sittings and portfolio committee work. I wholeheartedly support the motion. It is just common sense. Let me tell honourable members why. As the proudly re-elected member for Thuringowa and a regional member, I know that travel is just a part of the job. I regularly travel down here and I have seen the member for Gregory down here on a Sunday night as well. Some of us already travel here on Sunday nights. The amendment to sessional orders that would make changes to sitting days, for example, on Wednesdays would allow us, the members of those committees, to do more work on Mondays. That makes sense as well. I speak as the chair of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, which I am personally invested in. I know these changes to sessional orders will allow us to work on a Monday, and that again makes sense to me.

As members of this parliament, we are paid to work, and work hard we should, for the people who entrusted us to represent them in this place. One has only to turn to our ministers and Premier who meet for cabinet on a Monday. Therefore, I ask: why should we not conduct our portfolio committee work on a Monday as well? It would allow us to get on with the business of the parliament during the scheduled sitting days without interruption to the week. Again I say that as a regional member I support the motion moved by the Leader of the House regarding the sessional orders for the 56th Parliament.

As members of parliament we have a duty to serve not only our constituents but all Queenslanders in a manner which is open and transparent. Members understand the importance of standing up for our electorates in our state's parliament, advocating for their issues to better our local communities. I believe these enhanced sessional orders will enable a more streamlined running of this House by allowing three full days of parliament to be held on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. While I understand the concerns of some that moving the committee process to Monday from Wednesday will somehow disadvantage regional members as they may have to travel on a Sunday, I think not. Like I said, I already travel on a Sunday. I have seen plenty of other members here on a Sunday evening preparing for the Monday during a sitting week as well. That cannot be an excuse. We are elected to this House to serve our constituency, and part of that process is to attend the sittings of parliament and associated parliamentary committees. If that means travelling on a Sunday rather than on a Monday morning, that is simply what we have to do. However, it should be noted that travelling on a Sunday evening may not be required, as the member for Logan pointed out, as some committees will set their times so they can meet later on a Monday morning, allowing for travel to Brisbane on the Monday morning.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (5.53 pm): The KAP oppose the motion to amend sessional orders introduced by the government. We say that in part there is merit in the opposition's amendment to the motion and, likewise, the government's amendment to the sessional orders. The aim of this government motion is to bring about a family friendly parliament. When it comes to parliamentary debate I really believe deep down that if there was a motion to bring on an adjournment at 7 pm or 7.30 pm it is something we would relish. It gives us an opportunity to catch up on electorate duties and other parliamentary duties while we are in Brisbane.

There are important issues related to sitting long hours into the night and debating legislation until two or three o'clock in the morning. I spoke to Terry Mackenroth the other night and he said it was very common for them to sit til two or three in the morning under the Bjelke-Petersen government, the Goss government and, likewise, the Beattie government. Those long sitting hours would also force the




staff to continue working. There is also the workplace health and safety aspect for staff who travel home and are required to be here til early in the morning. There is also the cost factor, the pressure on MPs and the pressure on staff.

I support the notion—and I believe it has merit—to finish up early, but there is also a trade-off, which is MPs being required to attend committee hearings on a Monday. I believe that this will have an impact on those rural and regional Queensland electorates. I know the member for Gregory would like to be at the Jericho campdraft on the Sunday and the member for Mount Isa would like to be at the Georgetown rodeo on the Sunday. However, for them to travel to an airport they would be looking at a minimum of nine hours travel time. In relation to these MPs—and I have an electorate of 270,000 square kilometres—it is the case that they would really want to get home after that campdraft, spend some time with the family and then travel to the airport the next morning so they can fly to Brisbane for parliament. The amendment to the sessional orders is going to take away that option.

Other factors to consider include the removal of the private members' statements, particularly when the House is fully assembled. The members of this parliament are elected to conduct robust debate. That debate is an opportunity for them to speak in the House when it is fully assembled and in front of the media. It is an opportunity for the opposition to raise their issues in front of the media. The whole design of this parliament is not only to hold the parliament to account but, importantly, to hold the government to account. I feel these changes are going to remove the opportunity for the opposition to participate in that robust debate.

The government does have a lot of legislation to get through the House. There are also going to be private members' bills from the opposition, Independents and crossbenchers. There is going to be a lot of legislation. Even if we make these changes, we know we will not always see a 7.30 pm finish because government can suspend standing orders in order to rush through legislation. That will see us going past the proposed finishing time to get important legislation through. We see this all the time. As a result of this issue we do have concerns regarding the opportunity and the amount of time that opposition members and crossbenchers will be able to speak if these changes are brought in. For all these reasons we cannot support the government's motion.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.58 pm): At the conclusion of this debate, I want to have a chance to reflect on what seems to be the key critiques of the proposal of the Leader of the House for changes to sessional orders for the 56th Parliament. I do that in the context of the amendment moved by the Manager of Opposition Business. In essence there seems to be four critiques of what has been proposed by the government. One is that it is some measure of laziness on behalf of the government; that the changes to the sessional orders are proving that the government is somehow going to be lazy. Second, there has been a concern expressed about reduced time for opposition and crossbench business. There is a concern about that. Third, there is a view that it is some sort of socialist plot; it is a Labor plot about giving Brisbane MPs access to P&C meetings. Fourth, it is also being proposed that this is going to have a terrible impact on people's Sunday nights, particularly regional members, and I understand that concern that people talk about.

Let me deal with those four issues and wipe them away. The first argument deals with laziness. The alternative set of sessional orders proposed by the Manager of Opposition Business would see us sitting for an extra half hour on two days, but if we return to committees meeting on Wednesday mornings it means that the parliament would actually be sitting less time, so the 'laziness' argument is destroyed.

The second argument is that there would be reduced time for opposition and crossbenchers, but we have to examine this in context. We do not just compare what happened in the 55th Parliament to what happened in the 56th. We have to compare what the government is proposing for the 56th Parliament with governments as they have been over a number of years and then compare and contrast it to the 54th Parliament in particular. Let me say that this provides significant opportunities for all members of parliament, including opposition and crossbench members, to have their say. It goes back to the norm of there being one private member's motion a week. Whenever there has been a majority government there has been one private member's motion per week. If there is any other suggestion or pretence then someone is trying to fool you. During the minority government in the last parliament let's look at how the opposition dealt with and treated crossbenchers in that space. They did not get the same time. This is all about opposition grandstanding. When we look at private members' statements before question time, that was all about opposition grandstanding. It was never about crossbenchers getting a chance, so do not be fooled.

The third argument relates to a socialist Labor plot to allow Brisbane members to go to P&C meetings if the House rises at 7.30, which only demonstrates the fact that the member for Mermaid Beach and the member for Gregory have never been to a P&C meeting. If you leave this place and go to my electorate in Sandgate, which is a 45-minute drive away, by the time you get to the electorate the P&C meeting is over. With the efficient P&Cs that we have these days, their meetings are finished. People know what they are doing and they use their time efficiently. The key thing is that they do not make decisions way into the late hours of the night. That is the exact critique that any of those P&Cs would make about the hours over which this parliament has unfortunately conducted its business for too many years.

Finally, let's come to the absolutely fallacious point about the impact on Sundays and Sunday nights. If we look at the sessional orders that are before us they say nothing about Mondays—

**An opposition member:** Committee meetings!

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Yes, because committees can determine when they meet. They do not need to meet at the same time as they met on Wednesday mornings. They can meet at a time of their choosing. There is also an opportunity for party rooms and the caucus or other meetings to be held later in the day. There is nothing sacrosanct about those meetings being held at those particular times. Be flexible and responsive and modernise this parliament by supporting the Leader of the House's sessional orders and defeating—

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 43:**

**LNP, 39—**Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

**KAP, 2—**Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**Independent, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 48:**

**ALP, 47—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**Greens, 1—**Berkman.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendments (Mr Bleijie) negated.

**Mr SPEAKER:** For any further divisions on this motion the bells will be rung for one minute.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

**AYES, 48:**

**ALP, 47—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**Greens, 1—**Berkman.

**NOES, 43:**

**LNP, 39—**Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

**KAP, 2—**Katter, Knuth.


**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**Independent, 1—**Bolton.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COUNCILLOR COMPLAINTS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.12 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency recommends the Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

#### MESSAGE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COUNCILLOR COMPLAINTS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

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

A Bill for an Act to amend the Local Government Act 2009 and the Public Service Act 2008 for particular purposes

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 14 February 2018

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 14 February 2018, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [\[193\]](#).

### Introduction

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.13 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Local Government Act 2009 and the Public Service Act 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [\[194\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[195\]](#).

As the Minister for Local Government, I am pleased to introduce the Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 into the House. This bill delivers on the government's election commitment to continue to work on strengthening and improving the councillor complaints process, putting the system beyond reproach. It delivers on the government's commitment to reintroduce lapsed legislation to establish a new independent assessor to deal with councillor complaints more effectively. Enactment of this legislation will see Queensland's councillors subject to a compulsory code of conduct.

Before the 2017 general election, the Palaszczuk government was progressing a comprehensive suite of reforms to provide a simpler, more streamlined system for making, investigating and determining complaints about councillor conduct and to provide for increased transparency, integrity and accountability in local government in Queensland. The first stage of reforms implemented in the Palaszczuk government's first term saw the introduction of Australia's first real-time electronic donation disclosure system to ensure Queenslanders are fully informed when they go to the polls. The introduction of this bill represents the second stage of legislative reform.

In July last year my colleague Mark Furner, the then minister for local government and minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, tabled the report *Councillor complaints review: a fair, effective and efficient framework*. He also tabled the government's response to the report. The report was the result of an independent review commissioned by the Palaszczuk government and conducted by a panel comprising the former integrity commissioner, Dr David Solomon; the former CEO of Logan City Council, Gary Kellar; and former Noosa Shire Council mayor, Noel Playford. On behalf of the Palaszczuk government, I want to thank the panel for its expert and comprehensive review.

The report found that the legislative and policy framework currently in place for dealing with councillor complaints is overly confusing and difficult to navigate. The majority of the report's 60 recommendations made by the independent review panel have been supported by the government. A key component of the bill is the establishment of the position of the independent assessor and the Office of the Independent Assessor. The independent assessor will be responsible for investigating all

complaints and relevant information about councillor conduct before deciding how a complaint should be dealt with. Importantly, local government CEOs will no longer be placed in the difficult position of undertaking preliminary assessments of complaints about councillors. With the establishment of the Office of the Independent Assessor, we will, in essence, establish a new front door.

The independent assessor may initiate an investigation based on a complaint made or referred to the assessor's office by a member of the public, an organisation, a local government official or a local government. The independent assessor will be empowered to initiate an investigation if they become aware of information indicating that a councillor may have engaged in inappropriate conduct—or misconduct—and they reasonably believe it is in the public interest to investigate such information. The independent assessor will also investigate suspected corrupt conduct when referred to the independent assessor by the Crime and Corruption Commission.

As with the CCC, the bill provides the independent assessor with the appropriate powers to carry out such investigations, including powers to enter a place, seize evidence and require a person to provide information or to attend a place to answer questions. The new system will be as simple as it is effective. We will be equipping the independent assessor with the powers necessary to do the job. In carrying out their duties, the independent assessor will also have the ability to appoint appropriately qualified persons as investigators to help undertake these investigations.

Another key component of the bill provides for the development of a uniform and compulsory code of conduct for councillors to be approved by regulation. The code of conduct will set out the standards of behaviour for councillors, leaving both councillors and the public in no doubt whatsoever as to the standards to which they will be held and will bring councillors in line with members of parliament, local government employees and state government employees—all of whom operate under a code of conduct. The code of conduct, along with the definitions of 'inappropriate conduct' and 'misconduct' clarified by the bill, will provide consistent and clear standards of behaviour for all councillors. The high benchmark of conduct that the community expects from its local elected representatives will be unambiguous.

Further, the bill removes the confusing two-tier disciplinary hearing process, providing a single tribunal for hearing and deciding councillor disciplinary matters. The bill establishes the Councillor Conduct Tribunal which will deal solely with determining matters of councillor misconduct, including what disciplinary action should be taken. This difficult task will be taken out of the hands of council CEOs. The new Local Government Remuneration Commission will decide the maximum amount of remuneration payable to local government councillors.

To support the reforms and the new system, the bill provides for strengthened offences, notably new offences to provide protection from reprisal for local government employees and councillors who make complaints about councillors' conduct and to ensure the confidentiality of investigations is maintained. Increased penalties will apply to discourage frivolous and other improper complaints.

The new system, established by this bill, will be fairer. The bill provides review rights for decisions about misconduct made by the Councillor Conduct Tribunal other than a decision to recommend the councillor's suspension or dismissal. An application for review may be made to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The bill repeals the declaration that a decision is not subject to appeal, allowing judicial review of an administrative decision of a local government.

At this time, amendments are not proposed to the City of Brisbane Act 2010. The Brisbane City Council currently operates its own conduct process in line with the City of Brisbane Act. The government will review the new framework for dealing with councillor conduct within six months of its commencement to determine whether the Brisbane City Council would benefit from adopting the new system.

The government will work in partnership with local governments throughout the state as well as the new Local Government Liaison Group. This partnership is aimed at ensuring a successful rollout and implementation of the new framework, proposed to commence by proclamation later in the year.

As the Minister for Local government in Queensland I will continue to do my utmost to increase integrity, transparency and accountability in local government in this state. These reforms have been met with support from local governments, their peak representative bodies and the public, as evidenced by the 13 public submissions received on the bill when it was first introduced last year and referred to the then Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

The bill builds on the work done to date and is only part of a comprehensive suite of upcoming reforms aimed at giving Queenslanders increased confidence in their local governments and their local government elected representatives. I look forward to working with each and every council and the various local government peak bodies to achieve these significant reforms for the benefit of their communities. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.22 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 Economics and Governance Committee

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

### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.22 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—


That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Economics and Governance Committee report to the House on the Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 9 April 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## NATURE CONSERVATION (SPECIAL WILDLIFE RESERVES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Message from Governor

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algera—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (6.23 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): The message recommends the Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

NATURE CONSERVATION (SPECIAL WILDLIFE RESERVES) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2018

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

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

A Bill for an Act to amend the Biodiscovery Act 2004, the Environmental Offsets Act 2014, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Forestry Act 1959, the Fossicking Act 1994, the Land Act 1994, the Land Title Act 1994, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Vegetation Management Act 1999 for particular purposes

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 14 February 2018

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 14 February 2018, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [[196](#)].

## Introduction

**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (6.23 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Biodiscovery Act 2004, the Environmental Offsets Act 2014, the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Forestry Act 1959, the Fossicking Act 1994, the Land Act 1994, the Land Title Act 1994, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and the Vegetation Management Act 1999 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [197].

*Tabled paper:* Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [198].

I am pleased to introduce the Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill was previously introduced during the last term of government and was considered and reported on by the Agriculture and Environment Committee prior to lapsing at the dissolution of the last parliament. I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the former minister, the member for Murrumba, for all his work on the bill and his continued support of this work.

Some minor amendments have been made to the former version of the bill in response to recommendations made by the previous committee members. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the members of the previous committee. The amendments through this bill will establish a new class of voluntary privately managed protected area called a special wildlife reserve, which will provide a similar level of statutory protection to that afforded to national parks. This new class of protected area will apply to both freehold and leasehold tenures.

Establishing this special wildlife reserve mechanism will allow for protection of areas of exceptional conservation value on privately owned land and will be a significant incentive for private investment in Queensland's protected areas. This will be achieved by providing a high level of private land protection and ensure that investments in conservation will not be compromised by incompatible land uses. What this will create is a level of investment confidence on private land that is not available elsewhere in Australia and, when coupled with the state's extraordinary biodiversity values, the bill will serve to make Queensland a priority area for private investment in protected areas.

This bill will establish management principles for special wildlife reserves. These principles will provide a framework to guide management of special wildlife reserves by the landholder. Negotiation of special wildlife reserves will be entirely voluntary for landholders. A legally binding perpetual conservation agreement and an associated management program will be negotiated for each special wildlife reserve. In order to achieve the management principles for this class of protected area, the conservation agreement and management program will detail management outcomes and actions to ensure enduring protection of each special wildlife reserve's outstanding conservation values. This mechanism will be applied on a case-by-case voluntary basis in full consideration of state interests relevant to the proposal area and only with the consent of anyone whose interests in the area will be materially affected.

Protected areas are the most significant and visible means by which the people of Queensland seek to ensure the continued safeguarding of our internationally recognised and iconic biological diversity. In recent decades, the community has made an enormous contribution to the protection of Queensland's biodiversity through the establishment of nature refuges—a class of private protected area of which we now have 504 refuges, covering almost 4.45 million hectares. Nature refuges are managed to conserve their significant natural and cultural values and, unlike special wildlife reserves, they allow for the continuation of a range of other sustainable land uses.

Many nature refuges contain significant species and ecosystems not found in national parks or other state owned protected areas. While the contribution of nature refuges and their landholders to our protected area estate is unquestionable, some parts of our unique landscape are deserving of and require a level of protection that recognises their exceptional natural and cultural values. Currently, the only option for this level of protection in Queensland and, indeed Australia, is in the form of state owned and managed protected areas such as national parks. This situation does not recognise the significant efforts being made by the community to identify, acquire and manage areas of exceptional conservation significance and, until now, a disincentive to continued investment by the community has been the lack of protection that such areas are afforded.

This bill seeks to fill this gap in Queensland's protected area framework by providing a mechanism to deliver a high level of protection for areas of private land that have outstanding conservation values. In essence, this bill allows for the protection of any area based on its inherent values and future conservation management, not on its ownership by the state.

The bill I introduce today also contains amendments to the Nature Conservation Act, the Land Act, the Land Title Act and the Environmental Offsets Act to address particular matters of a technical or clarifying nature. Firstly, the bill includes administrative changes to the Nature Conservation Act to clarify the process for recording conservation agreements and protected area declarations on the land title and to allow effective monitoring and compliance for private protected areas and changes to the Land Act and Land Title Act to clarify and streamline the securing of conservation agreements over declared protected areas through land tenure processes. Secondly, the bill acknowledges that, where a private protected area has been declared over leasehold land, conservation is recognised as consistent with the purpose of the lease.

Thirdly, the bill also allows us to regulate environmentally relevant activities that are conducted partly within Queensland waters and partially beyond, but only within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This amendment creates the capacity to implement important protections for our marine environment by recognising that neither nature nor pollution respect the arbitrary boundary between Queensland and Commonwealth waters. This amendment will support consistent and fair regulation in the Great Barrier Reef region to activities such as transshipping, which may be conducted either wholly in Queensland waters or across Queensland and Commonwealth waters.

Finally, the bill clarifies the administrative arrangements for approving offset proposals under the Environmental Offsets Act either before or after decisions are made under the new Planning Act 2016. This will allow for the approval of offset proposals before or after permits are granted, providing flexibility for proponents.

The introduction of this bill creates a new class of protected area with equivalent protection and management requirements as state owned national parks, but for application on private land. It clarifies and streamlines land title registration processes, it allows better regulation of activities that may harm the Great Barrier Reef and it clarifies and improves the flexibility of environmental offset approval processes. I commend the bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (6.31 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### **Referral to Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee**

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

### **Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date**

**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (6.31 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee report to the House on the Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 9 April 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**QUEENSLAND COMPETITION AUTHORITY AMENDMENT BILL**  
**EDUCATION (OVERSEAS STUDENTS) BILL**  
**TOW TRUCK AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**  
**POLICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (IDENTITY AND BIOMETRIC CAPABILITY)**  
**AMENDMENT BILL**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION (VALIDATION OF RATES AND**  
**CHARGES) AMENDMENT BILL**  
**CRIME AND CORRUPTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Declared Urgent; Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates**



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.31 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 137(1)(a) the following bills be declared urgent for report by the following dates—

- Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill 2018 by 15 March 2018;
- Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018 by 2 March 2018;
- Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 by 2 March 2018;
- Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018 by 2 March 2018;
- Local Government Legislation (Validation of Rates and Charges) Amendment Bill 2018 by 15 March 2018; and
- Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 by 15 March 2018.

The Queensland Competition Authority Amendment Bill is urgent because it contains a vital amendment to the access criteria within the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 which must be satisfied before a service may be declared—regulated—under Queensland's access regime. This amendment will return the interpretation of this criterion back to its previous natural monopoly test rather than a test that considers whether it is profitable for anyone to develop another facility.

The urgent timing of the amendments to the access criteria is important given the QCAs upcoming pre expiry review of the existing declarations for Aurizon Network, Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal and Queensland Rail commencing early 2018. Should the review be undertaken with reference to the private profitability test prior to the natural monopoly test being restored, there is a risk that key Queensland bottleneck export infrastructure—for example, the Central Queensland coal network—could become unregulated. This would have serious consequences and flow-on effects for industry dependent on access to this infrastructure.

In relation to the Education (Overseas Students) Bill, this bill is a reintroduction of a bill that was originally introduced on 8 August 2017 with the then committee report tabled on 15 September 2017 with one recommendation that the bill be passed and three other recommendations. The bill also includes amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act to correct an inadvertent omission which would have meant Easter Saturday trading was no longer permitted in some regional areas. Consistent with the government's public statements that this matter would be urgently rectified, this bill if passed will amend the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 before Easter 2018 to allow trading on Easter Saturday in those areas. Passage of the bill in the first March sitting will provide early notice and assurances to businesses and consumers in the affected areas that existing Easter Saturday trading arrangements remain in place. A number of retail organisations have been in contact with the minister's office seeking certainty on this point so that they can start to plan rosters and other arrangements for trading on that day.

The Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is a reintroduction of the original bill that was introduced on 22 August 2017 with the then committee report tabled on 4 October 2017 containing two recommendations, including one recommendation that the bill be passed. The bill requires debate in the first March sitting as these are important reforms of the tow truck and vehicle removal industry following an independent investigation by former District Court Judge Michael Forde. There have been



no substantive changes to the provisions of the bill since the previous committee's consideration. These are important reforms of tolling methodology, delivering aggregation and therefore savings for motorists and reduce the need for further enforcement action by enabling a single demand notice for multiple unpaid tolls. The only change since the previous committee's consideration was to accommodate their recommendation.

The bill contains amendments to transitional provisions relating to the Youth Justice Act. The changes to the youth justice legislation and the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Act will raise the age of a child within the youth justice system to 18 years. The proposed amendments will ensure 17-year-olds who commit driving offences remain subject to mandatory disqualification periods for serious driving offences; remain liable to enforcement action for unpaid penalty infringement notices for traffic offences that attract demerit points; and continue to have demerit points recorded on their traffic histories for relevant offences to facilitate appropriate sanction processes if they exceed their demerit point limit. Changes are proposed to commence as soon as possible after 12 February 2018 to help ensure the smooth transition of these arrangements.


The Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill is a new bill. This bill is about security measures that will help ensure the safety and security of the biggest event ever held in Queensland: the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. It will amend legislation to give police and emergency responders access to shared cutting-edge technology tools such as facial recognition to maintain safety at the games. The bill seeks to give Queensland police access to a national face verification service and direct access to TMR photos in time for the Commonwealth Games. The identity matching service will enable images associated with an individual to be compared with an existing government record to confirm their identity. This will be of real benefit to those tasked with the security of the Commonwealth Games. The legislation will help make identification simpler and faster and fast-track the sharing of information that is required to effectively police the biggest event ever held in Queensland.

The bill also amends explosive offences in sections 470A and 540 of the Criminal Code to increase the current maximum penalties for those offences from two and three years imprisonment respectively to seven years imprisonment. The amendment also expands the scope of the offence contained in section 470A of the Criminal Code to capture the making or possession of explosives in circumstances that may injure a person or damage property. There is a disparity between the current maximum penalties for these offences and the maximum penalties associated with explosive offences in the Criminal Code. In the interests of community safety it is important that this is rectified before the Commonwealth Games to ensure that the maximum penalties apply as a deterrent and to properly reflect the seriousness of the risk to community safety.

This bill also amends the Liquor Act 1992 to provide for extended liquor trading arrangements for the 2018 Commonwealth Games to automatically provide each licensee whose licenced premises is located in one of the Gold Coast's safe night out precincts with the authority to sell liquor for an additional hour of liquor trade beyond their current permanent approved liquor service hours for each day of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. It is important to seek to make this amendment so that extended liquor trading hours are in place in time for the commencement of the games.

In relation to the Local Government Legislation (Validation of Rates and Charges) Amendment Bill, this bill seeks to provide retrospective validity to rates and charges issued by the Fraser Coast Regional Council and other councils. On 6 November 2017 the Supreme Court of Queensland delivering a judgement in the matter of Linville Holdings Pty Ltd v Fraser Coast Regional Council declared that the Fraser Coast Regional Council failed to validly make and levy rates and charges within its local government area for the 2015, 2016 and 2017 financial years. It is important to rectify this as soon as possible.

Lastly, the Crime and Corruption and Other Legislation Bill is a reintroduction of a bill that was originally introduced on 23 March 2017 with the then committee report tabled on 15 May 2017 with one recommendation that the bill be passed. As the report is non-controversial the report back of 15 March is recommended.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.39 pm): The LNP opposition will be opposing these reporting dates. The House has just debated new sessional orders for family-friendly hours and now we are debating whether or not bills should be declared urgent because there is limited time to debate the

legislation and put the bills before committees. The House is debating whether legislation such as the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill should have a report-back date of 2 March. That is two weeks away. The Leader of the House, on behalf of the ministers, has said that the bills contain things that affect the Commonwealth Games, but the Commonwealth Games did not happen overnight. We have known about it for years.

**Mr Pegg** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** If the member for Stretton wants to interject, I can give him another example. The Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill changes the liquor trading laws in relation to ID scanners, which have been law for years. When did we know about the Commonwealth Games? It has been planned for years. For three years this government spruiked about it, but now, all of a sudden, it has realised that it has to change the liquor laws. Therefore, the committee will have only two weeks to look at the new liquor laws before this House enacts them. A year ago the Attorney-General, as the minister responsible for liquor licensing, introduced into this chamber a bill about liquor laws. She could have put this amendment in there, but she forgot.

In all of this—and I cannot remember which bill they have tacked it onto this time—the worst one would have to be the great hot cross bungle. They forgot Easter again. Two or three years ago when we debated industrial relations legislation, I warned the then minister for industrial relations that they forgot to amend a particular provision in the legislation that, in fact, made one of the Easter days—I think it was Easter Monday—a public holiday. They forgot to amend the trading hours legislation to allow businesses to open and trade on Easter Monday. They said to businesses, ‘Here is the legislation making Easter Monday a public holiday’, but they forgot to change the allowable trading hours legislation so that businesses could actually open. They had to rush in an amendment to fix that. Last year, another amendment was introduced because of something else they forgot in relation to Easter.

Now, we have *deja vu*. Easter is a few weeks away and we have another hot cross bungle. Another Easter amendment has to be moved. The minister has been caught out by the National Retail Association which has said, ‘You didn’t get the amendments you made to the legislation last year quite right and, in fact, they have serious consequences for small businesses in Queensland at Easter’. Therefore, for the third year in a row we have to rush through legislation. We have to declare legislation urgent so that we can deal with an absolute mess, because the government cannot get it right. They cannot get it right because they forget things and rush the legislation, which makes things worse. Each year we are required to come back and fix Easter. What has the government got against Easter? What does the government have against traders trading on Easter?

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** They hate the Easter bunny; I take the interjection. They hate Easter. They are saying that committees will have two weeks to look at brand new legislation, such as the police bill. I suspect that biometric capability amendments are complicated and ought to be properly scrutinised by a committee, but the Attorney-General and the government say that the committee will have two weeks to do that. That is not enough time. They set up the committee process to look at legislation and to find errors. If you pass legislation without proper scrutiny, you will end up with errors.

The industrial relations amendment and the Easter bungle do not surprise me. When the Minister for Industrial Relations, the Hon. Grace Grace, was the racing minister she had to amend her own legislation. She made 300 amendments to her own legislation. She introduced a racing bill and, by the time we debated it, she had moved 300 amendments.

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The member for Gympie is surprised by that. I can tell the member for Gympie that the amendments that she moved were longer than the bill. When she was minister for racing, Grace Grace introduced a racing bill to which she moved 300 amendments that were longer than the bill itself. Last year they forgot Easter and had to amend the trading hours legislation. This year they have again forgotten Easter and we have to also tack an amendment onto the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill. They forgot that people might want to have a beer or a glass of wine at the Commonwealth Games and now we have to amend the Liquor Act to cater for that. It is a disgrace. It is incompetence. The Commonwealth Games have been planned for years. Because they do not know what they are doing, we are continually fixing issues in the parliament.

The committees will go through the process. I am not confirming or denying what we will do on the particular provisions of the legislation. I am saying that for new bills to be two weeks before a committee is not enough time. The normal provisions of the standing orders should apply and the committees should have at least five to six weeks to look at these matters, not two weeks, particularly with new pieces of legislation. That is why we will be opposing the time lines set out by the Leader of the House.

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

**AYES, 50:**

**ALP, 47**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D’Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O’Rourke, C. O’Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Independent, 1**—Bolton.

**Greens, 1**—Berkman.

**NOES, 39:**

**LNP, 39**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O’Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



**Hon. YM D’ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.50 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 6 March 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADJOURNMENT



**Hon. YM D’ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.51 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.51 pm.

## ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D’Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O’Connor, O’Rourke B, O’Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson