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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 6 March 2018

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TUESDAY, 6 MARCH 2018

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.



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

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.

PRIVILEGE

Correction to Record of Proceedings, Apology



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. I would like to correct the parliamentary record. On 15 February 2018, I made the following statement to the House in response to a question without notice from the member for Lytton, referring to the Leader of the Opposition—

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.

I made this statement believing that my letter to her had been sent. However, on Wednesday, 21 February 2018, my office received correspondence from the Leader of the Opposition in which she states that she had not received any such correspondence from me.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the minister will be heard in silence. He is standing on a matter of privilege to explain his actions to the House. I expect that he will be heard in silence.

Dr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Subsequent investigations determined that, although I approved correspondence addressed to the Leader of the Opposition and was of the understanding it had been sent, due to an administrative oversight in my office it was not sent. My office emailed a copy of the correspondence in question to the Leader of the Opposition's parliamentary email address within two days of being alerted to the error. I apologise to the Leader of the Opposition and the House for this matter.

Mr Minnikin: You should've used mangocube!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, you are warned under standing orders. I mentioned your name four times. You will respond to the chair. Honourable members, I have a sore back which means I am not going to be in a very pleasant mood. I expect that you will all adhere to the standing orders today, otherwise I will name members.

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



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 26 February 2018 the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services wrote to me to advise that on 15 February 2018 he made a statement to the House in response to a question without notice from the member for Lytton referring to the Leader of the Opposition. In his letter to me the minister stated that he wished to correct the record. The minister explained that on 21 February 2018 his office received correspondence from the Leader of the

Opposition in which she states that she had not received any correspondence from the minister. The minister advised that subsequent investigations determined that he had approved correspondence addressed to the Leader of the Opposition and was of the understanding that it had been sent. The minister advised that, due to an administrative oversight within his office, it was not sent.

Standing order 269(4) requires that in considering whether a matter should be referred to the committee the Speaker shall take into account a number of factors, including whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter. I note that the minister has today apologised and corrected the parliamentary record. I have therefore decided that this matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence regarding the allegation that the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, deliberately mislead the House on 15 February 2018 [245].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Matters of Privilege



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, it is clear that complaints against members for deliberately misleading the House have been misused by both sides of the House in recent parliaments. Speakers do not refer trivial or unimportant matters, but the time and resources taken in assessing matters can be wasteful. I am informed that in the 55th Parliament there were 87 complaints of contempt made to Speaker Wellington. The make-up of these complaints was as follows: deliberately misleading the House, 75; deliberately misleading a committee, one; threatening and intimidating a member, three; unauthorised disclosure of committee proceedings, one; false or misleading account of proceedings before the House, two; misuse or contravention of the broadcast terms and conditions, four; publicly naming and releasing confidential information, one; and one instance where the contempt was not clearly defined.

Speaker Wellington dismissed 83 matters and referred four matters to the Ethics Committee. Of the 83 matters dismissed, the reasons included that members had apologised and corrected the record or that the matter was trivial. Standing order 269 provides the procedure for raising a matter of privilege and states that, with the exception of matters suddenly arising, a member must write to the Speaker. Standing order 269(3) further provides that—

A member must formulate as precisely as possible the matter, and where a contempt is alleged, enough particulars so as to give any person against whom it is made a full opportunity to respond to the allegation.

Honourable members, I wish to make my policy on such matters very clear. Firstly, the correspondence should be directed to the Speaker. I will not accept a cc'd letter as a complaint. Secondly, the standing orders require members in their correspondence to provide particulars. Thirdly, in the case of allegations of deliberately misleading the House, which is the most common issue raised by members, I expect sufficient particulars of not only the allegedly deliberately misleading statements but also particulars of the evidence against which an allegation is to be judged. The letter should provide clear analysis demonstrating that any statements made were not only misleading but also deliberately misleading. Standing order 269(5) permits the Speaker in considering a matter to request further information from the complainant. I advise members that I will not hesitate in writing back to members requesting further particulars. Alternatively, any correspondence not providing sufficient evidence may be simply dismissed by me without further action.

Lastly, I note that on occasions members may inadvertently mislead the House. Early correction of the record would alleviate many complaints. The Code of Ethical Standards gives the following guidance—

Members may sometimes make incorrect or misleading statements in the House without actually intending to mislead the House. Recklessness by a member resulting in incorrect or misleading statements to the House is in itself a serious matter. Members have a duty to correct the official record in the House as soon as it becomes apparent that their statements were incorrect or could be misleading.

Vacancy in Senate of Commonwealth of Australia



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, as advised during the last sitting upon being elected as Speaker, I received advice from His Excellency the Governor that there is a Senate vacancy caused by the resignation of the Hon. Senator Brandis. On Tuesday, 27 February 2018 I issued a summons to members in accordance with the time frames within standing order 288 to call members to a meeting

in the Legislative Assembly at 2 pm on Wednesday, 7 March 2018 for the purposes of electing a senator as provided for in section 15 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution. As Senator Brandis was a member of the Liberal Party, it falls to the Liberal National Party to nominate the replacement. I have received correspondence from the Leader of the Opposition advising that the Liberal National Party will not be in a position to nominate a replacement senator until Monday, 12 March 2018.

Mr Powell interjected.


Mr Brown interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Glass House! Member for Capalaba, you and the member for Glass House are warned under standing orders.


Accordingly, the meeting scheduled for 2 pm on Wednesday, 7 March 2018 will need to be adjourned or postponed until after 12 March 2018.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 February 2018, from the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding a casual vacancy in the Senate [246].

Questions on Notice

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, standing order 114 requires questions on notice to be lodged with the Clerk by the end of question time each sitting day. Members can lodge questions on notice either by emailing their question to the Table Office from their personal email address or, alternatively, by signing and placing their question in the box on the table. Questions received by the Clerk after the end of question time will not be accepted as a question for that sitting day.

Office of the Former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I lay upon the table of the House the *Statement for public disclosure: expenditure of the office of the former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period of 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017*.

Tabled paper: Statement for Public Disclosure: Expenditure of the Office of the former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017 [247].

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Laming, Mr BE

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Bruce Edric Laming, 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.

Bruce Edric Laming was born in Melbourne on 14 June 1938 and was educated at Scotch College, Melbourne and the Geelong institute of technology. Throughout his life Mr Laming worked in many and varied fields, including as a plant operator, a wool classer, a patrol officer in Papua New Guinea from 1972 to 1975, and as circulation manager for the *Sunshine Coast Daily* from 1976 to 1992. His fondness for the people of New Guinea and his deep understanding of their culture was evident during a touching speech that he gave to this House on a condolence motion following a tsunami disaster in New Guinea in 1998. After he left this place Mr Laming returned to his former life as a wool classer and my father relates the tale of having seen him out in western Queensland when he visited a sheep property as minister for primary industries. Mr Laming's life was a life of adventure. His interests were many and varied. They included classic Jaguar cars, barbershop quartets, and poetry. He worked on the Snowy Mountains scheme and for Mount Isa Mines. It was this vast and broad-ranging experience that he brought to the Queensland parliament.

Having settled on the Sunshine Coast with his family in the 1970s Mr Laming became active in his local community, serving in the Landsborough shire council as a councillor for one term until 1985 before being preselected by the Liberal Party to contest the state election in the new seat of Mooloolah. After being successful at the state election of 1992, Mr Laming went on to represent the seat of Mooloolah until 2001. During his time in parliament he served in many parliamentary and party roles. He was chairman of committees—or Deputy Speaker as we refer to the position these days—from 1996 to 1998. Mr Laming also served as deputy opposition whip and was a member of various parliamentary committees. He served as the shadow minister for public works and housing from 1998 to 2001.


Outside of politics, I understand that Mr Laming was a life member of the Alexandra Headland Surf Lifesaving Club and also had a long association with the Mooloolaba Yacht Club, particularly serving as Rear Commodore Sailing of the club. Mr Laming was also an honorary life member and two-time president of the Sunshine Statesmen Chorus, who sang at his funeral last year. When speaking to members who served in this House with Mr Laming, the most common thing they had to say was that he was a lovely man and a real gentleman of this House. Family was very important to Mr Laming. He often spoke about his children, his daughters Suzanne and Julie, and his son, Andrew. His wife, Estelle, was frequently here at parliament with him. When Mr Laming left parliament, he continued his education, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts from the University of the Sunshine Coast in 2006. In 2009, he won the Fellowship of Australian Writers best short story for his first attempt.

As honourable members would also be aware, Mr Laming's son, Andrew, has followed in his father's footsteps to elected office, having represented the Queensland federal seat of Bowman in the House of Representatives since 2004. Andrew's father would have taken enormous pride in seeing his son elected to the federal parliament as he valued very highly the privilege of representing the community in the parliament. As Mr Laming said in his maiden speech in this House in 1992—

To be a representative of the people at any level of government is the ambition of many but the privilege of few. I intend to take seriously the responsibility entrusted to me.

Indeed, between the two of them, Bruce Laming and Andrew Laming have represented their community at all levels of government. There was almost a third generation of Lamings in public office, with Mr Bruce Laming's father narrowly missing out on a seat in the Victorian parliament in the 1950s by three votes. I am delighted that Andrew has been able to join us in the gallery today for his father's condolence motion and to hear the esteem in which his father was held in this House. I am sure that all honourable members will join me in wishing Andrew a warm welcome to the House.

Bruce Edric Laming passed away on 11 September 2017, aged 79 years. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service that Mr Laming 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 the House to Mr Laming's wife, Estelle; his daughters Julie and Suzanne; his son, Andrew; his wider family and his many friends.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.44 am): It is an honour to stand in this place today and remember the legacy of Bruce Edric Laming, the Liberal member for Mooloolah from 1992 to 2001. I acknowledge the family and friends of the late Mr Laming who are here today: his wife, Estelle; his children Julie, Andrew and Suzanne; and his grandchildren Jazz, Jinja, Jack, Sophie and Isobelle, who are all sitting here today.

The electorate of Mooloolah revolved around the river, which gave the division its name. In fact, the Mooloolah electorate existed only when Bruce Laming was the member. It was created in 1992 and abolished in 2001. Bruce came from the old style of politics. He lived to serve his community, working as a councillor in the former Landsborough shire council and later running for the Senate. The signs of Bruce Laming's commitment to his community are all over the Sunshine Coast. When he ran for council in 1980, Bruce campaigned on a platform to sewer Kawana and end the run-off into the Mooloolah River. He fought against the controversial development proposal at Point Cartwright, preserving its public amenity for all of us to enjoy to this day. He secured an agreement between the Landsborough and Maroochy councils to preserve both sides of the Mooloolah River, allowing bikeway connections along the river.

But Bruce was not to be stopped there. He went on to campaign strongly against the tolls on the Sunshine Motorway, the result of a broken promise by the then Goss Labor government. It was this campaign that saw Bruce elected in 1992 as the member for Mooloolah. During his time in state parliament, Bruce served as whip, housing and public works spokesman and deputy speaker. He continued to focus on the infrastructure that was needed for the ever-growing Sunshine Coast, including transport routes, rail corridors, an upgrade to Nambour Hospital and schools at Mountain Creek. Bruce was particularly passionate about improving transport links on the Sunshine Coast and urging the government of the day to consider the interests of the commuters of the next century. Bruce championed the cause of a university on the Sunshine Coast. Indeed, during his maiden speech he spoke with passion on this matter. Bruce is credited with convincing Rob Borbidge to take action on the site of what is now the University of the Sunshine Coast and he would go on to earn a Bachelor of Arts from the University of the Sunshine Coast.

Both Bruce and his wife, Estelle, served their party for many years, working on many campaigns and even opening up their family home as a venue for young members of the party to meet. They both worked tirelessly on campaigns for my colleague the member for Kawana and for the federal member for Fisher, Andrew Wallace. Bruce is even credited with giving now Senator James McGrath his first job. I am sure that Bruce's loss will be keenly felt by my colleagues throughout the state, particularly on the Sunshine Coast.

After politics, Bruce turned to writing, even winning best short story by the Fellowship of Australian Writers on his first attempt. Bruce loved to write. He wrote from his heart, producing short stories, poetry and novels. He documented his early working career, including working on the Snowy Mountains scheme, for Mount Isa Mines, as a wool classer in Tasmania and the four years that he spent patrolling Bougainville in the highlands of Papua New Guinea.

From his poem, *The Red Gum Tree*, Bruce wrote the following of his early days as a wool classer in Tasmania—

I thanked the boss, then got to work

A-classin in his shed,

But he made me do the work of two

As round the shed I sped.

Bruce was determined to document the history of past generations of Australians and his own personal story. He wrote in his book *You've Got to Knock About Son* that he hoped to spark curiosity in his grandchildren by putting pen to paper while he still had his wits about him. Tragically, mere weeks after finishing his book Bruce was diagnosed with the first signs of dementia. Bruce's loving wife, Estelle, nursed him throughout his health battles. With the help of excellent home-care services, Estelle was able to nurse Bruce at home so that he did not have to live out his days in a nursing home.

Bruce was proud of his family, and rightfully so: his wife, Estelle, his daughters Julie and Suzie; his son, Andrew; and his grandchildren. Of course, many in this House are aware that Andrew has followed his father's lead in serving his community, being elected as the member for Bowman in 2004. With the support of his parents, Andrew has been re-elected as the member for Bowman five times.

Bruce's passion for life and his commitment to service will live on not only in his writing but also in his family who are here today. Sadly, Bruce passed away in September last year in the family home he built with Estelle many years ago. Bruce has left behind a great legacy of service to our community and to conservative politics. On behalf of the Liberal National Party I place on record our condolences to the Laming family and extended friends and our thanks for his many years of service. May he rest in peace.



Ms SIMPSON (Maroochydore—LNP) (9.49 am): It is a unique privilege to be able to speak about a man I not only served with in this parliament but also worked with at the *Sunshine Coast Daily* in our previous professional lives. Firstly, to Estelle, Andrew, Suzanne, Julie, all the grandchildren and extended network of family, I offer my condolences. Bruce is a man who we can speak of with pride. What you saw was what you got. He was a diligent, hardworking man. The thoughtfulness of Bruce was played out in so many ways. We have heard some wonderful acknowledgements of the service that he gave not only through this parliament but also throughout the community. One of the most outstanding features of Bruce Laming is that his legacy is not only from his time in parliament but also from his community service.

As has been acknowledged, Bruce had an extensive involvement with the Alexandra Headland Surf Lifesaving Club, an involvement that saw him acknowledged with life membership. He was not only a practical man, he was also creative, going on later, after his life in parliament, to gain a degree from the University of the Sunshine Coast. To be publicly acknowledged and awarded the Fellowship of Australian Writers best short story having only just entered into that line of work I think is outstanding. These hidden talents say a lot about this man. Bruce was not a quiet achiever, he was quite active and vocal in respect to the things he held dear, but he was very thoughtful. He was not a showy person in the way he approached things. He approached things diligently, he approached them with care and with a great deal of thought behind the way that he went about things.

The 1992 campaign where we were both elected to this parliament was a hot campaign in respect to the tolls, as has been acknowledged by the Leader of the Opposition. The fact that there was a broken promise from the government of the day, the Goss government, to remove the tolls on the

Sunshine Motorway was something that the Sunshine Coast did not forget. It was the reason so many of us rose up and fought hard to see not only the tolls removed but also infrastructure put to the front in regard to transport on the Sunshine Coast. Bruce was part of that fight. We all fought hard on that issue and so when we did come to government in 1996 it was with great pleasure that we saw our commitment to remove that toll fulfilled.


The legacy of Bruce goes beyond just the infrastructure that we have heard about. The Mooloolah River, which is now in my electorate of Maroochydore—it borders the electorate of Kawana—is one of Bruce's greatest legacies in respect to protecting its banks. When he was a councillor, before moving into state parliament, he ensured that this beautiful asset for the Sunshine Coast had ongoing pristine recognition further up the river. That is very much the mark of the early works that Bruce brought to bear in his time serving in local government.

Bruce had an incredibly diverse background. I knew Bruce through our time in parliament. I knew him as circulation manager of the *Sunshine Coast Daily* when I was working there as a journalist. When I went to what was a poignant but magnificent funeral service, it was a great insight for me to hear the stories that were told of his diverse background. We have heard that touched on briefly here: his time as a registered wool classer; his time as an Army Reserve lieutenant; his time in PNG; and some of the most heartwarming stories in regard to his background. I had not realised how much more I had in common with Bruce until that comment about how it could have been a third generation beyond just Bruce and Andrew Laming entering politics. My own grandfather also just missed out on being elected into the Parliament of Victoria. It is an interesting pathway. Public service often goes back generations. Bruce went to Scotch College. My father also went to Scotch College. Like many good Queenslanders, we all saw the light and moved to Queensland. The contribution that Bruce and his family have brought to our state is significant.

His work to provide sewers for the communities on the Sunshine Coast and his diligent work as a councillor have been mentioned, but I think that it should not go unremarked that one of the resounding messages that has come through with Bruce's passing has been that he was a family man. This was not a title he wore lightly. He loved his family so dearly. I know that through this difficult time of illness that his family loved him. The care, nurturing and support that was provided to Bruce as he had these difficult times with his ill health was outstanding. I know that Estelle as a life partner has truly been there with Bruce along the way. With this condolence motion today we are acknowledging Bruce's outstanding achievements, but you and your family have been there along the way. Bruce did not leave you behind; you were there together in that journey. His achievements are as much your achievements. The things that we remember today are as much because you made it possible and you worked alongside him. I think that is something very powerful that we should recognise. Andrew, in carrying on the political legacy of serving through the federal parliament, has carried on that understanding about what it is to nurture your family but to serve the public because, ultimately, the greatest legacy is to leave our community a better place for everybody.

I have been proud to serve with Bruce in this parliament and also in my previous work at the *Sunshine Coast Daily*. His is a legacy that will not be wiped out in time. By his quite amazing reflections and amusing insights in his poetry and his writings Bruce has left many other thoughts for us to ponder about this great nation and what is possible by people who are willing to work hard, who have capacity and who believe in the Australian dream, which is to bring your best, not to sit back and be quiet, but to get in there and to work hard and have a go and, most of all, to love your family along the way so that the legacy that you leave is not only for them but for another generation.

To Estelle, to the wider family, to those friends who have known Bruce over many years, I give our condolences, my condolences. He lived his life well and we are proud to have served with him.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (9.57 am): It is an absolute honour and privilege today to pay my respects to a true gentleman, a statesman, a loving husband and a father of three. Bruce Laming, born 14 June 1938, passed away on 11 September 2017, a husband to Estelle and a father to Suzanne, Julie and Andrew. I take a moment to pay my respects to the Laming family who are here today, including Estelle, Julie, Andrew, Suzanne and grandkids, Jazz, Jinja, Jack, Sophie and Isobelle. I am sure their love and support throughout Bruce's life and political career was precious and irreplaceable in ways we can only imagine. I have no doubt that Estelle and the entire Laming family are left with the cherished memory of Bruce, his life, his legacy and the many wonderful family times spent in each other's company.

Bruce Laming moved to Buddina in Kawana in 1975. This was a time when Nicklin Way was a single-lane road. There was a successful seafood shop, Bridge Seafoods, on the edge of the Mooloolah River and little between it and the 'Unexploded Ordnance' signs throughout Currumbundi. Up until it was sold late last year, the iconic Bridge Seafoods, operating since 1965 on the edge of the Mooloolah River, was still thriving. Upon moving to Buddina, Bruce purchased waterfront land at Adaluma Avenue for \$15,000 and built the family home in which he lived for many years until his passing. This block of land, bought for \$15,000, in today's estimate would be worth well into the millions of dollars.

I wish to reflect on the many branch meetings we held at that beautiful home on the waterfront in Minyama. Bruce, Estelle and their entire family were all so welcoming. Bruce believed in the Liberal Party and he believed in our philosophy. He also believed in bringing young people through the Liberal Party, as it was at that time, and Bruce and Estelle opened up their home to people such as me, way back when.

In 1979 Bruce joined the Sunshine Coast Newspapers as circulation manager. As has been talked about already today, Bruce formed part of a small team that launched the *Sunshine Coast Daily* the following year. Ironically, in 1980 the paper supported his run for council while he remained on the staff. I ask our Sunshine Coast members to reflect on that for a moment. If only we could get the endorsement of the *Sunshine Coast Daily* these days.

Bruce was a tireless advocate for his local community. He was particularly passionate about preserving our local environmental treasures such as Point Cartwright and the Mooloolah River. Today, local residents of the Kawana electorate are thankful for his efforts. His signature achievement was securing the Landsborough and Maroochy council agreement to preserve both sides of the Mooloolah River upstream from the bridge, enabling bikeway connections along the river in perpetuity. In 2018 we may take for granted those achievements, but without Bruce's commitment and dedication to preserving the waterways along the edges of the Mooloolah River we would not have the wonderful La Balsa Park where we celebrate Australia Day, as well as all the other parks that have been preserved in perpetuity through Bruce's efforts.

Bruce stood down from the council after a single term. In 1992 he entered state politics after the new state seat of Mooloolah was formed. I was 10 at the time and had recently moved from New South Wales to Queensland with my family. However, I remember the toll-busting campaigns that the member for Maroochydore spoke about. Bruce was a whip, a housing and public works spokesperson and deputy speaker. The combination of local government experience and access to state departments allowed him to focus on desperately needed infrastructure such as transport routes, rail corridors and Mountain Creek schools. As the Leader of the Opposition described, his final act in the 1996-98 Borbidge government was to spend precious pre-election minutes with the then premier to authorise a high-voltage powerline relocation at Sippy Creek to ensure that the Sunshine Coast University Hospital happened. Today, that university hospital is so important for the many residents of the Sunshine Coast, as well as people from throughout Queensland and Australia, who train there and the patients who receive top-level care there.

At the 2001 state election, the electorate of Mooloolah was renamed Kawana, as it is now known. Demonstrating that no seat in Queensland is safe, after nine years of loyal service to his community there was a 19 per cent swing against Bruce and the LNP lost the seat. That was a great loss to the Kawana community, with external factors influencing the 2001 election outcome. However, after losing in 2001 Bruce continued his legacy, even though he could have left community service and left politics, as we see happen so often these days. He could have been angry with the community, but he was not. He stuck it out. He never displayed any anger. He kept working with the community. Indeed, he increased his community participation. That is a testament to the gentleman who was Bruce Laming. As I said, it is apparent that Bruce's legacy is still favourably remembered by many Kawana residents. Many of his achievements while in office are seen throughout the electorate every day. While our community continues to grow, the contribution he made to our community will never be forgotten.

Not one to shy away, Bruce maintained community involvement during and after representative life. He was a member of the Alexandra Headland Surf Lifesaving Club and the Sunshine Coast Barbershop Chorus. I had many things in common with Bruce. I was also in a chorus, the Caloundra Chorale and Theatre Company. On many occasions I saw Bruce perform in the barbershop choir that he was involved with. They are great community champions and their singing is fantastic.

Bruce was a rear commodore and sailed out of the Mooloolaba Yacht Club. He won plenty of silver on his Sonata 8 Sunborn. He passionately supported Carlton and played Australian Rules for Townsville, Mount Isa and North Queensland. He toured Papua New Guinea to promote the sport. Stop shaking your head, member for Glass House and Collingwood supporter! Mr Speaker, I thought the member would take objection to that and ask for a withdrawal, but he has not.

Bruce completed a Bachelor of Arts at USC and in 2009 won the Fellowship of Australian Writers best short story on his first attempt. His books, essays and poems are among the few literary works emanating from someone who worked in Australia's shearing sheds, mines and construction sites in the 1950s. To my good friend the member for Bundamba I say: even though he was involved in the Mount Isa Mines and was a wool classer, he never joined the CFMEU.

Bruce Laming was part of the transition from National to Liberal politics on the coast and, while not directly involved, he was a strong supporter of the conservative merger. After launching his own career in public life at 42, Bruce played a key role in shaping the careers of other Sunshine Coast based conservative members of parliament, whilst also assuming a sergeant-major role in the federal elections his son, Andrew, has won since 2004.

Bruce helped young people in state politics. He encouraged us. In 2008 when I decided to run for preselection for Kawana for the Liberal National Party, I went to the home of Bruce and Estelle. The first people I sought advice from were Bruce and Estelle Laming. As Bruce was a former member for Mooloolah who had represented the area, I wanted his advice and his support, which he gave. I am forever grateful for that. In his late career I had worked as a campaign volunteer for Bruce Laming and, ultimately, as I said, he was one of the first people with whom I discussed my own ambitions to enter state politics. Bruce supported me in 2009 and in all future campaigns.

We know that politics is in the Laming family. Bruce's son, Andrew Laming, the federal member for Bowman, is here today. At the most recent election campaign, Julie and all the grandkids were at the Buddina booth. Julie was the booth captain. She set up early in the morning and handed out my how-to-vote cards. Although Bruce had been retired for some time, his family maintains an active involvement in and support of politics. I think that is a testament to Bruce. Often when people retire or lose elections we never see them again, but I think community involvement and support for other members of parliament should always continue.

As has been said, James McGrath's first job was in Bruce Laming's office. Bruce has a son in federal parliament. Andrew Laming and I have other things in common, like James McGrath. I recall Andrew Laming poured fuel or oil on himself in federal parliament to make an important point; I have worn a rat on my shoulder in this parliament to make an important point. However, I cannot say that we got that from Bruce, because I do not think Bruce was into gimmicks. I also think of James McGrath and the role he plays as a senator for Queensland. Bruce taught us many things, but we did not get the gimmicks or the theatrics from Bruce Laming, who was a gentleman—as I am, as well.

I recall at Bruce's funeral many people said that the best thing they can remember about Bruce Laming is that he never had a bad word to say about anybody. I sat at his funeral thinking, 'They won't be able to say that about me at my funeral.' Bruce did not have a bad word to say about anything. He loved his community; he loved his family; he loved his job; he loved Papua New Guinea where he worked as a patrol officer, building infrastructure for the region; he loved serving in the defence force.

I pay tribute to Jazz, Jinja, Jack, Sophie, Isobelle, Julie, Andrew and Suzanne. At Bruce's funeral, Jazz and Jinja sang a very moving song. It was incredible. Their grandfather would have been immensely proud of the young women they are today. A little earlier I spoke to Estelle who said that Bruce was a good man and she was a lucky lady. Estelle, Bruce was a good man but he was also a lucky man to have you in his life. Estelle told me that people aspired to be like the hardworking and decent man Bruce Laming was. I can attest to that.

I will finish by saying that Bruce's legacy will go on in the new electorate of Kawana that I represent. Bruce served nine years in this place. I have just served nine years in this place and I will forever be grateful for his service and for the true gentleman Bruce Laming was, which I see reflected in his wonderful family in the gallery today. Sally and I will be forever grateful for the support, love and encouragement that Bruce, Estelle, the Laming family and the broader community have given to us and our family in our battle for similar and important issues in the Kawana community that Bruce and Estelle love as much as I do. My condolences to Estelle and all the family.

Mr SPEAKER: Will honourable members indicate their agreement by standing in silence for one minute.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, due to the condolence motion, question time will commence at 10.55 am.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, lodged by the honourable member indicated—

Cooktown, Respite Care Facilities

Ms Lui, from 227 petitioners, requesting the House to provide respite care facilities in Cooktown [248].

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

Burrum, Gregory, Isis and Cherwell River System, Gill Netting

Mr Burnett, from 38 petitioners, requesting the House to close the Burrum, Gregory, Isis and Cherwell River systems to professional gill netting to save our river systems and allow the fish stocks to recover [249].

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

Albany Creek, Greensill Road and Leitchs Road South, Connection Road

From 343 petitioners, requesting the House to remove the proposed amendment to the Moreton Bay Regional Planning Scheme to include a connection road between Greensill Road and Leitchs Road South, Albany Creek and to maintain its 'local collector road' status on the Road Hierarchy Overlay Map [250].

Petitions received.

MOTION

Citizen's Right of Reply



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.12 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That this House notes report No. 178 of the Ethics Committee and the recommendation of the committee that a right of reply be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*; and
2. That the House adopt the committee's recommendation and incorporate the right of reply into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

RESPONSE BY MS CATE CARTER TO STATEMENTS MADE IN A DOCUMENT TABLED BY THE MEMBER FOR CAIRNS, MR ROB PYNE MP, ON 14 JUNE 2017

On 14 June 2017, the Member for Cairns tabled a document in the Queensland Parliament which included the following statement:

The Ipswich Police Communication Centre Campaign against the State Government over relocation: Pisasale has been using a staff member Cate Carter as a trusted leak to provide information on Police Activities including police raids, arrests and accidents over a number of years. He used this information to advise media outlets, to discuss crimes and get footage from Safe City Cameras for publicity. Pisasale worked closely with the QLD Police Union who wanted to pressure the Govt over the appointment of the Police commissioner. The mayor was concerned a Police Minister in his area and known not to be a supporter of his. The Mayor subsequently assisted Cate Carter in her Ipswich City Council election campaign and organised positive stories in the QT.

I have never leaked confidential information on Police activities to Mr Pisasale in the course of my employment with the Queensland Police Service, nor would I ever do so. Furthermore, the suggestion that Mr Pisasale assisted my 2016 local Government election campaign and arranged positive media coverage for me is wholly false. I used my limited personal savings, arranged my own media releases and had my own contact with the journalists and photographers of the Queensland Times and Advertiser. In my position I do not burn Safe City Footage, Ipswich City Council own the program and have their own procedures for obtaining such material without going through me.

On May 27 2016, an incumbent Ipswich Councillor made a similar allegation of misconduct against me, and the subsequent investigation cleared me of any wrongdoing. On the 14th of March 2017 the same Incumbent made a second allegation against me of wrongdoing, and again, I was cleared after a lengthy investigation. These documents can be obtained through the freedom of Information.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

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

19 February 2018—

- [199](#) Education and Care Services National Further 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

20 February 2018—

- [200](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 8: 2017-18—Confidentiality and disclosure of government contracts

- [201](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 9: 2017-18—Energy: 2016-17 results of financial audits

21 February 2018—

- [202](#) Economic Development Act 2012: Document titled 'Herston Quarter—Priority Development Area, Development Scheme, December 2017'

22 February 2018—

- [203](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 10: 2017-18—Finalising unpaid fines

- [204](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 11: 2017-18—Queensland state government: 2016-17 results of financial audits

23 February 2018—

- [205](#) Electoral Commission of Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17: Erratum

27 February 2018—

- [206](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 1, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 August 2017 and 22 August 2017

28 February 2018—

- [207](#) 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, government response

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

02 March 2018—

- [209](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 1, 56th Parliament—Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

- [210](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 1, 56th Parliament—Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018

- [211](#) Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 1, 56th Parliament—Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018

05 March 2018—

- [212](#) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 1, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 August 2017 and 10 October 2017

- [213](#) Report by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Planning Act 2016 for The Barracks located at 5-61 Petrie Terrace, Petrie Terrace

- [214](#) Report by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Planning Act 2016 for The Barracks located at 5-61 Petrie Terrace, Petrie Terrace—copy of the decision notice

- [215](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 1, 56th Parliament—Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018: Erratum

- [216](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 2, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 August 2017 and 10 October 2017

- [217](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 2, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 August 2017 and 5 September 2017

- [218](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 1, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 9 August 2017 and 10 October 2017

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Court and Civil Legislation Amendment Act 2017—

[219](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 8

[220](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 8, explanatory notes

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984—

[221](#) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) (Community Justice Group Membership) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 9

[222](#) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) (Community Justice Group Membership) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 9, explanatory notes

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017—

[223](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 10

[224](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 10, explanatory notes

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

[225](#) Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2018, No. 11

[226](#) Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2018, No. 11, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[227](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Deer Reserve and Littabella National Park) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 12

[228](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Deer Reserve and Littabella National Park) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 12, explanatory notes

Local Government Act 2009—

[229](#) Local Government (Fraser Coast Regional Council—Dismissal of Councillor) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 13

[230](#) Local Government (Fraser Coast Regional Council—Dismissal of Councillor) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 13, explanatory notes

Legal Profession Act 2007—

[231](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) (Membership) Amendment Notice 2018, No. 14

[232](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) (Membership) Amendment Notice 2018, No. 14, explanatory notes

Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017—

[233](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 15

[234](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 15, explanatory notes

Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[235](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Regulation 2018, No. 16

[236](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Regulation 2018, No. 16, explanatory notes

Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017—

[237](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) (Transitional) Regulation 2018, No. 17

[238](#) Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) (Transitional) Regulation 2018, No. 17, explanatory notes

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

[239](#) Transport Legislation (Dangerous Goods) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 18

[240](#) Transport Legislation (Dangerous Goods) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 18, explanatory notes

Industrial Relations Act 2016—

[241](#) Industrial Relations Regulation 2018, No. 19

[242](#) Industrial Relations Regulation 2018, No. 19, explanatory notes

Legal Profession Act 2007—

[243](#) Legal Profession (Barristers Rules) Notice 2018, No. 20

[244](#) Legal Profession (Barristers Rules) Notice 2018, No. 20, explanatory notes

MEMBERS' PAPERS

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

Member for Cook (Ms Lui)—

[251](#) Non-conforming petition regarding respite care facilities in Cooktown

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Trade Mission; Jobs



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.13 am): I have just concluded another highly successful trade mission to the United States. A highlight was the National Governors' Association conference in Washington where I joined other premiers and the Prime Minister to further enhance opportunities for our industries.

I have to apologise to the other premiers because all anyone wanted to talk about was Queensland. While other premiers look for buyers for their assets, Queensland is attracting investors. Executives from companies like Bechtel and ConocoPhillips complimented my government on the investment certainty provided by our energy policy, and especially our willingness to open up more gas reserves. They also had a message for Malcolm Turnbull—that is, that Queensland should no longer be forced to go it alone in the heavy lifting that needs to be done for Australia's gas supply.

In New York the largest investment fund manager, BlackRock—that already has a 90 per cent stake in a solar farm project near Collinsville—wants more here in Queensland. We signed a sister state deal with Nevada opening up new partnerships in mining and water technology and management. I met the CEO of the Marriott company who updated me on the two new hotels that the group is building here in Brisbane to cater for the increasing number of tourists coming into the state of Queensland. I have invited him to come to Queensland to examine even more opportunities in our state, especially in regional Queensland.


For those who feel that these partnerships never amount to jobs for Queenslanders, I was pleased to be joined in Washington by Brisbane based business leader Trevor St Baker. Trevor is well known for his leadership in the energy sector, but he is also an investor in a health product company based in Reno. I am pleased that Trevor joins us in the public gallery today. I welcome Trevor.

In terms of global economic achievement, Queensland has always punched above its weight—just like our homegrown world welterweight champion Jeff Horn. It breaks my heart that during the Commonwealth Games I will not be able to be in Jeff's corner when he defends his title in April, but at least he will be doing us proud in Las Vegas, in our new sister state of Nevada. I also met international boxing promoter Bob Arum—another fan of Queensland. Believe me, he knows how much we want another battle of Brisbane at our own Suncorp Stadium.

Everyone knows my government's determination to build new, stable, high-paying jobs in new and exciting industries. Last financial year the film industry invested \$214 million in Queensland, supported by more than 2,000 jobs. We are determined to build on that success. Those jobs depend on our ability to compete with locations like the United Kingdom, Canada, eastern Europe and not to mention the US, which is nervous about losing to places like Queensland. Sound Stage 9 on the Gold Coast is attracting the biggest blockbusters but, of course, I want more. I want to develop the post-production and special effects industries that will give talented Queenslanders the opportunity to work where they want to live.

Most encouraging of all was being able to confirm that Queensland will host the production of *Danger Close*—a movie based on the Battle of Long Tan. It was 108 Australians against an estimated 1,000 Viet Cong. Some 18 Australians were killed. Among the 860 jobs on this film are roles for 200 extras. The producers have told me that they hope that some of these roles will be filled by veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq. I commend them for this initiative. These are some of the immeasurable benefits of the local film industry—sharing our stories, teaching our history and encouraging future generations of writers and artists.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.17 am): It is now just 29 days until the Commonwealth Games and we are on track to deliver the best games ever. Queenslanders will soon start to see athletes and officials arriving in Queensland before they head to the Gold Coast for the opening ceremony on 4 April. I can say without doubt that we could not be better prepared to host the Commonwealth Games.


At our last Commonwealth Games cabinet subcommittee held yesterday Goldco Deputy CEO, Brian Nourse, said it was 'the best preparation he had ever seen in a games'. Brian would know because he has been involved in four. We are the first host destination in the history of the games to deliver all venues more than six months out from the opening ceremony.

Every venue has already been successfully tested. Last week the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre opened its doors to welcome a crowd of more than 13,000 for the Australian swimming trials. These venues will leave a long-lasting legacy for Queensland and will establish the Gold Coast as an international hub for major sporting events.

Perhaps the legacy outcome that will have the biggest impact on the lives of Gold Coasters will be our investment in transport infrastructure. We have delivered almost \$1 billion in transport infrastructure, including \$160 million on Gold Coast roads, \$163 million on duplicating heavy rail between Coomera and Helensvale and completing stage 2 of Gold Coast Light Rail.

We have also released our comprehensive transport management plan, including a journey planner on the official Commonwealth Games app to make sure spectators have all the resources they need to get to the games. With the Queen's baton making its way through Queensland this week, it is time to roll out the red carpet for athletes, officials and spectators to enjoy the best of what we have to offer in our state of Queensland.

Rural and Regional Queensland, Rainfall

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.19 am): I am pleased to report to the House that some of the most parched areas of Queensland have in recent days received some eagerly anticipated rain. From Townsville west to Mount Isa, many districts have received their best rainfall in years. Areas around Cloncurry, Julia Creek, The Monument and Winton have seen falls in excess of 100 millimetres. While that rain damages infrastructure and cuts roads, those costs are far outweighed by the new life it brings to regional areas of our state which so desperately need the rain.


In January I had the pleasure of visiting Longreach and Ilfracombe. While graziers were grateful for the protections offered by the wild dog cluster fencing, what they needed for restocking was the certainty of feed. Those areas have now had falls of 80 to 100 millimetres of rain, and the town dam at Ilfracombe that was bone dry six weeks ago is now filled with water.

Speaking of dams, I am very pleased to report that the Ross River Dam at Townsville that sat on about 14 per cent two weeks ago is now over 85 per cent full. That means that the council no longer has to pump water from the Burdekin and can reconsider its water restrictions. Again, there has been some damage from flooding, especially around places like Giru, but I think that most people in North Queensland would regard improved water security as being a much greater benefit.

I am conscious that we are not yet clear of the cyclone season and the bureau advises that it is possible a cyclone could form in coming days, although the most likely location is well off the coast. There are still many parts of Western Queensland that have missed out during this latest rain event, but I am sure all members will join with me in hoping that they can look forward to heavy falls of their own before winter.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the Deputy Premier, I remind all honourable members about their personal electronic devices. Please ensure that they are switched to silent. I have heard a number of pings this morning. This is a friendly reminder for the overall courtesy of the House.

Cross River Rail

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.21 am): The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of delivering Cross River Rail. Last month it gave me great pleasure to announce the company short-listed to bid for Cross River Rail's two major packages of work—the tunnels, stations and development of a public-private partnership, and the rail, integration and systems alliance. This is yet

another major milestone in the delivery of Cross River Rail. The short list of bidders is an outstanding list of highly reputable major national and international firms from the construction, engineering, finance and design sectors. Initially, almost 90 registrations were received for the expressions of interest phase. The Cross River Rail Delivery Authority conducted a rigorous evaluation process and we now have a short list of three PPP consortia for the tunnels and stations and two short-listed for the rail, integration and systems alliance.

This strong industry response and quality of bidders points to a highly competitive bid process that will drive cutting-edge innovation and ultimately strong value for money for Queensland taxpayers. During the competitive bid process even more opportunities will emerge for local companies to pitch for supply chain contracts throughout the life of the construction phase. The short-listed consortia must detail in their bids plans for sourcing from local and regional Queensland suppliers and manufacturers, fulfilling our commitment that Cross River Rail will support jobs for thousands of Queenslanders. This includes 7,700 jobs that our economic advisers KPMG estimate will be generated over the five years of construction. This equates to an average of 1,547 jobs being generated each and every year of construction, peaking at 2,932 jobs in the fourth and busiest year.

As one of Queensland's most important job generators, the project will also trigger 40 years of economic development. That is because by unlocking the bottleneck at the core of our transport network Cross River Rail will accelerate a range of wider economic benefits. Our city will be home to new world-class urban regeneration, such as the redeveloped Roma Street precinct, including the exciting Brisbane Live proposal, or a new and improved precinct around our iconic Gabba stadium. These precincts will attract strong investment which will underpin the creation of even more job opportunities. I also note that we are doing all of this without any assistance from the Commonwealth government. We are doing it while retaining our income-generating assets and not participating in their asset recycling scheme.

This government is getting on with the job of delivering the infrastructure that Queenslanders need. Our investment in Cross River Rail is all about delivering critical transport infrastructure for our growing region while creating jobs now and enterprises of the future.

Boeing, Autonomous Systems



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (10.24 am): Last Friday the Premier and I attended the launch of Boeing's Queensland based Advanced Autonomous Systems Development Program. The decision by Boeing Defence Australia to expand its Brisbane base has consolidated Queensland as a defence and aviation powerhouse and a world leader in autonomous and unmanned aerial systems research while creating 131 new jobs.

According to Boeing, this project alone will generate \$136 million in economic benefit to our state. The state government's support, through my department and the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund, was integral to Boeing's decision to choose our state over competing locations for the growing billion-dollar autonomous vehicles market.

I am pleased to advise the House that Brisbane will be home to Boeing's largest advanced autonomous program outside the United States. New and upgraded autonomous and unmanned products and services will be developed in Queensland for a range of applications for the global market, supporting more technical and specialist jobs in our state including software and systems engineers.

These jobs are on top of Boeing's 1,285-strong Queensland workforce currently based at Brisbane, Amberley and Oakey. The new high-tech jobs created will directly benefit Queensland's small to medium enterprises that service the aerospace, advanced manufacturing, defence and mining equipment, technology and services sectors. It will put Queensland companies in the box seat to take advantage of emerging opportunities across Australia and around the world.

Boeing's decision to expand its Queensland operations is the ninth project attracted to Queensland through the \$65 million Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund, which forms part of our \$513 million Advance Queensland program. These nine projects will generate more than 580 jobs and more than a quarter of a billion dollars in capital expenditure for Queensland in the next five years. Our ongoing partnership with Boeing is yet another sign of an economy in full flight, powering new and better jobs and fuelled by a government that has the policy settings right.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games



Hon. KJ JONES (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (10.26 am): As the Premier said, it is now less than one month until the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Preparations and excitement are building right across Queensland including in Cairns. On the weekend I was honoured to join the member for Cook, our first Torres Strait Islander member of parliament, and the people of Horn Island and Thursday Island to welcome the Queen's baton back to Queensland. I want to put on the record my thanks, the government's thanks and the parliament's thanks to all of our baton bearers—community heroes every single one of them—including ARIA award-winning artist Uncle Seaman Dan. He even sang me a little song; it was very lovely. Uncle Seaman Dan is the very first Queenslander to carry the baton in the Torres Strait.

While the baton makes its final journey across Queensland, the games team are busy putting the final touches on the venues in preparation for the games. This work includes installing 61,000 temporary grandstand seats, setting up 500 tents covering 45,000 square metres, erecting 50 kilometres of temporary fencing and 2,300 broadcast lighting fixtures. At the village we are installing 155,000 pieces of furniture, and through our village artwork program more than 7,000 artworks created by young Gold Coasters will be on display.

I also want to congratulate our successful athletes at the recent Australian swimming and athletics trials on the Gold Coast. These were major test events for our venues and will help us with our preparations and, of course, give our Australian athletes an edge. Following the athletics trials, the International Association of Athletics Federations technical delegate Bill Bailey wrote to Goldoc saying—

All I can say is congratulations on a fantastically organised and conducted test event. It really was outstanding; the best I have ever seen since my involvement in these things since 2000. The arrangements in the venue were first class and the Technical Officers were outstanding!

Bring on the games!

New Generation Rollingstock



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.28 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that all Queenslanders have the modern, accessible train fleet that they deserve with the rollout of the New Generation Rollingstock trains. In order to support the tripling in train services for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, with 24-hour heavy rail to and from the Gold Coast, NGR trains will operate exclusively on the Gold Coast and airport lines before and during the games.

Make no mistake: the trains will run for the games. I am confident we will deliver our Commonwealth Games timetable. Nine of these new trains have been deployed on the Gold Coast airport line since December last year, exceeding our requirement of eight NGR trains for the Commonwealth Games. This is accompanied by a boarding model to ensure that any passengers who need assistance are able to access it on the platform.

Unlike the former LNP government, the Palaszczuk government will ensure that all new rail manufacturing and retrofit contracts are carried out by Queensland workers after the LNP debacle of outsourcing manufacturing to overseas. We make no apologies for bringing this work back to Queensland workers in Maryborough, a city with a proud rail history.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I take the interjection from the member for Maryborough. In relation to the Human Rights Commission preliminary view handed down last week, we will review the details and make a submission accordingly.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I am having difficulty hearing the minister which means you are too loud.

Mr BAILEY: The House should be reminded that we are dealing with the anti-Commonwealth Games legacy of the LNP Newman government. Just like the LNP's do-nothing approach to preparing for the games—whether it was ignoring the M1, not building light rail stage 2, or not duplicating the heavy rail from Helensvale to Coomera, as we have since—the LNP's mismanagement of the \$4.4 billion NGR contract has come back to bite them.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. I cannot provide any form of protection if you provoke the opposition. However, I will caution those to my left. I can hear some of you over and above your colleagues and I will start naming.

Mr BAILEY: The impact of the final decision from the commission will be related to whether people are able to make complaints through the usual discrimination complaints process. The commission is not called upon to decide whether the trains can run. Let us be clear: the LNP signed the contract for half-price overseas trains and approved the design. We inherited this and we are fixing it.

Mr Nicholls: You changed it!

Mr BAILEY: It is appropriate that I should get an interjection from the member for Clayfield, because he is the key person who botched that contract and he got a 4.3 per cent swing against him at the election. I am sure people remembered. We are getting on with the job of rectifying the New Generation Rollingstock, working with the disability sector and using Queensland workers—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There have been rulings by previous Speakers with respect to ministerial statements advising the Queensland public on ministerial matters, not engaging in debate or fighting previous governments. The Minister for Transport seems to be the only minister over there to not understand the history of ministerial statements.


Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. Minister, I remind you to keep your comments as non-combative as possible, and I duly note the member's point of order.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I certainly take your direction. In closing, I want to emphasise that these trains will run for the Commonwealth Games.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South, you are warned under the standing orders.

Hospitals, Federal Funding

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.32 am): The numbers are in and the maths stack up. Canberra owes Queensland hospitals a billion dollars. Now we know for a fact that, rather than face the people of Queensland and tell them why their tax dollars are not going back into hospital funding like they expect, Greg Hunt misled Queenslanders. I asked respected accounting firm KPMG to double-check our numbers, and it turns out that Malcolm Turnbull does not owe our hospitals \$970 million, as I reported at the last sitting. Adjusted to last month, he now owes \$1.12 billion. Today I can inform the House that the KPMG analysis confirms that our sums are right. For the benefit of all members here, I table a copy of their findings.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'KPMG Factual Findings' comparing NHR entitlements prepared by Queensland Health with the funding estimated to be paid by the Commonwealth government [252].

These findings confirm that, when it comes to health funding, Greg Hunt did not tell the truth. His LNP MPs and the state opposition have been hiding behind his lies and refusing to support Queensland's hospitals.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I ask you to withdraw those unparliamentary remarks.


Dr MILES: I withdraw. The Palaszczuk government and our hospitals have been working hard to increase services and employ more nurses and doctors, but that gets so much harder when Malcolm Turnbull will not even pay us for the operations performed back to 2014. Right now the full cost of those procedures is sitting on Queensland Health's overdraft, which is nearly maxed out.

In April last year the administrator of the National Health Funding Pool wrote to the federal Treasurer advising him that the Commonwealth owed Queensland hospitals significant funding for services already provided. Queensland is currently owed over \$168 million for services delivered in 2014-15 and 2015-16. The shortfall in 2015-16 affects the amount of national health reform funding flowing to Queensland for both 2016-17 and 2017-18. Because it compounds over time, the Commonwealth funding shortfall is now over \$1 billion. These claims have now been independently tested and checked and confirmed to be accurate. It is not good enough for the LNP federal government to lie about something this important.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language and I warn you under the standing orders. I only just warned you.

Dr MILES: I withdraw, Mr Speaker. This is about Queenslanders' wellbeing. It is about their livelihoods. We pay our taxes in good faith so that we will have access to health services when we need them. It is time for Greg Hunt and the Turnbull government to stop misleading Queenslanders and pay Queensland hospitals what they are owed.

Toowoomba Second Range Crossing


 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.35 am): The Toowoomba Second Range Crossing is one of the most important infrastructure projects in Queensland. It represents a \$1.6 billion investment to build a 41-kilometre toll road across challenging terrain and is supporting up to 1,800 direct and indirect jobs during the design and construction phases. It will be one of Queensland's greatest engineering achievements.

On projects like these, health and safety are paramount. This is why the government has become increasingly concerned about ongoing health and safety incidents including 17 plant rollovers and the recent outbreak of E. coli in drinking water at the project. Workplace Health and Safety Queensland inspectors have conducted more than 200 site visits, issued 93 notices and commenced 17 comprehensive investigations resulting in the creation of a recent special Workplace Health and Safety Queensland compliance unit.

In addition, recently the transport and main roads minister and I met with the principal contractor, Nexus, and others to directly express the government's ongoing concerns. Following this meeting we also met with workers and health and safety representatives to inform them of the outcome of the meeting and to hear their issues firsthand. At both meetings our message was clear: the safety of workers is our overriding priority, and immediate improvements and a cultural change towards health and safety were required. They were open and constructive meetings. The company assured the government that it understood its responsibilities and that it will implement a culture of continuous improvement. This included the restructuring of their safety team, increasing the number of health and safety representatives and, importantly, improving consultation and communication. They welcomed the independent safety audit announced by Minister Bailey that commenced on 26 February and agreed to cooperate fully and implement its recommendations.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland will continue to work with Nexus, contractors, workers, health and safety representatives and their unions to ensure the health and safety of workers at this project. This government believes that every worker has a right to return home safely after a day's work, and we will do all we can to ensure that right.

Building and Construction Industry

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.38 am): In 2015 we came to government with a commitment to deliver security of payment reforms for the Queensland construction industry. We all know that there is dignity in work, but there is no dignity in being left unpaid for the work that you have done. Last week the Palaszczuk government implemented the first phase of a new trust account regime for major building projects in Queensland. Project bank accounts ensure progress payments are paid through a trust to head contractors and first tier subcontractors. From 1 March 2018, project bank accounts are now a requirement on all government building projects valued between \$1 million and \$10 million.

In responding to calls from industry, we have also established a strict compliance regime to ensure that funds flowing through the project bank accounts can only be used to pay those licensees that have performed the work, and penalties of up to two years imprisonment are included. Project bank accounts are a giant step in reversing the damage caused by the previous LNP government's policy of a self-reporting scheme for building companies.

Today I can announce the first three government projects that will benefit from the arrangements that establish project bank accounts. The member for Nudgee will be pleased to know that a 10-apartment social housing project will be constructed in the electorate of Nudgee, and the estimated 73 workers building those homes will be protected by project bank accounts. The member for Traeger will be delighted to know that a replacement fire and rescue station will soon be built in Richmond with the estimated 38 workers now benefiting from project bank accounts as they deliver this important public asset.

I am very pleased to advise the Premier, whom I was proud to stand beside in November 2016 when she announced our commitment to establish project bank accounts to protect Queensland subbies and tradies, that an estimated 78 workers will be protected by PBAs as their employer constructs a community centre in the electorate of Inala.

The commencement of these arrangements will benefit the mums and dads, the families and the small business people out there just having a go. They deserve to be paid for the work they have completed and this will go a long way to help ensure that all subcontractors are paid on time and in full every time.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to inform the House that with us in the gallery today are members from Grovely TAFE, which will be drawing students and faculty from right across South-East Queensland.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.40 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, the meeting of the House for the purpose of the election of a senator, to take place at 2 pm on Wednesday, 7 March 2018, in accordance with Mr Speaker's summons to members dated 27 February 2018, be postponed until 2 pm on Wednesday, 21 March 2018.



Hon. KJ JONES (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (10.41 am): I rise to speak in support of this motion. However, I think it is really important, particularly for the new members of parliament, for us all to understand why we are in this situation today. This motion is about extending the time for the LNP to get their house in order. It is about extending the time for the LNP to find a Senate candidate to replace the retiring senator George Brandis.

Mr Dick: He's been going for years.

Ms JONES: That is right. He officially announced his retirement on 16 December last year.

A government member: Months and months.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection; months and months and months. Despite honourable members receiving a summons under standing order 288 of the Queensland parliament, today the Queensland parliament has to move this motion because the LNP has failed to agree on a Senate candidate. Is it because after an exhaustive search of the entire LNP ranks they have managed to come up with nothing? Zero! Where is the Leader of the Opposition's star Queensland candidate for the Senate? This is the first test of the Leader of the Opposition and she has failed.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I understand that the member is making some comments that you might not agree with. If you do not agree with those comments and you would like to contribute to the debate, I encourage you to rise following her contribution. I will not put up with these sorts of cross-chamber attacks.

Ms JONES: As I was saying, this was the first test of the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition and she has failed.

Mr Dick: Could not organise herself.

Ms JONES: She could not organise her own party. Is the honourable member's standing in her own party so low that the faceless men of the LNP have sent her in here to ask for this embarrassing extension?

Mr Dick: What about Barry O'Sullivan?

Ms JONES: What about Barry O'Sullivan? That is right. Last time we were in this mess it was because their Senate candidate was under investigation by the CMC. Only in November last year they went to the election saying they could govern Queensland. Now we say they cannot even govern their own preselection processes for the Senate. My concern is it is because they spent too much time—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, are there any comments before I need to make any myself?

Mr HART: Mr Speaker, I withdraw.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister!

Ms JONES: Maybe it is because the LNP have spent the last few months fighting the Queensland Electoral Commission in the courts to keep their secret donors behind closed doors. Maybe if they were not so focused on protecting their donor mates in the courts, they would put their heads together.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The motion we are debating is about a Senate preselection and deferral of the date. The minister is straying way out of bounds in terms of the motion.

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat, member for Kawana. Before you resume your contribution, Minister, please stay very relevant to this motion. It is a very strict motion in terms of time frames. I know you may be putting other arguments, but please remain relevant.


Ms JONES: I take that interjection from the member for Kawana because I would invite him to speak after me. He can then explain to the people of Queensland why the LNP were not able to come up with a Senate candidate in the last few months. He can explain. Is it about the rumours we have heard? 'Should we put up a woman this time? Let's mix it up a little bit here in Queensland.' Quite seriously, is it because the major betrayal in the LNP failing, after months and months, to find a Senate candidate is that Queenslanders are the ones who have been short-changed because Queenslanders must go more time without a senator standing up for us in the national Senate of our country? We do not have a senator saying, 'We do not accept Malcolm Turnbull's deal with WA,' which rips \$1.6 billion from Queensland hospitals and schools. It is about time—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is a strict motion about a date. It does not involve anything the minister is now debating. She is digressing from the motion.

Mr SPEAKER: It is my understanding that the minister is supporting the motion. In doing so, I ask that she make sure she remains relevant.

Ms JONES: As I say, the member for Kawana can speak next and he can explain to all of us. If I am wrong in saying it is not about LNP infighting and that is the reason why they could not come up with a Senate candidate after months, I call on the member for Kawana to stand up right now and explain the true reason the LNP cannot agree on a Senate candidate within the time frames required under the Queensland parliament.

This just shows the failure of leadership by the Leader of the Opposition here in Queensland. It shows that the LNP's wounds amongst themselves and the divides in their party are alive and well. It is a disgrace that we as a parliament cannot endorse a senator today because the LNP cannot get their own house in order.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.47 am): This comes from a minister who serves a Premier who cannot even pick her own cabinet because she has to rely on the union movement. The Premier, the leader of this state, does not pick any of the ministers opposite; she has to rely on the unions. I will tell the Minister for Tourism why we are not holding the preselection straight away. It is because we do not have the unions to tell us what to do. We have a democracy in our party. We have a proper preselection that takes place, a preselection that will take place this Saturday with over 10 worthy candidates. That is what a democracy is. If the minister sitting opposite wants to talk about Senate candidates, let's talk about Jan McLucas. What about what they did to Jan McLucas, a female Labor senator who wanted—

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Natural Resources, I can hear you above all others at the moment. Please refrain from interjections of that kind.

Mr BLEIJIE: They had a Labor woman senator in Jan McLucas, but 'little' Murray Watt wanted the job, so they got rid of her. They sacked her from the Senate so Murray Watt could get the job. When he was in the state parliament he lost his seat and then they pushed him into the Senate.

Look what is happening in Victoria. The Labor member in that state did not even get a chance to run for the by-election; they put the union official Ged Kearney straight in as the candidate. We have preselections; we have a democracy in our party. We do not have the union movement demanding and telling us what to do.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations can squawk over there. She does not hold her job because of the member for Inala. She has her ministerial job because of the union movement.

Ms Grace: And proud of it!

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. The Minister for Industrial Relations is proud of the fact that the Premier did not give her the job; the union movement did.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Look at her go! There she goes!

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: 'I am with you, comrade,' she says. There is 'solidarity forever' sitting up the front. The reality is that the LNP have over 10 worthy candidates, and one of those people will be preselected this Saturday after debate and a proper vote. The members of the LNP will decide who the senator will be, not the union movement and not the business lobby groups of Queensland. The grassroots members of the LNP will decide on a senator this Saturday, and they will choose the best representative for the people of Queensland as has been done in the past. If the Minister for Tourism Industry Development wants to go on in this place about senators, then look at Jan McLucas. Did you support Murray Watt getting the gig and getting rid of a female senator? Yes, you did. You got rid of a female Labor senator in Queensland for Murray Watt—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, direct your comments through the chair, please.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. On the basis of points of order previously, the speaker is well off the topic of this specific motion and going on to an entirely unrelated topic.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, seeing that you rose yourself in terms of relevance, I ask you to remain relevant to the motion as well.

Mr BLEIJIE: Indeed, Mr Speaker. The reality is—

Ms Jones: You are too late!

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Cooper is warned under the standing orders.

Mr BLEIJIE: The reality is that we do things a lot differently to the Labor Party: we actually give our grassroots members a say. We give our grassroots members a vote in democracy. Through our grassroots members we choose the best representatives, and you only have to look around this side of the House to see the worthy state representatives we have here who have been chosen—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the hand interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach, who is a worthy real person with real experience. The reality is that the government supports this motion. They put in the minister to attack the motion, but they ultimately support the motion. It is only a procedural matter for the House to determine when and who becomes the next senator from Queensland. We wrote to you, Mr Speaker, and if memory serves me correctly we wrote to the Premier and the Leader of the House out of courtesy and we gave the date that we will have the preferred candidate for the House to resolve this issue. I agree with the minister who just spoke that Queensland is lacking Senate representation at the moment because the Labor senators do not offer any sort of good representation for the state of Queensland, so we do—

Mr Mander: They are there.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection. They are certainly there. They are turning up to functions, but they do not offer any good service or any good Senate responsibilities for the people of Queensland. I can understand why the minister is so eager to have a Liberal National senator elected, because then things will again happen in Queensland. They cannot rely on the incompetent Labor senators they have at the moment who apparently serve the people of Queensland.

The reality is that this is an administrative matter this House has dealt with time and time again through procedural motions. This is not the first time that the House on both sides of parliament has had to adjourn the debate because we follow our constitution. If we had a union movement which rings up the Leader of the Opposition or the president of the LNP and says, 'This person will be the Senate candidate,' then we could have done it a lot earlier. We do not operate like that because we believe in

the freedom and the ability of the grassroots members of the LNP to have a proper say. We are not going to rush the process just to alleviate the concerns of the minister. We want to make sure that the very best candidate will be chosen. The members and state MPs who attend the preselection on Saturday will know it is going to be a big day because—

Mr Mander: It is a joy to be part of.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection. It is a big day with lots of speeches and lots of questions, but that is because we believe in the grassroots members of the LNP. Unlike the Labor Party, we do not want people who are hidden behind closed doors coming up with decisions about who will be the representative. We know that the union movement makes and dictates decisions over there. We know that the Premier is only Premier in name and title. We know that the union movement has—

Ms Palaszczuk: Two elections!

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, two elections, but you only have to look at the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations who said, 'It is all the unions.' It is nothing to do with the member for Inala, sorry. To the Minister for Industrial Relations it is the union movement.


Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I will not be verbally by the member for Kawana. I take offence and I ask that he withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. Come Saturday the LNP are going to have a great Senate representative and we will inform the House. We believe in democracy and giving our grassroots members a fair say.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.55 am): I wish to advise the House that the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries will be absent from the House this week due to family reasons. The Premier will take questions for the minister during question time.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

Mr SPEAKER: We have with us today in the public gallery representatives from Forest Lake State School in the electorate of Inala and also Bremer State High School in the electorate of Ipswich.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE


Office of the Information Commissioner, Report

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (10.56 am): As chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I lay upon the table of the House report No. 2 of 2017-18 to the Queensland Legislative Assembly by the Office of the Information Commissioner titled *Compliance audit—Townsville City Council: Townsville City Council's compliance with the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld)*. The report reviews compliance with the legislation and guidelines that give effect to the right to information and information privacy and makes recommendations for improving the council's compliance. The committee chair is required to table the report under the Right to Information Act 2009. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Office of the Information Commissioner: Report No. 2 of 2017-18—Compliance audit—Townsville City Council: Townsville City Council's compliance with the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld) [253].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Standing Orders, Warnings


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, before we go to question time it is worth noting that today I have given several warnings under standing orders without making particular reference to a standing order. This is consistent with the interpretation of the standing orders and members should all be put

on notice that, once you have been warned under standing orders generally, you may be ordered to withdraw under any of the standing orders available to the chair. That includes standing orders 253A, 253 and 252, all of which have varying penalties.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude at 11.58 am.

ICT Dashboard

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.58 am): My question without notice is to the Premier. An analysis of the government's ICT dashboard shows that this Labor government has wasted more than a quarter of a billion dollars through budget blowouts and ICT projects. Following on from Labor's \$1.2 billion Health payroll debacle, will the Premier explain how Labor again mismanaged ICT projects and flushed millions of taxpayers' dollars down the drain?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The government operates a robust system of capturing ICT projects through a dashboard. Having a look at that dashboard, it is interesting to note that one of the projects that has increased in expenditure was one that was started under the LNP in 2013. In fact, one of the biggest cost blowouts was for the Future of Property and Tenant Systems, which was started in 2013. I am glad the Leader of the Opposition asked that question, because it was a government she was part of that cut ICT staff from the Queensland government.

In fact, 110 IT staff were sacked. When we talk about cuts, there is only one side of this House responsible for the severe budget cuts—that is, the former LNP government. The Leader of the Opposition as assistant treasurer said in one of her first speeches commenting on the budget that she was given the privilege of sitting around the CBRC table that made those decisions for those cuts. Not only was she the assistant treasurer to the Treasurer but she sat on the Cabinet Budget Review Committee that made the decision regarding the 14,000 job cuts that Queenslanders will never ever forget, of which 110 IT staff were cut. Do not come in here and lecture me on IT when the member gutted the system and gutted those services.

ICT Projects

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: With more than \$0.25 billion wasted through budget blowouts on the ICT projects under this Premier's government, while at the same time quietly releasing four new taxes just before the election, why is the Premier raising and adding more taxes at the same time her government is wasting so much money?

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the Premier, I ask that the question be heard in silence. It is the only warning I will give all members today.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As I said very clearly, only one side of this House has focused on cutting jobs and cutting services. Everyone has a long history and will never forget the damage to this state of the LNP government. There is one thing that my government does, and that is honour its election commitments. That is why we took to the people of Queensland four revenue measures that will help towards funding our election commitments, and we will honour that. I note that the Leader of the Opposition was critical of one of those revenue measures, a luxury tax on cars worth over \$100,000. The Leader of the Opposition thinks that is a bit unfair. I do not think that is unfair. The people of Queensland do not think that that is unfair. The Leader of the Opposition sat around the CBRC table and made decisions that impacted on Queensland families, because when a person's job is cut they cannot pay the bills. I even urge the Leader of the Opposition to go to her heartland of Nanango and talk to the people of Kingaroy, because my government is delivering the expanded Kingaroy Hospital. It is my government that is delivering the expansion and helping with Swickers in terms of that recent devastation. My government will continue to invest in services and jobs across this state, and we will continue—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat. Leader of the Opposition, it is not time to debate that. If you wish to rise to a point of order, please do so. I am giving you fair warning.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What we do know from those opposite is that they said one thing to Queensland and did another. My government will honour our election commitments and will deliver to the people of Queensland. That is something that every single member of my government supports. As we head into International Women's Day, I am proud that we have nearly a 50 per cent caucus of

women. I am pleased that we have 50 per cent of women in our Cabinet, in stark contrast to those opposite fighting about whether or not they will select a woman as Senate replacement for Senator George Brandis. In this week of International Women's Day—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The Premier was asked about ICT project blowouts and four new taxes. The Senate preselection debate occurred about 10 minutes ago, if she forgot.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, if you are asking me to rule on relevance, I am happy to. I do not want a preamble within your point of order. Premier, do you have any further things to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: No.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Transparency and Accountability

Mr KELLY: My question is directed to the Premier. Will the Premier please outline how the Palaszczuk government is continuing to ensure a transparent and accountable Queensland, and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Greenslopes for that very important question, because we will honour the legacy that the Goss government started in this state. We will continue a government of transparency and accountability. One of the first actions of my government was to ensure that the electoral donations were reduced down to the declaration of \$1,000. Unlike those opposite who wanted it higher, we lowered it because we believe that it is absolutely important that the public know who is donating to political parties.

I was somewhat surprised last week with the court case that we are still seeing a situation where those opposite, the LNP, are not declaring the \$100,000 in secret donations. It has been a number of days since this House passed that motion in the last parliament calling on the LNP to disclose that \$100,000 in donations. If the Leader of the Opposition had any ounce of credibility, she would do that. In the interests of the Queensland public, she will demand that the party release the \$100,000 of secret donations and declare it.

Secondly, my government introduced real-time disclosure, another important reform. Later today we will reintroduce the bill banning property developer donations, not just for the council but for the state as well, as a recommendation from Belcarra in relation to those donations. It was recommended to the council, but we are taking it that step further and ensuring it also applies to the state.

The other week I was somewhat surprised to see a tweet from the LNP about a job opportunity at LNP headquarters. This job opportunity was for a manager in stakeholder policy engagement and fundraising. I am not quite sure how they go together—policy development and fundraising? That might be a bit of a blurry area. They were prepared to tweet it and advertise on Seek as well, but how can one blur those two lines? If the member wants integrity and accountability, show some credibility and table the \$100,000 in secret donations.

ICT Projects

Mr MANDER: As the minister with ministerial responsibility for ICT governance, accountability and transparency, will the Minister for Housing and Public Works explain how more than \$250 million has been squandered in ICT project blowouts under this Labor government? Does the minister accept responsibility for this excessive waste?

Mr de BRENNI: I appreciate the opportunity to explain to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition how the ICT dashboard works. This morning the opposition leader said a lot about the ICT dashboard in terms of how very proud they are of it. Of course, we all know that each minister and each department responsible for the delivery of major ICT projects regularly updates those projects so that we can keep track of them. There is \$1.354 billion worth of projects currently underway, and the Queensland government chief information officer plays an important role in advising the departments on the acquisition and the delivery of those programs.

I want to point out the reference to the \$250 million. This is simply nothing other than cheat maths. To say that ICT projects are over budget simply by comparing the original planned expenditure and the revised planned expenditure is nothing more—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: Yes, everyone can see it. It is online. That is nothing more than cheat maths, because instead—

Mr Mander: Have you heard of a budget?

Mr de BRENNI: Just listen for a moment, member for Everton. Instead of a single contract price, the way the Queensland government approaches this—the way the Palaszczuk government approaches ICT procurement—is that instead of a single package for the delivery of the works we employ an incremental rollout, allowing the scope of works to be budgeted as each phase of the project occurs. Each of the departments regularly updates the ICT dashboard to provide the transparency that Queenslanders expect and the revised figure is an additional budget of money needed to deliver the further and subsequent phases of each project. As with all ICT projects in the public and private sector, scope and functionality need to be added and assessed on the delivery of the project.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: This is business as usual for ICT in the Queensland government, but I will reflect on the project that was commissioned by the member for Everton, the FoPATS project. Why did the project scope change? Because the project that was commissioned by the member for Everton—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. Members, if we have another outburst like that, I am happy to wait as long as you are.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Who was that?

Mr Bleijie: Bailey.

Mr SPEAKER: Okay. The minister is warned.

Mr de BRENNI: The reason the FoPATS system changed in scope was that the member for Everton commissioned a large ICT project with the sole purpose of supporting the privatisation of the \$15 billion Housing portfolio. That is why the scope had to change. This \$250 million represents careful, appropriate management of the rollout of significant ICT projects that continue to deliver important public services to the people of Queensland.

Screen Industry

Ms PEASE: My question without notice is directed to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House about progress that was made during the recent trade mission to the United States in relation to growing Queensland's world-class screen industry?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Lytton for that very important question. Of course this House knows how important expanding our film industry is for not just the Gold Coast but also the larger part of Queensland. As I said earlier, we have a \$214 million industry here at the moment. If I reflect on what has happened in places like Georgia in the United States, over a 10-year period it has taken a \$270 million screen industry up to a \$9.6 billion industry. That means that in Georgia around 40 productions are being filmed at any given time, creating thousands of jobs in that state.

I want to see a permanent screen industry here in Queensland. Having had the opportunity last week to meet with Fox, Paramount, Disney and Marvel, there is one message, and that message clearly is that they want to film in Queensland. They love what Queensland has to offer—from the outback to our lovely tropical climate up north, to the islands, to the amazing sound studio on the Gold Coast with an amazing crew. If we want to continue to develop that industry and keep those permanent jobs and grow that industry, we need the federal government to increase the tax offset from 16.5 per cent to 30 per cent if we are going to remain competitive, as I said earlier in my ministerial statement, with the United Kingdom, with other parts of the US, with Canada, with Montreal and with Eastern Europe.

I would really like the opposition to support me in this. I have written to the Prime Minister on numerous occasions and I have raised it with him. There is now a two-week time deadline on whether or not we attract the next blockbuster to Queensland because the Queensland government has firmly put on the table our share; we are now waiting on the federal government's share. Within two weeks we will lose a blockbuster that has the capability of continuously being filmed here for many years into the future. I would expect all members from the Gold Coast to support me in this—every single member from the Gold Coast. In fact, I will ask every member from the Gold Coast to co-sign my letter to the Prime Minister, because we will lose hundreds of jobs on the Gold Coast—

(Time expired)

Mining Industry, Jobs

Mr LAST: My question without notice is directed to the Premier, and I ask: the Premier has repeatedly said that she supports resource industry projects for the jobs they provide, and I table this photo of the Premier and Mr Adani in Townsville.

Tabled paper: Photograph of the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, with the CEO of Adani [258].

Will the Premier tell the House: Premier, do you support the Adani Carmichael mine and the thousands of new jobs for Far North Queenslanders, or do you support just one job for Bill Shorten?

Mr SPEAKER: Before the Premier rises to her feet, I ask the member to rephrase his question to ensure that the question is through the Speaker and not to the Premier directly.

Mr LAST: Do you want me to start the whole question again?

Mr SPEAKER: You can read the relevant section if you like, member.

Mr LAST: Will the Premier tell the House: does the Premier support the Adani Carmichael mine and the thousands of new jobs for North Queenslanders, or does the Premier support just one job for Bill Shorten?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. Of course we support the resource industry in this state and we support the jobs that flow with it. The government supports the Adani project as long as it financially stacks up, and I have been very clear on the public record about that from day one. Unlike those opposite, I will stand up for Queensland. I will stand up for Queensland and the jobs that the resources sector brings to this state. Let us be very clear that there are a number of resource jobs that have got finance and that are delivering jobs in Queensland and in regional Queensland. In fact, last week Santos announced a \$750 million expansion in Queensland that will create 400 construction jobs. With regard to the Amrun bauxite mine in Cape York worth \$2.6 billion supporting 1,600 jobs, it is recruiting now. When I was in Washington I had the opportunity to meet with the CEO of that project who asked me to go with him to Weipa to visit the mine site to see firsthand the jobs that are being created. I also commend it for its strong stance on having a strong recommendation for Indigenous local regional employment.

The \$1.7 billion Byerwen coal project near Glenden is supporting 900 jobs in construction and in operation. The QGC-Shell Charlie fields gas project is a \$1.7 billion investment with 1,600 jobs. These projects are being announced and jobs are being generated in this state. The reopening of the Isaac Plains mine is supporting 150 jobs, with a further expansion planned for next year, and of course the Dugald River zinc project is \$1.4 billion of investment supporting 600 jobs. Do we support Queensland jobs? Absolutely, but the companies have to get the finance to deliver those jobs. What I have demonstrated clearly today is that the level of interest in Queensland is great. We will continue to support companies that abide by their environmental conditions, that will protect the environment and that will generate real jobs for Queenslanders. We expect nothing more and nothing less, but unlike those opposite we will stand up for Queensland. We have seen nothing from those opposite when it comes to Malcolm Turnbull wanting to rip \$1.6 billion a year from our GST. We see nothing from those opposite about remote area housing. When is the Leader of the Opposition going to phone Malcolm Turnbull and say—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: I clarify for the House that the following members have been warned under standing orders and, with reference to my earlier statement, I ask them to consider very carefully their interjections: the member for Glass House, the member for Capalaba, the member for Chatsworth, the member for Toowoomba South, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Tourism, and the Minister for Police.

Distribution of GST

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will she provide advice on any impacts that the Turnbull government's proposed changes to the GST distribution will have on Queensland?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Capalaba for the question, because he belongs to this side of the House where we are acutely concerned about the serious nature of a change to the distribution of the GST. Whichever way we look at it, Queensland stands to lose, and lose quite significantly, from a different methodology used for the GST distribution.

As I have advised the House, right now the Productivity Commission is reviewing the GST distribution at the Turnbull government's request. If the Productivity Commission gets its way, we stand to lose as much as \$1.6 billion each and every year. That is \$1.6 billion annually. To put this in perspective, that is equivalent to losing 5,000 teachers, 5,000 nurses, 3,000 police officers and more than 1,000 firefighters. If we add all of those jobs together we see that that is more than the 14,000 jobs that were axed from the Queensland Public Service when the Leader of the Opposition sat around the CBRC table.

Even the Canberra officials know the significant impact that this change will have on Queensland. Michael Wilcox, the Secretary of the Grants Commission, gave evidence before the federal Senate estimates committee and advised accordingly—

So that would mean Queensland would need to consider raising additional revenue of its own by increasing state taxes, reducing the quality of certain services, or reducing the scope of services, or adding to the state debt levels to fund the provision of services at pre-existing levels.

Even the Commonwealth officials are saying that, if this GST change comes in, Queensland will have to axe services, withdraw services, increase taxes, or increase debt. We have heard absolutely nothing from the Leader of the Opposition, or those other members opposite, about this very serious important issue. We have heard from the member for Leichhardt. We have heard from the member for Petrie. They have been standing up, but standing up for Western Australia. We have heard nothing—absolutely nothing—from the Leader of the Opposition or the Deputy Leader of the Opposition about the serious impact that a change to the GST distribution would have on Queensland. Today is their opportunity to get up and demonstrate that they are on the side of Queensland and not Malcolm Turnbull.

Adani, Royalties

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. I refer the Deputy Premier to the Palaszczuk government's royalty concession deal for the Adani Carmichael mine struck with Mr Adani when the Premier was in India last year. Will the Deputy Premier now tell the House: has the Palaszczuk government signed the royalty deal with Adani, or has the Premier's deal been called off to help Bill Shorten win a by-election in Melbourne?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Glass House for the question. Let me be absolutely clear about this, because I think the member for Glass House is being a little bit fanciful with the facts. Let me be very clear about the royalty arrangement that has been proposed—not just for the Galilee Basin and the first mover in the Galilee Basin but for any first mover in the resource basins that were announced last year: the minerals-rich resource province in North-West Queensland, the Galilee Basin and the Surat Basin. The Queensland cabinet sat down and came to an arrangement where any first mover in any of those basins had to ensure that they paid all royalties due to the state. Any deferred royalties would be paid in full with interest and any deferred royalties had to be securitised against assets. That is what the Queensland cabinet agreed to and that is what is on the table.

Let me be clear: that stands in very, very stark contrast to what those opposite had on the table with Adani when they were in power. Let me be clear what the former deputy premier, the former member for Callide, put on the table, which was ventilated in the media when he was deputy premier. It was about funding the Carmichael mine railway—some \$500 million. What else? The former deputy premier also said that he would do whatever it took to make sure that Adani proceeded to production, including a full royalty holiday.

The Leader of the Opposition should come clean with the people of Queensland. Was that royalty arrangement taken to the CBRC—the CBRC where she sat around the table? The same CBRC that sacked 14,000 workers? I think it is very important for the Leader of the Opposition to come clean with the people of Queensland. Was she a party to that agreement?

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was has the government signed the royalty holiday deal. Yes, or no?

Ms TRAD: I reiterate my comments. The offer that is on the table is very clear and it has been ventilated to the people of Queensland. We have articulated it. We have put it in the media. I think the member for Nanango needs to come clean.

Political Donations

Mr PEGG: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Will the Attorney-General inform the House of any recent developments in relation to the application of Queensland's political donations legislation?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Stretton for his question. I am always proud to stand in this House to talk about the record of the Palaszczuk government when it comes to transparency and accountability around political donations and our electoral laws.

Back in July 2017, the Electoral Commission filed an application in the Supreme Court of Queensland against the secretary of the LNP in relation to the requirements for returns by registered political parties under the Electoral Act. Last week, we saw the court's decision, which held that there was no inconsistency between the requirements of sections 290 and 291 of the Electoral Act in Queensland and sections 314AB and 314AC of the Commonwealth Electoral Act. That meant that the LNP can no longer hide behind what it was calling a grey area and that it believed that it did not need to declare these donations because they went to federal candidates through their state branch of their political party.

We have heard a lot about the \$100,000 donation. However, this House and the people of Queensland need to know that that relates to returns in the 2014-15 period. I think the people of Queensland also need to know that the LNP disputed the interpretation of this legislation to the point at which the Electoral Commission had to take this matter to the Supreme Court and spend taxpayers' dollars to get a ruling to say that the LNP must disclose these donations. Has the LNP been disclosing donations for the past 2½ years since those 2015 returns?

The ECQ had already identified the earlier returns. For the past 2½ years the LNP has challenged the interpretation of the legislation and said that it did not believe it had to disclose. My question is has it been disclosing these donations for the last 2½ years? Has it been putting them on the real-time disclosure system? I am amazed but not surprised that the Leader of the Opposition, when questioned about this Supreme Court decision, said the declarations were the responsibility of the party officials—we have heard that before—and nothing to do with her and her leadership. Now we have the president of the LNP saying, before Labor even introduces and passes its legislation banning developer donations, that they are going to challenge our legislation because the president does not believe he is going to be able to continue to donate to his own party based on those bans.

Those opposite should come clean that they do not support the \$1,000 threshold because they want to continue to hide donations.

(Time expired)

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are very, very close.

Minister for Health, Letter

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. I table a letter purported to be signed by the Minister for Health on 13 February 2018. I table a screenshot of the metadata for the same document showing that it was created on 23 February 2018 but still displays the date of 13 February.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 February 2018, from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, to the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, regarding national health reform payments [\[254\]](#).

Tabled paper: Document, dated 13 February 2018, showing metadata relating to the letter, dated 23 February 2018, from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, to the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, regarding national health reform payments [\[255\]](#).

Did the minister or his office deliberately create a document on 23 February with the wrong date on it and was this designed to mislead the reader to cover up for his sloppy political attack?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There were clear inferences in that question. I would think that the LNP would know how to write a question by now. We ask that you rule that question out of order.

Mr SPEAKER: I did not particularly hear the imputations. I would like to hear that question again and perhaps the member may wish to consider rephrasing it during her delivery.

Ms BATES: I tabled a letter purported to be signed by the Minister for Health on 13 February 2018. I also tabled a screenshot of the metadata for the same document showing it was created on 23 February 2018 but still displays the date of 13 February. Did the minister or his office deliberately create a document on 23 February with the wrong date on it and was this designed to mislead the reader?

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow the question but the minister is able to answer as he sees fit.

Dr MILES: Given that the opposition's theme of the day is supposedly ICT, it is a shame to have to give them a bit of a lesson in how ICT works. I am sorry to disappoint the member for Mudgeeraba, but the metadata she refers to is for the PDF that was created after the Leader of the Opposition contacted our office and asked for another copy of the correspondence. For the benefit of the member for Mudgeeraba, allow me to table the metadata for the Word document that was the source for the PDF that she has been provided.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 13 February 2018, showing metadata and a letter, dated 13 February 2018, from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, to the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, regarding national health reform payments [\[256\]](#).

It shows that the document was indeed created at 10.45 on Tuesday, 13 February, which concurs with the facts that I outlined in my apology this morning and the facts that I outlined in the letter to the member just last week.

Let me further table for the benefit of the House the briefing note from Queensland Health dated 19 January with the first draft of the letter to be provided to the opposition. Let me include with it my annotations—my corrections—because they drafted the letter to the member for Mudgeeraba but we all know that she has no influence so I crossed that out and I have written 'Deb', which refers to the Leader of the Opposition. I table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Ministerial Brief for Approval, dated 19 January 2018, titled 'Letter to Ms Roslyn Bates MP, regarding outstanding issues relating to national health reform funding' and draft letter [\[257\]](#).

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My question was clearly about the metadata on the PDF and that is what I tabled. I am asking whether that was changed. The minister is talking about all sorts of documents that I cannot see.

Mr SPEAKER: I believe the minister is answering the question. He is being relevant. I ask him to ensure that he continues to be.

Dr MILES: The evil geniuses in the Leader of the Opposition's office have an RTI in for the documents I have just tabled. I have now saved some taxpayer funds, saved some money in the Leader of the Opposition's budget, by tabling it here and putting it on the record.

Let us reflect on the point here. The point coming from the member for Mudgeeraba is that, until I said I had written to the Leader of the Opposition, she had no idea about this funding crisis. The opposition is saying that until that day she had not heard about this; this was news to her. This is the No. 1 crisis facing our health system—a billion dollar shortfall in our health system—and the opposition is hiding behind distractions. Where is their statement? Show me the press release. They have not said a word!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. Member for Coomera, I could hear your interjections particularly. You are warned. Member for Coomera, were you not interjecting loudly across the chamber?

Mr CRANDON: Mr Speaker, the opposition was under attack.

Mr SPEAKER: I am not asking you to debate the point.

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

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Health, I will ask you to leave the chamber for one hour under 253A. I was on my feet. You have been warned. I have given you multiple warnings.

Whereupon the honourable Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services withdrew from the chamber at 11.36 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, that was not an opportunity for you to debate the point. I asked whether you made interjections not the basis on which you were making them. I warn you under the standing orders.

Mr CRANDON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That was the aspect I responded to.

Mr SPEAKER: You are continuing to debate the reason you were making the loud interjections which I am warning you for.

Planning System

Mr POWER: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister update the House on how the government is overseeing the planning system for the benefit of all Queenslanders free of undue influence or bias and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Logan for his question and recognise his commitment to responsible planning outcomes in his city and in our city of Logan. As the honourable member would know, the Planning Act 2016 was enacted by this House on the initiative of the Palaszczuk Labor government to deliver a more transparent and accountable system for planning and development. I thank the Deputy Premier in her previous role as the planning minister for her leadership in guiding that important legislation through the parliament.

Our planning system must be above reproach and must be seen to be above reproach and beyond the stain of corruption. This parliament is the people's House and they are justifiably protective of it. What Queenslanders dislike the most is anything that subjugates their interest to what might be purchased influence. The Belcarra donation reforms proposed by the Premier reaffirms her government's commitment to open, transparent and accountable government supported by all members on this side of the House. It is unfortunate, but unsurprising, that her initiative to ban donations from developers is being opposed by the LNP. Labor brought the threshold for disclosure down to \$1,000, which was increased as soon as the LNP got back into government under Campbell Newman to \$12,500. That threshold was restored to \$1,000 under the leadership of the Premier. It was the Palaszczuk Labor government that implemented real-time disclosure. We now seek to reform disclosure of developer donations to promote the public interest in the electoral process.

After every election the LNP say they have heard the message from the people of Queensland and then they promptly march into the parliament and ignore it. Is it any wonder that, despite the appeal of working with Michaelia Cash and Eric Abetz, the LNP cannot find a nominee for the Senate? Can they not find someone on the dole queue? Thanks to the good work of the member for Ipswich, Malcolm Roberts is looking for a job. What about Campbell Newman?

A government member: Verity?

Mr DICK: I take the interjection: Verity Barton is looking for a job after being disendorsed by the LNP. In late breaking news, I have been advised that Councillor Andrew Wines, Brisbane City Councillor for Enoggera and leading candidate according to the *Courier-Mail*, has entered the parliamentary precinct. Someone has to tell him that he does not need to do the numbers today, because the vote has been postponed for two weeks. The Leader of the Opposition could do something. Perhaps she could send him a text. The president of the LNP, Gary Spence, says this reform is a threat to democracy. The only threat to democracy is the LNP, which time and time again refuses to disclose their donors. I say to the Leader of the Opposition, for once in your life stand up, demonstrate leadership, disclose who these donors are and get on with supporting reform in Queensland.

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

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, member for Kawana. Honourable members, I remind everyone in the House that contributions and statements are to come through the Speaker. I will not put up with language that is directed to members, that is, using the word 'you' instead of directing comments through the chair. Member for Kawana, what is your point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: The health minister is now absent from the chamber under your ruling. I seek your guidance as to who on the ministerial benches will be answering questions directed to the health minister.

Mr SPEAKER: That is a question for the Leader of the House.

Mrs D'ATH: As per normal practice, if a minister is absent the Premier will take questions.

IDEaS Van

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Premier. Given the importance of closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage, why have we seen the continuation of funding cut from the Indigenous Diabetes Eyes and Screening service, the IDEaS Van, that delivers vital mobile diabetes screening services for Indigenous Queenslanders across the state?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As we are talking about closing the gap, it might be an idea for those on the opposite side to start talking to Malcolm Turnbull about his cuts to remote Indigenous housing in the state. Queensland will lose hundreds of millions of dollars because Malcolm Turnbull—your mate from the LNP; he is not one of ours—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I ask you to put your comments through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, you have ruled this morning about directing comments through the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, if you were listening, I have just asked the Premier to do that. Thank you for your point of order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is about time those opposite stood up for Queensland and demanded our fair share of funding for remote Indigenous housing in this state. They should not talk about closing the gap and funding for health. If they want the facts, I will tell them the facts. I am still waiting for Malcolm Turnbull to give us our fair share of health funding, so that we can pay for the services that Queenslanders need right across the state—

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—including in the electorate of the member for Mudgeeraba.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Mudgeeraba, your repeated interjections are noted. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In relation to the election campaign, we committed an additional \$16 million over two years for the statewide delivery of the successful Deadly Choices program for better preventive health.

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the interjection from the member for Woodridge and Minister for State Development. Preventive health is needed in this state. As we are talking about health, I go back to the funding that we deserve from Malcolm Turnbull. We need that back pay of funding. I raised this issue at COAG, as did the other premiers. A federal budget is coming up. Are the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow minister for health going to demand our fair share of health funding? That back pay of funding is necessary to provide health services across Queensland. Let us not forget that there are 169 hospitals across Queensland. We are the most decentralised state. This government is restoring front-line services and we are putting on more nurses and doctors. We know the record of those opposite. If we do not get the back pay that we are owed—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is with respect to relevance. The question was about the Labor government minister cutting funding to the Indigenous Diabetes Eyes and Screening, or IDEaS service. The Premier has not mentioned why her government has cut that vital Indigenous service.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I note that you are referencing certain elements of the question in relation to closing the gap. Taking the member's point, I ask you to come back to the core of the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Our commitment to preventive health is very well known throughout the state. I am happy to take on notice the specific part of the member's question and get back to the member. I make it very clear that my government is committed to securing health services for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live. It is about time those opposite made it very clear to the people of this state whether they back Queensland or they back Malcolm Turnbull.

Women

Mrs LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women. Will the minister outline to the House why it is important for women to be strongly represented at the decision-making table?

Ms FARMER: I thank the honourable member for her question and also for being the great role model that she is for young women who wish to enter politics. The Palaszczuk Labor government understands to its core how important it is for women to have a place at the decision-making table. We know that it gives women a greater voice in the cultural, social and economic life of our community. We know it means stronger and more inclusive decision-making. We know that organisations that have balanced gender leadership access the widest talent and skill pool. They are more responsive to clients and stakeholders and, in fact, they show better financial performance. We also know that Queenslanders agree on this. In fact, in our survey for the Queensland Women's Strategy, nine out of 10 people agreed that gender equality is important.

In our government, we do not just talk about how important it is to have women at the table; we embody it. We have a female Premier and a female Deputy Premier, 50 per cent of our cabinet is female and 48 per cent of our caucus is female. They say that you cannot be what you cannot see. Any young woman wanting to enter politics in Queensland has a plethora of female role models in front of her, that is, unless she is looking at the LNP. We know that they are just a little bit behind. They have a female leader in the member for Nanango, but, unfortunately, a woman would have the same chance of being an LNP member of this parliament as would a man whose name is Mark. There are six Marks and there are six female LNP members of parliament.

I know that the member for Nanango has said that she would like to see more women in parliament. Given that she has been pretty senior in the LNP for a while, I wonder about her influence. This Saturday, the member for Nanango and the LNP have a chance to show that they value the contribution of women in Queensland when their state council votes to replace George Brandis. I understand that there is no shortage of women putting up their hands, brave souls that they would have to be to do that in the LNP boys club. The member for Nanango has said that she wants women to put up their hands. You know what: when they put up their hands, you actually have to pick them.

They could elect a woman to the Senate. They could send a message to Queensland women that their ideas matter, their experience matters and their skills matter. They could show that they belong to the 21st century. I know there is a bit of a to-do and that it will be the battle of the troglodytes, but achieving gender equality requires leadership. Let us see if the LNP is up to it.

Disability Parking Permit Scheme

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. The Queensland disability parking permit scheme currently excludes the visually impaired from obtaining a disability parking permit. The visually impaired require space to harness guide dogs and this exclusion puts them in dangerous situations. Can the minister advise whether the minister intends to bring the Queensland disability parking permit scheme into alignment with that of other states and include visual impairment as an eligible disability?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for his question. I understand that in 2010 a national review was conducted of the disability parking scheme across all states and territories. This review resulted in the introduction of a nationally recognised disability parking permit and minimum standards for disability parking concessions.

National eligibility criteria for permits were also created. This is known as the Australian Disability Parking Scheme. It is a mobility scheme and assessment for permits focuses on an applicant's functional ability to walk. Therefore, currently people with intellectual, psychiatric, cognitive and sensory impairments alone do not meet the eligibility criteria. To ensure the integrity of the national scheme, eligibility in Queensland remains exclusively focused on the applicant's ability to walk.

As with all schemes of this nature, unfortunately there will always be some members of the community who fall outside the eligibility guidelines. I certainly would be happy to meet the honourable member to discuss these issues further.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Venues

Mrs MULLEN: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the readiness of venues for the Commonwealth Games?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know she is as pumped as I am about delivering the best Commonwealth Games here in Queensland. We have 29 days to go. As both the Premier and I said in our ministerial statements, this is one of the best prepared games ever. As

the Premier said, Brian Nourse, the Deputy CEO of Goldoc, who has been involved in four games—Olympic Games and Commonwealth Games—said that he has never been in this position with such preparedness in advance. Similarly, we saw comments from Athletics Australia. We ran a major test event at Carrara Stadium—the home of the opening and closing ceremonies.

In fact, we are the only games ever to have all venues open well in advance of the games and being utilised by the local community. We made that decision deliberately even though we knew it would be a balancing act between having these venues open and the people of the Gold Coast embracing them and taking carriage of them again to make them games ready. I have had the privilege of seeing some of our young athletes from local schools using these venues. We see these as a massive Commonwealth Games legacy for the Gold Coast community.

As we get closer to the games, we are very much moving into the operational phase. It is about working very closely with the city of the Gold Coast. We have been running the Get Set for the Games program and engaging with locals about how things are going to change on the Gold Coast leading up to and during the games—the largest event Queensland has ever staged. It is a huge event. Of course that is going to have impacts. We have been working very closely with the local community explaining what those impacts will be.

When we opened the Currumbin Get Set for the Games office recently we had more than 1,000 people come through. For the benefit of the House, I point out that overwhelming the feedback has been very positive. Of course, that is not the view of the member for Currumbin. Even locals are getting fed up with the member for Currumbin bagging the games. I understand that the member for Currumbin is getting some emails to her office begging her to show some leadership, to show some support and to promote the opportunities that will result from the games. Everyone should be supportive. Even her own constituents are appealing to her. We know that the member for Currumbin is not going to stay on the Gold Coast for most of the games.

Maybe she wants to put her hat in the ring for the Senate spot. I have the photographs of the frontrunner, Andrew Wines, in Queensland parliament today. It is once again looking like we will not see a woman senator from the LNP. There is a lot of hot air, a lot of talk, a lot of delaying—including the motion in the Queensland parliament today—but Andrew Wines is fronting up because he thinks he will be the next male senator for Queensland.

(Time expired)

Sugar Industry, Marketing

Mr PERRETT: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier give a guarantee to the sugar growers of Queensland that the government will not amend sugar marketing laws in the next three years and that the government will continue to allow real marketing choice for growers and back local jobs as is the case under the current arrangements?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. That was not on my radar, but now I will give that due consideration.

Schools, Mobile Phones

Ms LINARD: My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the minister provide an update to the House on calls for mobile phones to be banned in schools?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Nudgee for her question because she knows that access to smart phones and other portable devices in schools is a modern day reality. She knows that this is what is happening in our schools every day. I know she visits them regularly, as I do. We see firsthand that students have laptops, iPads, iPods, smart phones and smart watches. Technology is evolving all of the time. For many students these devices are essential. They are an aid for their learning, both at home and at school. Queensland state schools are committed to ensuring that students are supported to grasp the positive opportunities that technology and digital literacy can provide.

As education minister, I recognise that there are serious and substantial risks as well as benefits to the technological revolution that has swept through the education system in recent times. Cyberbullying is a reality that we must never underestimate. The Premier has put this issue squarely on the national agenda and should be commended for it.

Mobile phone policies vary from school to school given that principals, in consultation with their school communities, are best placed to make local decisions for their students. Schools can require phones to be switched off in the classroom or stored in a locker. Consideration in forming these local

decisions may include the specific educational needs of the students and parent and community expectations. I actually saw one student at a school I was at recently take a photograph of the whiteboard from a lesson of theirs that day for their use at home.

We are talking to the experts. There is no simple solution to cyberbullying—for example, the banning of mobile phones. We are listening to the experts. I have met with eSafety Commissioner, Julie Inman Grant, who says that banning mobile phones will not prepare our students for the workplaces of the future. I have spoken to Tracy Adams from yourtown who says it is more complex than simply banning the use of phones in schools.

Does that stop the Prime Minister or the Leader of the Opposition from diving in and wanting to ban mobile phones in schools? We know that the Prime Minister wants to ban a number of activities in federal parliament at the moment, but this is a complicated issue. This is one where we must listen to the experts. This is one where the task force looks at the issue sensibly and does not come out uninformed and ban everything. There has been a lot said. There is lots of uninformed opinions. It is a pity the Leader of the Opposition did not have the same opinions when it came to the issues around Mr Joyce. We will treat this as a serious issue. We will take a sensible approach with the school community.

(Time expired)


Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I seek your ruling and guidance. The minister, the member for Cooper, referred to a photograph, which appears to have been taken on level 5 and taken from behind the councillor walking. I think it is inappropriate to be taking photographs of anyone in the parliamentary precinct. I ask that you have the minister table that photograph and we ascertain who took the photograph and where they took the photograph from. I think it is an issue for any visitor to the parliamentary precinct to have a photograph taken whilst their back is turned.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I am happy to investigate the matter further if you are able to provide a statement to me which gives me greater clarity on the issues at hand. I am not aware that the minister tabled that photograph, nor is she compelled to table that photograph.

PRIVILEGE


Photograph in Parliamentary Precinct

 **Ms JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (11.59 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. My advice is that the photo was within standing orders. As you say, I did not table it but I did check that before I showed the photo.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL (IMPLEMENTING STAGE 1 OF BELCARRA) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.59 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the City of Brisbane Act 2010, the Electoral Act 1992, the Local Government Act 2009 and the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 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 Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [\[259\]](#).

Tabled paper: Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[260\]](#).

The Palaszczuk government has a strong record when it comes to transparency and accountability in Queensland. Prior to the 2017 state election, the government was progressing a comprehensive suite of reforms—in essence, the next step in what has been a rolling reform agenda designed to increase transparency, integrity and accountability at both state and local government levels.

Building on earlier reforms, such as real-time donation declaration laws, we had before the parliament two bills aimed at further improving local government's accountability. The Palaszczuk government promised the people of Queensland that these two bills would be reintroduced were we to be returned to government. The first was introduced on the first full sitting day of the 56th Parliament. Its passage will result in a new councillor complaints system for Queensland, the establishment of the Office of the Independent Assessor and a compulsory code of conduct for all Queensland mayors and councillors. Today I seek to introduce the second of the two lapsed bills.

The Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 contains provisions for a ban on political donations by property developers, a ban which will be applied at both the state and local levels of government. Following the Queensland local government elections on 19 March 2016, the Crime and Corruption Commission, the CCC, received numerous complaints about the conduct of candidates for the Gold Coast City Council, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Ipswich City Council and Logan City Council.

In response to these allegations, the CCC initiated Operation Belcarra with two main aims: firstly, a determination as to whether candidates had committed offences under the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 that could constitute corrupt conduct; and, secondly, the examination of practices that may give rise to actual or perceived corruption or otherwise undermine public confidence in the integrity of local government with a view to identifying strategies or reforms to help prevent or decrease corruption risks and increase public confidence.

The CCC report *Operation Belcarra: a blueprint for integrity and addressing corruption risk in local government* makes 31 recommendations to improve equity, transparency, integrity and accountability in Queensland local government elections and decision-making. The government supports, or supports in principle, all 31 recommendations, and the bill I introduce today implements the government's response to recommendations 20 and 23 to 26 of the Belcarra report.

To implement the government's response to recommendation 20, the bill bans donations from property developers to candidates, third parties, political parties and councillors. The bill extends the ban to members of state parliament. The provisions are modelled on the New South Wales Election Funding, Expenditure and Disclosures Act 1981. The prohibition addresses the concern identified in the Belcarra report that close connections between councillors and donors can lead to a perception in the community that donors expect to, and do, receive something in return for their support. As the CCC stated, 'These perceptions alone are enough to damage public confidence in the integrity of local government.' Further, the CCC stated, '... continued public concern about the influence of property developer donations on council decision-making demands a stronger response than transparency alone.'

While concluding that the risk of actual or perceived corruption related to developer donations was very real, the CCC came to the view that donors from other sectors do not demonstrate that same risk, and therefore a more encompassing ban is not justified. Queenslanders expect transparency and accountability from their candidates at every level of government and deserve to have confidence in the integrity of their elected representatives. The Premier has stated that she will not make rules for local government that she is not prepared to follow herself. The Premier's leadership on this issue has meant that we as a government are saying that what we are requiring of other levels of government we will live up to ourselves. I call on those opposite to endorse this level of transparency in political donations.

The extension of the ban to the state level is an important step given the state's significant role in Queensland's planning framework. That role includes mandating the powers that can be exercised by the planning minister, such as approving planning schemes and other local planning instruments, and assessing and advising on applications that trigger a state planning matter.

Further, corruption relating to donations from property developers at both local government and state government levels has been investigated and reported on in New South Wales by the Independent Commission Against Corruption. This bill therefore amends the Electoral Act 1992 and the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 to prohibit political donations from property developers for candidates in local government and state elections, groups of candidates in local government elections, third parties, political parties, councillors and members of state parliament.

The ban applies to 'prohibited donors', defined to include a property developer or any industry representative organisation whose members are mainly property developers. 'Property developers' are defined in the bill to be corporations engaged in a business that regularly involves the making of relevant planning applications by or on behalf of the corporation and close associates—such as related

corporations, directors and their spouses—of these corporations. A person will be able to seek a determination from the Queensland Electoral Commissioner that they or another entity are not prohibited donors.

The bill will provide that it is unlawful for a prohibited donor to make a political donation, for a person to make a political donation on behalf of a prohibited donor, for a person to accept a political donation that was made wholly or in part by or on behalf of a prohibited donor, for a prohibited donor to solicit a person to make a political donation and for a person to solicit on behalf of a prohibited donor another person to make a political donation. The maximum penalty for doing an act or making an omission that is unlawful if the person knows or ought reasonably to know of the facts that result in the act or omission being unlawful is 400 penalty units or two years imprisonment. The bill also provides that it is an offence for a person to knowingly participate directly or indirectly in a scheme to circumvent a prohibition about political donations. The maximum penalty that may be imposed for this offence is 1,500 penalty units or 10 years imprisonment.

Under transitional provisions, the prohibition will apply from the date the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 was introduced—that is, 12 October 2017. Under these provisions, any political donations that are unlawful under the developer donations prohibition which are made on or after 12 October 2017 will, on commencement, need to be repaid to the donor within 30 days of commencement. There will be no offence committed in respect of political donations made or received between 12 October 2017 and the commencement of the bill. However, failure to repay the amount equal to the amount or the value of the donation within 30 days from commencement will be an offence punishable by a maximum penalty of 400 penalty units or two years imprisonment.

The bill also amends the City of Brisbane Act 2010 and the Local Government Act 2009 to implement the government's response to recommendations 23 to 26 of the Belcarra report relating to the management of councillor conflicts of interest and, where appropriate, also applies to material personal interests. To implement recommendation 23, the bill requires that, when a councillor declares a real or perceived conflict of interest in a matter to be discussed at a council meeting and fails to absent themselves, the other councillors present must decide whether the councillor has a conflict of interest and whether the councillor must leave the meeting or may stay and participate in the meeting.

Failure to declare a conflict of interest is currently dealt with as misconduct. However, the bill provides that this is an offence with a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units or one year's imprisonment. The same maximum penalty will apply if a councillor does not comply with a decision of the other councillors that the councillor must leave and stay away from the meeting.

Recommendation 24 of the Belcarra report applies if a councillor does not declare a conflict of interest or material personal interest in a matter to be discussed at a local government meeting. To implement the government's response to this recommendation, the bill requires other councillors at the meeting who have a reasonable suspicion or belief of the councillor's personal interest to inform the person presiding at the meeting. Failure to do so will be dealt with as misconduct, which may result in disciplinary action being taken against the councillor.

The bill makes it an offence to take a reprisal against a councillor or another person because the councillor complied with this duty and will attract a maximum penalty of 167 penalty units or two years imprisonment. Recommendation 25 of the Belcarra report recommends that suitable penalties should apply for councillors who fail to comply with their obligations regarding conflicts of interest including possible removal from office.

As I have outlined, the bill introduces a number of new offences relating to conflicts of interest and material personal interests. There will be significant penalties. Further, the bill will prescribe these new offences as 'integrity offences'. This means that a person who is convicted of an integrity offence cannot be a councillor for four years from the conviction.

The bill will see additional new offences inserted by the bill to implement recommendation 26 of the Belcarra report. It will be an offence if a councillor with a conflict of interest or a material personal interest in a matter influences or attempts to influence another councillor to vote on a matter in a particular way. It will also be an offence if the councillor influences, or attempts to influence, a council employee or contractor who is authorised to deal with the matter, to do so in a particular way. The maximum penalties that will apply for these offences is 200 penalty units or two years imprisonment. The bill also introduces requirements for additional information to be included when a councillor declares a conflict of interest or a material personal interest in a matter.

The Queensland Ombudsman's report *The Cairns Regional Council councillor conflicts of interest report* recommended that the Local Government Act 2009 should be amended to clearly set out what is required to be disclosed by councillors to achieve transparency and accountability in relation to the declaration of conflicts of interest. The bill amends both the Local Government Act 2009 and the City of Brisbane Act 2010 to specify particular information that must be provided in relation to conflicts of interest or material personal interests including the value and date of receipt of any gift that gives rise to a conflict of interest. This amendment will ensure that other councillors and the community are better able to understand the nature of the conflict when it is declared.

As indicated by the words 'stage 1' in the short title, the bill represents the first stage of the Palaszczuk government's reform agenda not only in implementing the remaining recommendations of Operation Belcarra but also in further reforms aimed at reinforcing integrity, minimising the risk of corruption and providing for increased transparency and accountability at both state and local government levels. Queenslanders deserve to have confidence in the integrity of their elected representatives and in the effectiveness of the electoral system and local government. 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) (12.12 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 Pugh): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

EDUCATION (OVERSEAS STUDENTS) BILL

Resumed from 15 February (see p. 82).

Second Reading

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.13 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I rise to speak in the resumption of the debate on the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. The bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 15 February 2018 and referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for consideration. On 2 March 2018 the committee tabled its reports supporting the passage of the bill. I would like to thank all members of the committee for their consideration of the bill. I note the chair of the committee, the member for Nudgee, acknowledged the assistance that the report of the former Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee on an earlier version of this bill provided to the committee. I also take this opportunity to thank the department representatives who assisted the committee with their consideration of the bill. The committee made a single recommendation that the bill be passed, and I am pleased to note the bipartisan support the bill has received.

The bill replaces the Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996 with modern legislation that reflects the national framework for the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students and introduces a statutory regime for the regulation of international secondary student exchange organisations. The bill also includes amendments that will support the introduction of Queensland's new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems which the Palaszczuk government committed to introduce for the cohort of students entering year 11 in 2019, which is not too far away. The development of these reforms has been guided by representatives of all three schooling sectors—parent groups, secondary principals associations, teacher unions and the tertiary education sector.

The changes include the introduction of external senior assessment, which will complement school based assessments and a transition from the current tertiary entrance system based on the overall position tertiary rank, or the OP rank, to a new system using the Australian tertiary admission rank, or ATAR. Under the reforms, the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre, QTAC, will be responsible for calculating and issuing student ATARs. These reforms are the biggest change Queensland's senior secondary education and tertiary entrance systems have seen in decades. I am proud to be the education minister who will oversee the introduction of these changes.

In relation to other matters contained in the bill, on 31 August 2017 amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 commenced which served to simplify and standardise opening hours across areas of Queensland. In the course of making these amendments, an existing trading hours provision permitting non-exempt shops to trade on the Easter Saturday public holiday in regional areas without Sunday or public holiday trading was inadvertently omitted. This would have meant larger retailers such as supermarkets and department stores in such regional areas would have had to close for four consecutive days over the Easter long weekend. I want to emphasise that this had no impact on small business in these areas. Those small businesses would have been able to trade 24 hours a day, seven days a week over that period. For clarity, this omission related only to large supermarkets and department stores. Areas affected by the omission include Mount Isa, Goondiwindi, Chinchilla, Kingaroy and others.

Mr Bennett interjected.

Ms GRACE: There were a number of them. I take that interjection from the member for Burnett. There was never an intention to stop trading on the Easter Saturday public holiday in those areas. Can I emphasise that this went through all stakeholders. There was immense debate in relation to this issue. Those opposite would not support the legislation because they supported small businesses and did not want to see an advantage to larger retailers, which is somewhat ironic and the song by Alanis Morissette keeps going through my head when we talk about this issue. This issue was not picked up by any of the stakeholders, not by those opposite, not by the National Retail Association, not by the parliamentary committee, not by the department—no-one. It was an innocent omission.

Mr Bleijie interjected.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms GRACE: This was an innocent omission that was not picked up. As soon as we were alerted, we committed to immediately rectify the oversight before Easter 2018 in order to provide early notice and assurances to businesses and consumers in the affected areas that existing Easter Saturday trading arrangements remain in place. Isn't it ironic that those opposite who are supposed to be standing up for small businesses were not going to support this bill? We stand for small business.

I know there was not much good news around that time. The member for Kawana wanted a little bit of good news and to have a bit of fun—there was not much fun in those ranks opposite after the election—so he decided to make a big deal about where he purchases his hot cross buns. He may wish to purchase his in Coles, Woolies and the larger department stores. However, I suggest he put his money into small businesses and that he buys them at a local, small bakery. I think they taste a lot better. They would have been open on that day doing a roaring trade selling their hot cross buns. However, the member for Kawana clearly wants to buy them in Coles and Woolies. They taste all right but I would prefer to spend my money in a small business bakery. I would buy them there any day. Isn't it ironic that there he is, the bastion of the large businesses, but beforehand they were not supporting any of these amendments because it meant an unfair trading advantage would be given to the larger retailers? I digress—I am having a little bit of fun—just to put the irony of the situation on record in the House.

These arrangements were never intended and they will be corrected. The bill seeks to correct the omission by inserting the provision—it was a bracketed provision—in the act which specifies that non-exempt shops in areas without Sunday or public holiday trading may open on Easter Sunday. Members will be happy to know the large retailers will be able to open. We had scenes of tumbleweed going down the streets because—Lord help us!—Coles and Woolies were not opening. It was an unintended omission and a bit of fun by the member for Kawana. However, I cannot escape the irony of the situation.

The amendment will commence on 30 March 2018 in time for Easter this year. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.21 pm): I understand why the minister wants to trivialise the matters and be happy and funny about it. She has a history of stuffing up legislation and is always coming in here moving amendments to legislation that she has neglected.

Mr Stevens: What about the racing legislation?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. I was going to get to the old racing bill at about 25 minutes. However, now that the member has mentioned it, I can point out that this minister was the one who introduced the racing bill and there were more amendments than clauses in the bill.

Ms Grace: I didn't introduce it.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the minister. I apologise. She did not introduce it but then had carriage of it. She always blames poor Billy Byrne, the former member for Rockhampton; it was all his fault that the member had to oversee the 300 or so—

An opposition member: It was everybody else's mistake.

Mr BLEIJIE: It always is. In relation to these amendments to Easter trading, the minister has now blamed the stakeholders. The stakeholders neglected to tell her during the debate last year on the trading hours. This is an education bill but it is déjà vu at Easter. Easter is around the corner and we are debating Easter amendments because this government hates Easter and they keep forgetting about Easter. We have déjà vu all over again! Last year we had to amend the public holidays legislation to declare one of the Easter days a particular public holiday. However, the minister forgot to amend the allowable trading hours legislation to allow businesses to open on the public holiday. Just before Easter last year, just like now, we were forced to amend the allowable trading hours legislation because of that mix-up. Now, on the eve of Easter, we are again amending legislation because the government cannot get its legislation right. The minister has form in terms of it being everybody else's fault. It is not her department's fault; it is not her office's fault; it is not her fault.

Mr Stevens: Like the racing bill.

Mr BLEIJIE: Like the racing bill, it is the stakeholders' fault. They did not tell her about it. The stakeholders did tell the minister about it and that is why we have these amendments before us. The minister did not come up with these great amendments; it was the National Retail Association who said, 'Oh, there is a problem and we need another amendment,' otherwise these big businesses would not have been able to open. The minister talks about irony. Let us talk about facts. Every year before Easter we are amending legislation because the government has mucked it up and cannot get it right. We would have thought by now they would know when Easter is. We would have thought by now that—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Without anticipating debate on other bills, we have liquor reforms coming in because they just realised the Commonwealth Games are coming up as well and they have to amend legislation. The Labor Party have form in terms of having to amend legislation because they cannot get the basics right at the very start.

I digress. The bill is an education bill but, of course, these amendments are contained in it. If we read the title of the bill, the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018, we would think it is all about the education of overseas students. We would not have any idea there would be amendments moved dealing with the particular matters as the minister has foreshadowed. The member for Currumbin and I were having a discussion yesterday and we thought it odd that the title of the bill was not 'education (overseas students) and other matters amendment bill' as is customary in this place.

Mr Hart: It might be another omission.

Mr BLEIJIE: It might be another omission. If it is an omission, I would be happy to support an amendment from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations during the consideration in detail to amend the title of the bill to properly reflect the subject.

If the minister came in here and said, 'It is an amendment we are moving after the bill has been introduced,' I would accept that, but it is not. It is because the minister introduced this at the last sitting. They then had to move a motion for the bill to be declared urgent so the committee could deal with this matter and the amendments were contained in the bill. Therefore, the title of the bill should be 'other amendments' or, more appropriately, 'education (overseas students) fixing up Labor's continual Easter stuff-ups bill'. As I said at the beginning of the year when we found out about this, it was the great Easter bungle.

The minister spent a fair bit of time talking about hot cross buns. She is fond of hot cross buns, and I accept that and appreciate that. I like a hot cross bun as well. I buy them from my local bakeries. I support Parklands Bakery, my little local baker, as well as B Fresh bakery. The reality is that the minister is trying to make fun of an issue in which she has neglected her portfolio responsibilities in terms of the proper amendments to legislation. If the minister did not neglect her portfolio responsibilities we would not be debating the Easter amendment prior to Easter. We would not have had the urgency declared for the committee to look at the bill and for us to debate it. It is quite odd we would have the great Easter hot cross bun bill contained within the Education (Overseas Students) Bill. That is the reality.

I know the minister is embarrassed by the whole thing. I know she is embarrassed that every year before Easter she has to move these amendments. I really do feel for her. I have never been in that particular situation.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think the member for Kawana is making a giant leap insinuating my feelings at the moment. I take offence and I ask that those comments be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Member for Kawana, do you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I would also ask that you direct your comments through the chair instead of referring directly to the minister.

Mr BLEIJIE: The Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations would be embarrassed—should be embarrassed—by the amendments she is moving. I would love to say that I—

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I had just taken offence to the member for Kawana insinuating that in some way he knows how I am supposed to be feeling at the moment. I took offence and I asked that he withdraw. He withdrew it. He then repeated it and I ask that he withdraw again.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, it is not a personal reflection when I say the minister should be embarrassed.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, do you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The Minister for Industrial Relations stuffed up this legislation. If any other minister had to come in here year after year to move amendments to legislation before Easter, as she has done, it would show a high degree of incompetence. The minister should be embarrassed by the continual stuff-ups and the continual amendments she has to move before Easter every year to get her own legislation in order. It is a dereliction of her duties and ministerial responsibilities that she cannot seem to get this right. For two to three years we have now had to debate amendments because Easter has come on particular dates and we are now fixing the legislation through this amendment in the Education (Overseas Students) Bill.

I would like to deal with the education aspect of the bill, which is actually the title of the bill and what this bill is about. International education is one of the biggest service export industries in Queensland, generating almost \$3 billion a year in export revenue and sustaining approximately 20,000 jobs. The majority of the changes proposed in this bill were introduced in the previous parliament but lapsed when the parliament was dissolved for the election. This bill picks up those same changes with a couple of additions. In response to a recommendation of the previous committee, amendments have been made to ensure that the information or documents obtained by the regulator or authorised compliance officers under a help requirement cannot be used in proceedings other than for offences created by the bill or about the false or misleading nature of the information or document as intended to better safeguard rights against self-incrimination. Secondly, the bill's amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 are intended to address an inadvertent omission made when the act was amended in 2017. Those are the minister's words, not mine.

The other key objectives of the bill provide a new regime for the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students and international student exchange programs; provide the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority with functions to administer new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems commencing for students entering year 11 in 2019—incidentally, my daughter is entering year 11 in 2019—and make minor and technical amendments to the Education (General

Provisions) Act 2006 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000. No submissions were received by the committee in response to this bill; however, that may have been because most of the issues had been canvassed previously when the bill was considered last year. In terms of Easter trading hours, members may have seen the front page of the *Courier-Mail* on 19 January this year with the headline 'Hot cross bungle'. That was in relation to the minister's bungled attempt to regulate the trading hours that were made in the previous parliament.

In relation to the changes regarding overseas students, the current approach is through a cooperative legislative model with the Commonwealth. The cooperative model includes the Commonwealth legislation and the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 and Queensland's Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996. Currently, schools must meet the requirements of the Commonwealth and Queensland legislation and be registered on both the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students—known as CRICOS—and the Queensland register. The bill modernises Queensland's legislative framework to achieve closer alignment with the national framework.

In December 2014, the former LNP government announced proposed changes to senior assessment and tertiary education systems following an independent review of the system by the Australian Council for Educational Research. I want to place on record and pay tribute to the former LNP minister for education, the member for Surfers Paradise, John-Paul Langbroek, who did a stellar job when he was the education minister. We are debating this legislation because of the great work that he did when he was in government as the education minister.

These changes move away from the OP—or overall position ranking—and Queensland core skills test. Of course, as is the case under Labor governments, this important reform has been delayed by a year. The current OP system has been in place since 1992. All other Australian states and territories use the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank—ATAR—rather than the OP. In relation to the assessment, since 1972 Queensland has employed school based senior assessment in which assessment activities are developed and marked by teachers. A system of external moderation is used in which samples of completed students' work are validated by panels of expert teachers. When the LNP first considered these changes, all Australian states and territories used some form of school based assessment. Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory are the only jurisdictions which do not also use subject based external examinations.

The bill also makes minor and technical amendments to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000. It is disappointing that the government has missed the opportunity to use these changes to bring in its so-called no-card no-start policy, which was a priority in the middle of the state election but now apparently is not. In November last year the former education minister, Kate Jones, said that Labor would close the blue card loophole and ensure that only checked and approved people would be able to work with children in Queensland. All of a sudden it is not a priority.

In November last year there were over 5,000 people working with children while their applications were still being processed. The question is: how many is it now? This apparent loophole fundamentally undermines the blue card system and key child advocates, including Bravehearts founder and chair Hetty Johnston, have recently said, 'This is a change for the safety of our kids we're talking about here. It should have been done yesterday. People never should have been allowed to work with children without a blue card in the first place.' Labor's so-called no-card no-start policy was announced in the wake of a scandal in Townsville last year where a teacher's aide who did not hold a blue card allegedly showed images of himself to three young boys at a local primary school. It is typical of Labor to say one thing before—in this case during—an election and do another after. Returning to the minister's favourite topic and getting back to where I started this contribution—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Do not look at me like that. It is terrible, nasty. On the subject of trading hours, in particular with regard to Easter trading, as I said, this is the third year in a row we are debating changes around trading hours on weekends. In 2016, seemingly out of the blue, Labor changed Easter Sunday to make it a public holiday because it was not involved in the Mickel review on industrial relations, but the only thing was that the minister forgot to change the trading hours legislation that related to businesses being able to trade on that day. We came back here in early 2017 to change the trading hours legislation to fix that bungle by the minister. Then last year the minister managed to cobble together support to get her beleaguered trading hours changes through the parliament in a complete

about face on the whole justification of the laws in the first place. There were 32 amendments at the last minute. As a legacy of that completely rushed and bungled process we have come back here in 2018 to fix it up again because the minister has a track record of continually bungling legislation. We saw it with the racing bill—

Ms Grace: In your dreams!

Mr BLEIJIE: It is not my dreams; it is reality. It is fact. We only have to look at the bungles and the amendments that the minister had to make. I do not go home and dream about the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations' bungles in the parliament. I deal with realities and facts. *Hansard* will show that for the last three years you have been debating the evidence.

Ms Grace interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Minister for Education!


Mr BLEIJIE: We saw it with the racing bill. We have seen it with industrial relations changes and trading hours changes over and over again. It is not so much an issue in the parliament; it is about chopping and changing the goalposts. How are businesses in this state supposed to operate with so much uncertainty? Labor does not understand business because they are beholden to the union movement. This is the minister of the unions, by the unions and for the unions. It is another complete Easter stuff-up yet again and it is simply not good enough. When is it time for the Premier to say, 'Minister for Industrial Relations, enough is enough. The stuff-ups have to stop'? Has the Premier eyeballed the Minister for Industrial Relations? Has the Premier got up and said she is furious?

An opposition member: I would not be game.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection. I would not be game to eyeball the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations either, being the former union heavyweight that she is. Has the Premier eyeballed the Minister for Industrial Relations about the continual dysfunction in her department? Has the Premier been furious? Has the Premier been angry? Has the Premier been dissatisfied? I suspect it is all of the above.

Mr Stevens: No Easter eggs.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection. The minister can call it an administrative oversight and try to blame the department, the stakeholders, the opposition and everybody else, but it is because of her political incompetence in cobbling together a deal to get her failed trading hours reforms through the parliament with the crossbenchers that 32 amendments were rushed and this error was made. That is what happens when you cobble together a deal with the Katter party and other crossbenchers at the last minute. They made 32 rushed amendments and now we have to deal with this again and again. Albert Einstein said that doing the same thing over and over again but expecting a different result is the definition of insanity. Enough said, Minister, time and time again.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.38 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017. As the House would recall, this bill was introduced into the previous parliament in August of last year and reported on by the former Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee in September 2017. The former committee recommended that the bill be passed with three further amendments. The bill lapsed when the parliament was dissolved on 29 October 2017 prior to its second reading. The current version of the bill replicates the content of the lapsed bill but also contains a number of further amendments. These amendments address a minor drafting change to replace a heading in related education legislation; correct a drafting omission in recent amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act; and include two new subclasses, 66(4) and 66(5), to address one of the recommendations of the former committee. These new subclasses limit the use of a document or information obtained when the protection against self-incrimination is abrogated to proceedings; about the false or misleading nature of the information and document; or for the purposes of the prosecuting of offences under the regulatory regime.

Given the substantive similarities of the bills and the limited time frame for reporting, the committee did not call for submissions on the bill but had regard to the submitted evidence and report of the former committee. The Department of Education and Training also provided the committee with a written briefing on the bill and attended a public briefing, both of which greatly assisted the committee to get across the content of the bill and the new amendments. I thank the department for their assistance in this regard.

The bill before us 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. I appreciate that the policy objective and legislative function of these amendments has been canvassed in this House by both the former minister Kate Jones and Minister Grace Grace at introduction and again just now in her second reading. As we are further assisted by both the former and current committee's report, I will not seek to restate their application now in any great detail but, rather, make a few brief comments about the central tenets of the bill.

The current Queensland Education (Overseas Students) Act, or EOS Act, is not reflective of contemporary practice, does not reflect the current role of the director-general as the designated state authority, the current expectations about the shared responsibility for regulation of providers of education to overseas students, and nor does it provide the director-general with any powers to monitor compliance with the Commonwealth act and national code, which is an expectation under the national framework. The new regulatory regime proposed by the bill will better reflect the role of both the director-general as the designated state authority, ensure better alignment with the national framework and shared responsibility for compliance, and improve Queensland's compliance framework and administrative practices by introducing internal review rights and improved information sharing arrangements.

Hence, the bill contains common-sense amendments that both update and strengthen the co-regulatory system that exists between Queensland and the Commonwealth for the regulation of education and training to overseas students. The bill also introduces a statutory regime to regulate international secondary student exchange organisations that reflects the existing administrative regime and policy intention of the national guidelines for the operation of international secondary exchange programs in Australia. Introducing such a regime will provide regulatory oversight commensurate with the level of risk associated with such exchanges and, importantly, safeguard the welfare of international and Australian secondary exchange students. With international education and training in Queensland estimated to contribute \$2.8 billion in export revenue and support 19,000 jobs in 2015 alone, Queensland accounts for 16 per cent of Australia's international student numbers. It is our second biggest service export. The bill seeks to protect the strong reputation that Queensland, and Australia more broadly, enjoys as a destination for quality and safe international education and training.

Finally, I would like to touch on the reforms contained in the bill to Queensland senior assessment and tertiary entrance processes, the most significant in this regard in over 20 years. 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. This, in addition to the transfer of responsibility for tertiary ranking from the QCAA to QTAC and the use of ATARs in place of OP ranks, will result in greater nationally consistency. Having completed my education in the only two jurisdictions in the country that do not or previously did not employ some form of subject based external assessment, and in the case of Queensland, which has used a different tertiary ranking system from the other states and territories, I can attest to the benefits that a nationally consistent approach and more seamless transfer of student results between jurisdictions can provide. These significant reforms, estimated to affect more than 50,000 year 12 students each year, are the result of extensive consultation with education stakeholders and have been informed through the work of the ministerial senior secondary assessment task force with members from the Catholic, independent and state schooling sectors, parent groups, secondary principals associations, teacher unions and tertiary institutions. I look forward to continuing to liaise with local education stakeholders as the new system is embedded.

In closing, the committee was greatly aided in its examination of the bill by the work of its predecessor committee, the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. The former committee's public consultation process and thorough scrutiny of the provisions of the earlier bill helped to ensure that this committee was well placed to understand and develop a position on the bill in the given time frame. I take this opportunity to thank former chair, Scott Stewart, and the members of that committee, including my colleague the member for Maryborough, who continues his valuable contributions this term on the same committee. I thank my fellow committee members for their contributions to this inquiry, our first as a new committee. I also thank our committee secretariat staff and Hansard reporters for their assistance. It was the view of the committee, assisted by additional clarifying information provided by the department, that the new amendments contained in the bill appropriately addressed the concerns of the former committee. Accordingly, the committee made one recommendation, that the bill be passed, and I commend the bill to the House.



Mrs STUCKEY (Currumbin—LNP) (12.45 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. It was introduced by the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations on 15 February this year on the first full sitting day of the 56th Parliament and subsequently referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee. This bill is one of several that lapsed when the 55th Parliament was dissolved and has been reintroduced, albeit with added amendments. In my capacity as the very proud member for Currumbin and deputy chair of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, I congratulate all members upon their election to the Legislative Assembly. It truly is an honour and a privilege to serve the people of Queensland in this House. I also congratulate the member for Nudgee on her election as chair of this committee. Education lays the foundation for our children's future job prospects and is a critical part of their self-development and self-esteem. Children today live in a world with many challenges different from those when I raised my own children. As legislators, we have an even more significant role to play and a responsibility to do all we can to ensure that they receive a sound education in a supportive environment.

The Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee of the 55th Parliament, which previously reviewed the 2017 version of this bill, agreed that the bill should be passed in its report to the parliament on 28 September 2017, which included four recommendations. The new committee came to the same conclusion that the bill be passed but without the other three recommendations. As I mentioned, the 2018 bill introduced on 15 February required the committee to report back by 2 March this year, a time line of just 16 days. I understand the need for the government to have legislation on the *Notice Paper*, but surely it is important for new MPs to have the opportunity to deliver their maiden speeches as a priority. They cannot debate legislation until they have done so. Take out the month of April and it will be May before many members have a chance to speak for the first time. Given the short time frame and the fact the bill had already been investigated through the committee process, our committee had time for only one public hearing, held on 22 February here at Parliament House. I place on record my thanks to the departmental officers for their attendance and the briefing notes.

The explanatory notes state the policy objectives of the bill are to create a new regime for the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students and international student exchange programs; provide the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority with functions to administer new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems commencing for students entering year 11 in 2019; to make minor and technical amendments to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000; and, lastly, to amend the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 to provide that larger retailers in regional areas without Sunday or public holiday trading be allowed to open on the public holiday on Easter.

The minister has advised of two key differences on the lapsed bill, incorporated as additional amendments. One related to recommendation No. 4 of the former committee which sought to limit the future use in proceedings of a document that is required to be kept and produced by a person under clause 66 unless the proceeding relates to the false or misleading nature of the document. This recommendation was addressed by departmental officers in a briefing note which stated the recommendation was too restrictive, thereby reducing the effectiveness of the regulatory regime. However, new subclauses (4) and (5) were added which addressed some of the former committee's concerns around use in proceedings of specific documents.

The second were amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 which were intended to address an inadvertent omission made when the act was amended in 2017. This is due to the government's omission of a provision permitting non-exempt shops to continue to trade on the Easter Saturday public holiday in regional areas without Sunday or public holiday trading.

At the briefing on 22 February in reply as to why Easter Saturday was missed in the earlier legislation, the committee was told that Easter Sunday was 'just missed' when the act was amended last year. Just an oversight? Just missed? What has been exposed is a sloppy Palaszczuk government and a sloppier minister. Who could forget her having to make 300 amendments to the Racing Integrity Act in 2016? If it had not been for the National Retail Association bringing the omission to the attention of the government, then we would have had a right royal hot cross bun bungle on our hands.

I have to say that I was puzzled by the title of this bill, as the honourable member for Kawana indicated, because it also includes amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act, yet it is not reflected in its title, the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. Labor has shoved this important issue for regional towns into this bill, but in its attempt to cover up its inadmissible mistake it has only named

the bill the Education (Overseas Students) Bill. Normally a bill of this composition would be titled the 'Education (Overseas Students) and Other Legislation Bill 2018' or similar. I wonder if this is a new trend and will become the normal practice for the Palaszczuk government to hide its incompetence. The trading hours debate has been going on for many years, so such an omission is very disappointing.

The 2017 bill attracted only three submissions which were all mostly supportive. They were from Independent Schools Queensland, Independent Education Union of Australia's Queensland and Northern Territory branch and Australian Catholic University. Independent Schools Queensland noted the following—

Whilst it could be questioned as to the need for regulatory legislation at both the Commonwealth and State levels, the Bill recognises the national regulatory framework and provides the required powers for the State to monitor the compliance of providers.

In relation to international exchange students, it said—

The Bill legislates for a new State regulatory regime in respect of international exchange students.

Currently such exchanges are undertaken under the National Guidelines for the Operation of International Secondary Exchange Programs in Australia.

It continued—

Given that these guidelines appear to be working well in respect of the comparatively small number of students involved in these exchanges, it might be questioned as to the necessity for such comprehensive new legislation.

The Independent Education Union, also supporting the bill, wrote—

We are however, concerned by the proposal to amend the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014 to allow the authority to purchase external assessment for senior subjects ...


It continued—

Although we recognise that this may not be the intention of the draft legislation, our concern is that the amendments open up the possibility of for-profit business entities supplying assessment items for use with students in schools.

The overseas student program provides many benefits to schools across Queensland, and none more so than for Palm Beach Currumbin State High School—also known as PBC—and Elanora State High School where there are around 100 international students from a broad range of countries such as Germany, Brazil, China, Japan, Norway, France and Italy. The main aim of the international program is for students to be fully integrated into the school environment to improve their language skills, learn about the Australian culture and experience the Aussie way of life by living with their host families. In the recent boundary redistribution PBC was moved into the Burleigh electorate, but two-thirds of the students live in Currumbin so I am still actively involved in the school, and Elanora High remains in the electorate.

Education Queensland International has been running student programs for many years and has successfully operated at PBC for over 12 years. There are two major intakes of students at PBC—at the beginning of the year in January and again in July. PBC accepts between 35 and 40 students per semester. There are currently 11 schools on the Gold Coast hosting international students all belonging to the Education Queensland Gold Coast alliance based at Keebra Park. Elanora State High School hosts approximately 40 full-fee-paying students at any one time. Students enrol at the school from one term up to 2½ years and live with local Australian homestay families, which not only enhances cultural understanding but is a significant contributor to the local economy. An increasing number of international students in state high schools are remaining in Australia to complete their tertiary studies.

I am very proud of the quality of care and the teaching delivered at all of the schools in Currumbin, whether they are state primary, state high schools, our special school or our independent Catholic school. In recent weeks I have attended numerous student leader badging ceremonies and was incredibly impressed by the level of commitment and maturity displayed by these young individuals and their teachers. Well done, one and all.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.54 pm): I rise to speak to the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018 and want to thank the minister and members for the contributions that we have already heard. As a former education minister—and I see that you are getting some assistance, Madam Deputy Speaker Pugh, from Deputy Speaker Stewart, who is a former principal, and the member for Mansfield has joined us now as another former principal—I was very proud to have the opportunity to promote the great education system that we have here in Queensland. There are a

couple of elements in this bill that I find very interesting in terms of my memories of being minister with regard to working with overseas students as well as changes to the senior curriculum that I will refer to later.

I was privileged to be able to go to the Middle East and Asia when minister to tell them the three ways that our education system with over 1,700 schools, state and nonstate, is getting some great results in improving our NAPLAN results and doing the things that we know parents want for their children—that is, to give them the best start in life. As well as maintain our own system we could welcome foreign students and go to other countries to promote our education system. That was something that I was very proud to do. Another string to our bow was taking our curriculum to places like China as well as welcoming its students here, and that is the purpose of this bill with bringing foreign students here. That is a very important part of, as the member for Currumbin has just said, seeing what our teachers, principals, other staff and school communities are achieving thanks to what our passionate staff are doing in our schools. Overseas students provide great value to our state, and not just to our economy. They provide great value in terms of our relationships with other countries, and then of course many of them would go on to university or further study. That is something that we certainly valued and was a very important part of our economy, and education has become a very important part of our economy.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: We have an economy that was traditionally based on agriculture, tourism and construction. This is especially the case on the Gold Coast; I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. This really has added another string to the bow of the Gold Coast in terms of the things that we can offer. Whilst the Gold Coast has been known for a long time for tourism, development and retail, education with our three universities and schooling opportunities have really made a significant difference to the Gold Coast economy—something we are also going to see as a result of the Commonwealth Games with the health and knowledge precinct. Someone whom I would like to pay tribute to is Professor Ian O'Connor, the Vice-Chancellor of Griffith University, who has certainly made some great growth steps at Griffith University as well as Bond University and Southern Cross University based at Coolangatta.

The important thing is that many schools that are providing education to international students must be registered on CRICOS, the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students, and the Queensland register. The bill removes the requirement of a Queensland register, thus streamlining the process. According to the committee report—

Currently 23 organisations are registered to provide student exchange programs in Queensland—seven independent schools, three Catholic schools, one state school, and 12 not-for-profit entities, including Rotary. In 2016—

and I think this is to do more with an exchange program—

159 overseas students attended secondary school in Queensland and 189 Queensland secondary students attended overseas schools.

As I understand it, there were 5,678 students in 2016 who were also under a full-fee-paying scheme. As I also understand it—and maybe the minister can correct me—whilst Education Queensland International, EQI, does a lot of the registration on behalf of state schools so that they are not individually registered, it is a very valuable source of interaction between school communities. Again, as I mentioned, when I went to Japan I was pleased to see, because of the slight time difference, things like language connections being done through internet connection and video screens between Robina State High and a school that I was privileged to be seeing via video contact while in Japan in 2014. They are very valuable things that we are doing through this and, as I have mentioned, it is a very important part of ensuring we have a regulated system dealing with these matters properly. Presently, the committee that oversees student exchange organisations and monitors compliance in Queensland operates as an administrative regime. As I have just mentioned, the bill before us seeks to introduce a legislative regime in place of the administrative regime. The reasoning behind this move is outlined in the explanatory notes, which state—

Introducing a statutory regime will provide regulatory oversight commensurate with the level of risk associated with student exchanges ... and protect Australia's reputation as a destination for international education and training.

Debate, on motion of Mr Langbroek, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Rural and Regional Queensland, Rainfall; Ice



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The rain that we have received over the past few weeks has been wonderful. Today, many drought declared communities are celebrating impressive and very welcome rains. A huge swathe of Central and North Queensland has been soaked. One of my daughters is on a property located about 180 kilometres north-west of Julia Creek. Let me tell the House that she is loving the puddles and being flooded in, because she knows what that means for the future of that place. I hope that those heavy falls will bring an end to the long drought. There is flooding in places, but rains such as this are all part and parcel of living in regional Queensland. Although the wet weather has brought relief to many Queenslanders, many areas are still crying out for rain. The rainfall has been heavy, but it has been patchy. Sadly, properties east of Ilfracombe out to Jericho missed out and some places in the central west are in their seventh dry year. I am thinking of those communities and I hope desperately that more wet weather systems will bring some relief to the bush.

There is no more destructive problem facing Queensland today than our ice epidemic. Every week—or, it could be said, every day—I hear stories of what this terrifying drug is doing to the people of Queensland. I hear stories of families being torn apart, crime rates increasing, and police and hospitals struggling to cope. Across our small towns and big cities, ice is attacking every part of the fabric of our communities. This drug does not discriminate; it decimates.

Addicts talk about how ice is much worse than heroin, coke or marijuana. The police talk about how addictive ice is and how the crooks provide free samples to get people hooked. We need to end the scourge of ice. It is destroying addicts' lives but it is also destroying the lives of their families. The ice crime wave is threatening thousands more innocent victims in our communities. We cannot afford to sit back and lose a whole generation to this epidemic that has spread across Queensland.

Sadly, under the past three years of Labor little has been done to address this nightmare. Labor has watched as this epidemic has unfolded and it has sat on its hands. The Liberal National Party has taken a different approach. We are in touch with the communities we represent and we understand the problems they face. Those problems do not get any bigger than ice, especially in regional Queensland. The major drug dealers deliberately target regional Queensland towns, because they are easy pickings. Drug gangs know that they can run ice through country towns easier than they can in cities as it is harder to contain. In regional areas there are fewer police, people are more isolated and there is more economic disadvantage. In many parts of regional Queensland, youth unemployment is at a crisis level. In Western Queensland, the youth unemployment rate is above 50 per cent. Regional Queensland is fertile territory for ice and, once it gets a foothold, it spreads like wildfire. Ice continues to damage towns such as Roma, St George, Maryborough, Bundaberg and Gayndah just to name a few. The Warrego and the Bruce are known as ice highways.

I do not want our regional towns and our regional people to suffer anymore. The evidence is clear. The scourge of ice is only getting worse and we need a comprehensive, multifaceted response. After three years of this do-nothing Labor government, enough is enough. Rather than endless reviews and the blame game from those opposite, who continue to blame everyone but themselves, and more talk, we need action.

I am proud of the comprehensive ice strategy that we have put forward. We want to establish four new drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres in North Queensland, Wide Bay, Toowoomba and Caloundra. We want a dedicated treatment plan to provide additional addiction services in remote Indigenous communities. We want a dedicated police ice task force to work with the federal agencies to restrict supply by targeting organised crime.

Increased prevention is also a key to tackling this scourge. That is why we want to partner with sporting bodies to educate young people about the dangers of ice. We want a statewide education and awareness campaign with a focus on those most at risk. We also want highly targeted mental health and drug awareness campaigns. I especially want the victims of ice to be heard. No-one knows what this drug does better than they do and no-one knows what this drug does better than their families.

At this juncture, I would like to thank the member for Condamine for sharing with many people across Queensland his personal story and that of his son. The LNP decided to hold ice forums across Queensland to give those victims of ice a chance to be heard and they were desperate to be listened

to. In Toowoomba, three courageous, heartbroken mums told me about their adult sons who had become addicted to this drug. Their children had become violent, selfish and abusive. Families were torn apart and children were potentially put at risk. The strength of those women who spoke was astonishing, but their stories made me more determined to tackle this problem.

In Townsville, we had addicts who told us how ice had shattered their lives and how they had turned their lives to crime. In Nambour, we heard the heart-wrenching story of a young mum who had battled ice herself for 20 years. We heard the story from a nurse who had battled addiction. She is now recovering, but her children went through hell. In Bundaberg, I was joined by the city's new member. As a former police officer in Bundaberg, he is only too familiar with the violence, the crime and the death that ice leaves behind it.

Everywhere I visited people expressed their support for the LNP's stance against ice. The only answer that those opposite give is around cutting to funding in the last government before them. I put it to this House: what have they been doing for the past 20 years? My head will not be in the sand on this issue. We must stand up and fight.

Those courageous men and women stood up in those forums to talk to us about a problem that is not going away. We need to acknowledge that ice is an issue and not continue the blame game. This ice epidemic is above politics. It is an issue that should have bipartisan support.


We have had overwhelming feedback from the plan. This is more than just going to one region in Queensland and saying we will build a rehabilitation centre and have more beds. This is about acknowledging there is an issue and listening to those Queenslanders who are screaming out for help. They want the government to listen to them. They want more detox centres. They want more rehabilitation centres. We cannot just throw money at this issue and hope it goes away. We actually need to listen to the Queenslanders who are affected by this. We need to give support to the front-line services, mums and dads and the children who are struggling with this addiction on a day-to-day basis.

Ms Fentiman: Why didn't you make a submission to our strategy? Where was the LNP's submission?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): I warn the Minister for Employment and Small Business.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: How embarrassing that that is the response of this government: where was your submission? What the people of Queensland would say to you, Minister, is where is your action?

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (2.10 pm): We have had a typical dose of sanctimonious sophistry from the member for Nanango. The member for Nanango had the gall to stand up in this place and claim that she does not have her head in the sand. She obviously did not listen to her own radio interview this morning on the ABC breakfast program. I had the rather dubious pleasure of tuning in. Talk about a test of leadership!

Mrs Frecklington: Thank you for listening.

Mr PEGG: I was listening, member for Nanango. I take that interjection.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Member for Nanango, you have had your turn.

Mr PEGG: When the member for Nanango was directly asked whether she had bothered to pick up the phone to the federal health minister Greg Hunt and stand up for Queensland, finally, eventually, she conceded that, no, she had not. She failed the leadership test. Member for Nanango, you have your head in the sand well and truly when it comes to federal health funding. You can deny it all you like. You can lay on the sanctimony and the sophistry, but the facts do not lie. You should have a look at the transcript of your own interview.

It would be great to hear the member for Nanango talk Queensland up and talk about some of the really positive things the Palaszczuk government has done. This afternoon I want to talk about the things that the member for Nanango should be speaking about. In 2017-18 Queensland is leading the nation in jobs growth, with employment expected to increase by 2¼ per cent in 2017-18 compared to the one per cent predicted in the budget. In fact, and the member for Nanango might note, since January 2015 there have been almost 140 jobs created each and every day on average since the election with over 152,000 jobs created. One in four jobs created nationally over the past year have been here in Queensland.

It is important to note that the Prime Minister has boasted about this figure but we have not heard anything from the member for Nanango about this outstanding result. The member for Nanango's silence on this particular matter speaks volumes. Confidence in the member for Nanango continues to plummet, but in my electorate confidence continues to rise in the form of labour market participation. There has been a strong increase of 1.8 per cent in labour market participation over the last year. More people continued into the labour market because they know that there are jobs here in Queensland.

Mrs Frecklington: Highest unemployment in Australia!

Mr PEGG: I am going to get to the unemployment figure when you were in government, member for Nanango. You gave us 7.1 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms in October 2014, a few months before the 2015 election. I notice that the member for Nanango has all of a sudden gone quiet now that the figures have been quoted to her.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask that you refer to the previous Speaker's rulings about going through the chair. A member should not use the word 'you'.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everyone knows the standing orders regarding going through the chair. If everyone on all sides could do that.

Mr PEGG: There are now over 150,000 more jobs for Queenslanders than when the Palaszczuk government came to office. That is a magnificent achievement. This compares to the 14,000 jobs the LNP happily got rid of in its ruthless 2012-13 state budget. We certainly did not hear the member for Nanango raising her voice when that happened. We will continue our focus on creating jobs for all Queenslanders, particularly through our \$44 billion infrastructure plan. In fact, an additional \$1.64 billion in infrastructure investment has been announced since the 2017-18 state budget.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr PEGG: The member for Nanango laughs. Let us make a comparison. The member for Nanango was part of a government that reduced the capital program by \$1.4 billion in 2012-13, halting essential road and infrastructure upgrades, and they barely increased it after this point. Those are the facts and the facts do not lie. The member for Nanango cannot dispute those facts.

To conclude, I say to the member for Nanango and to those opposite: rather than criticising us for no reason, accept the hopeless failures of your administration, learn from Labor's economic successes over the last three years and work constructively with us to build a better Queensland. The time has finally come.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I acknowledge in the gallery today students from Woodcrest State College in the electorate of Jordan.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): For those watching, I recommend that you go back and listen to the contribution of the member for Stretton. Put it on slow motion and you then might understand one word that the member said.

I am a born and bred Queenslander. When I was growing up Queensland was the place to be economically. We were proud to live in this place. Under Labor, which has been in power for 17 of the last 20 years, unfortunately we can now not boast that. People used to want to come to this state because they knew that this state was the place of opportunity, the place of entrepreneurship and a place to get a job. Let us state the facts, which are in contrast to what the member for Stretton said: Queensland has the highest unemployment rate in the country. There is no doubt about that.

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Warrego. In the outback there is 62 per cent youth unemployment. That is an absolute disgrace. Annual business investment is down \$20 billion since 2015. We are the bankruptcy capital of Australia and business confidence remains at an all-time low. This government celebrates—does the high fives and the clapping—when we get above Tasmania. If we get across Northern Territory that is another drink they are going to have that night. We are at the bottom of the pile rather than at the top where we should be.

Most governments in this situation would try to stimulate the economy, but not this government. What is its big plan to get Queensland moving? Its plan is to tax, tax and tax. Two days before the election they snuck out the bad news of four new taxes despite promising time and time again over the previous term that they would not increase taxes. Those opposite are the Sheriff of Nottingham of parliaments. All they know about is taxing. They tried to sell this as a tax that only affects a few people—

those at the higher end—but that is simply untrue. These taxes will affect everyday Queenslanders trying to get a job. If land tax is increased guess what? It means that the rents of small businesses will go up, which means prices go up, which means it is more difficult to employ people. If there is a foreign investment tax guess who that affects? It affects chippies, plumbers and builders. It affects confidence in the building industry. Those opposite even go on about the so-called luxury car tax. What is that going to mean? It means people are going to go interstate to buy vehicles and that will again affect our local businesses.


The taxes of this Labor government suck the lifeblood out of the Queensland economy, diverting \$500 million from the Queensland economy straight into Treasury. The simple truth is that taxes destroy jobs and business confidence. Those opposite cannot tax their way out of a hole.

Those opposite have been really evasive and dodgy when we have spoken about other taxes. In the last parliament we asked them about payroll tax. Recently the Under Treasurer said, 'We're looking at payroll tax.' The Treasurer says, 'We have no plans to increase payroll tax.' I say to the Treasurer, let us change that statement about 'no plans' to one that says, 'No, we're not going to increase payroll tax,' to give confidence to our businesses that are worried about these things. Why can't they say that? Why do they keep dodging the question? We are very doubtful that they will not increase mining royalties and we are very doubtful that they will not introduce a waste tax, because that is what this government does. They have no idea how to stimulate an economy. All they know is how to tax an economy. You cannot tax your way into prosperity or growth.

This is a government that cannot be trusted. This is a government that says one thing and then does another. This is a government that has no concerns about the fact that now in this country we are in the bottom half on economic performance indicators. We are becoming the basket case, rather than the economic powerhouse that we should be.

(Time expired)

Townsville

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.20 pm): It seems that the LNP has learnt nothing, given the hypocrisy that we have just heard. The people of Townsville re-elected three Labor members. They re-elected us to put faith back into the community, because we are building job-generating infrastructure such as the \$250 million North Queensland stadium, the port expansion, the \$35 million Riverway Drive duplication and, of course, the \$225 million water pipeline. I remain astounded by the comments made by the member for Burdekin in this House a number of weeks ago about the member for Mulgrave, now the Speaker, that in his former role as treasurer he was no friend of the north. I say that \$1.2 billion spent on infrastructure between 2015 and now is putting Townsville and North Queensland on the map. Under the LNP and Campbell Newman, that spend was \$100 million. They did nothing in their time. However, the member for Burdekin will be on his feet after me, so maybe he will withdraw those comments because they are completely wrong.

Our Labor government is getting on with the job of delivering. In 2015 we came into government after Campbell Newman and the mining downturn, at a time when Townsville's unemployment rate was at 14 per cent. It is now at 8.3 per cent. We are getting on with the job. We have created 10,000 jobs in our time alone and we have more work to do. After recent weather events, in Townsville we know that water is a precious commodity. At the moment we are very happy, as today the Ross River Dam is at 87 per cent; just two weeks ago it was at 14 per cent. It seems that someone has lifted the dome off Townsville. It has been years since we have seen the type of rain we have experienced recently and there is more to come. However, it will not stop this Labor government from building the necessary infrastructure for water security through the \$225 million Townsville Haughton water pipeline project. Already local companies Premise, GHD and SMEC are employed as engineering project managers, employing some 30 people on design and engineering aspects of the pipeline.

It takes a Labor government to deliver in Townsville and that is exactly what we are doing. We will not stop. I acknowledge and commend the Townsville City Council for getting on with the tender process, which is expected to close this month. It will see local surveyors, hydrologists, welders, fabricators, excavators and transport businesses employed on that crucial infrastructure project. Why will locals get those jobs? Because of our state government's Buy Queensland policy, which enables local businesses to gain a 30 per cent weighting on government funded projects such as the pipeline. Importantly, the Haughton pipeline duplication project will deliver over 300 megalitres of water to Townsville when we need it. Even better, the project will create employment; it is estimated that it will deliver over 500 jobs. Historically in Queensland, the three levels of government have contributed


one-third each to infrastructure projects, but our proud state Palaszczuk Labor government saw the urgent need to get on with the job and we have delivered \$225 million in funding for that water pipeline project.

As usual, we have heard nothing from the LNP, particularly in the federal space. Where is 'Malcolm in the middle'? Who knows! He has gone. We have received nothing from the federal government in regards to funding. Bill Shorten has put \$100 million on the table for stage 2. What about Malcolm? Where is he? What is he doing? Nothing! The LNP do not care about the people of Townsville. It is clear that only a collaboration between Labor governments will build the infrastructure required to ensure Townsville's water security for future generations. Our money is on the table. We are working closely with the member for Herbert to ensure funding for stage 2 from a future federal Labor government. We also know that when we get our policy settings right, such as the Buy Queensland procurement policy, we create local jobs.

You can sit there and talk about what you have done in your time. We came in after Campbell Newman, when unemployment in Townsville was at 14 per cent, which nearly killed us, and now it is down to 8.3 per cent. We will keep building government funded infrastructure that create jobs. We will get locals on those jobs while you sit there and moan and whinge and do nothing. You do not contribute to Townsville. You do not care about Townsville. We will keep building.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Please direct your comments through the chair.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.25 pm): The Labor Party has deserted workers in regional Queensland for Greens voters in Melbourne. Bill Shorten's comment yesterday that he no longer supports the Adani project is a kick in the guts for Queenslanders. It is clear that the only job that Bill Shorten cares about is his own, not the thousands of new jobs that the Carmichael mine will create for Queenslanders. Today we awoke to find that Bill Shorten has done a complete backflip and declared his outright opposition to the Adani Carmichael mine, turning his back on thousands of crucial Queensland jobs in a desperate bid to save one Labor member of parliament in Melbourne. That is right: yesterday, Bill Shorten said, 'I don't support the Adani project ... So I am a sceptic, and I am not supportive of it.'

Well might one ask why Bill Shorten would turn his back on the project and the thousands of jobs that go with it. The answer is pretty simple. In their desperate bid to win a by-election in Melbourne, Labor has sold out Queensland workers. On 21 February this year in Rockhampton, Bill Shorten said, 'I understand the importance of mining ... I've spent my life standing up for blue-collar engineering workers.' We now know that Labor talk with a forked tongue when it comes to supporting resource projects and the jobs they deliver. It is clearly apparent that the Labor Party, at both state and federal levels, have two messages. When they are in the north, they fall over themselves to talk up their support for the mining sector. Of course, doesn't that message change when they come back to the city and have to pander to their green mates? There is no better example of that than Bill Shorten's pathetic attempts to shore up green votes for his Labor candidate in the Batman by-election at the expense of blue-collar workers in the regions.

Let me remind the House of what resources are worth to Queenslanders: \$5.1 billion in wages paid to 38,150 employees; \$16.4 billion in purchases; and \$3.8 billion in royalties, which that crowd over there are happy to put their hands out for and gladly accept. There are flow-on benefits of 244,483 additional full-time employees and an additional value-add of \$29.6 billion. In 2016-17, the total contribution by the Queensland resources sector to Queensland's economy was \$55.1 billion or one in six dollars of the Queensland economy and one in eight jobs. It is such an important industry for this state.

During the state election, we saw Anastacia Palaszczuk put her own interests ahead of the jobs of Queenslanders. Labor threw Adani under the bus in an attempt to reset a disastrous start to their campaign and garner the green vote. During the election campaign the self-proclaimed open and accountable Premier ignored the advice of the Integrity Commissioner and decided to veto a NAIF loan for the railway line for the Carmichael mine. Previously they had supported the loan. They had written to the Commonwealth government saying that a railway line for the Galilee Basin was a priority for NAIF funding, but because of a personal conflict of interest the Premier ripped up Labor's support for the loan. Again, a Labor leader was putting her own job first and selling out jobs for Queenslanders. Queensland has the highest unemployment rate in Australia and that is a sad indictment on Labor and Anastacia Palaszczuk's leadership.

We have seen high unemployment in regions like Townsville. The youth unemployment rate in outback Queensland is over 60 per cent. In Townsville the unemployment rate is 8.6 per cent. That is Labor's record. What is the unemployment rate in Melbourne? It is around five per cent. Clearly, this government and Bill Shorten are not serious about jobs for Queenslanders.

Where is Labor's mines minister? Does he have a voice? Is he a man or is he a mouse? The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy recently said—

... the Indian conglomerate's project had leapt more environmental hurdles than any other resources project. Adani has had the green light since June last year, and we support it and want it to go ahead.

The Queensland government says time and time again, 'Let's go.' He further said—

I have never seen a resources project so heavily conditioned than this resources project.

What has he said lately? There has been silence. Is he going to stand up to Bill? Is he going to stand up for the resources sector in this state or is he just going to continue to stand out on that long, skinny limb collecting a pay cheque and talking with a forked tongue?

The protestors and objectors have had their day in court. They have had their say. It is now time for the biggest objectors of all—the Labor Party, Bill Shorten and Annastacia Palaszczuk—to provide the certainty any company needs—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): The member will refer to other members by their titles.

Mr LAST: The member for Inala needs to provide the certainty any company needs and the bipartisan support that is essential to finance a multimillion dollar project.

(Time expired)

Keppel Electorate, Jobs



Mrs LAUGA (Keppel—ALP) (2.30 pm): Adani needs to stack up environmentally and financially. That is a matter for them. We want to see those jobs, and it is time for Adani to deliver them.

What I am here today to speak about is jobs in my electorate and how the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering jobs in Central Queensland. The 42nd Battalion Memorial Pool in North Rockhampton is one of our most important community assets. It is a hive of activity, with young local children learning to swim, swimming squads, triathletes training, Austswim and lifeguard courses, weekly water polo games, which are very popular, and new mums and their babies bonding in the water.

Pool operators Val and Joy do an amazing job running the north side pool, teaching our children and local people to swim. I know that they were incredibly pleased to see it brought back to life again 12 months ago with upgraded facilities, new pumps, a new disability access ramp into the pool and a new wet deck as a result of funding from the Rockhampton Regional Council in partnership with the Palaszczuk government.

A few months ago, three new awesome 10-metre-high water slides were opened at the pool thanks to the Palaszczuk government's \$600 million Works for Queensland program. Local children all over Rocky have been telling me just how amazing the new slides are. Many told me about the great time they had at the pool over the Christmas break. Their feedback makes me so proud to be part of a government that invests in community infrastructure.

The Works for Queensland program supports regional councils to undertake job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure projects. More than 600 projects have been approved across Queensland. Councils estimate the works will support, sustain or create over 8,000 jobs in regional Queensland.

This is a program that mayors across Queensland are absolutely raving about. Mayor Ludwig of the Livingstone Shire Council has told me about how wonderful Works for Queensland is because it is helping council deliver important job-generating infrastructure projects. Rockhampton Regional Council Mayor Margaret Strelow publicly praised the program at a forum in Rockhampton just last Friday, saying that it injects funding into shovel-ready local projects and, as a result, is supporting local jobs and is growing our local economy.

The availability of secure, fairly paid jobs is central to the wellbeing and future of every Queenslander. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering a growing economy that delivers a better quality of living for Queenslanders. Since the 2015 election the Palaszczuk government has worked with business and industry to create 143,400 jobs in Queensland. That equates to 4,200 jobs being created each month, or more than 140 every single day.

The Palaszczuk government's Works for Queensland program is about growing jobs and stimulating our local economy, especially in Central Queensland. The program has already supported over 925 jobs, which is well in excess of the 816 jobs estimated by local government that the program forecast to generate. The funding that Works for Queensland injects into job-generating projects has been a huge boost for the local economy, and there are many more jobs to come. I have met dozens of people who have secured work through this innovative program. Works for Queensland certainly changes lives in our local community.

Works for Queensland has pumped \$48 million into over 150 approved local government projects in Central Queensland, which is transforming our community. Statewide, local governments are reporting a total of almost 8½ thousand jobs being supported through Works for Queensland, but this number is set to grow. This program supports critical community infrastructure projects and it has kickstarted local jobs in our community.


That is compared to the Newman government that utterly failed our hardworking councils with only \$104 million in local government grants in their last budget—just a third of our \$297 million investment in local government infrastructure in 2017-18, not to mention the \$200 million Works for Queensland allocation in 2017-18 as well. The Palaszczuk government is delivering more jobs, more infrastructure and more funding for regional Queensland.

Through round 1 local Central Queensland councils have completed projects including the Mount Morgan streetscape renewal, the new slides at the 42nd Battalion Memorial Pool, new boating facilities for fishing tourism at North Rockhampton boat ramp, stage 1 of the Yeppoon Homemaker Centre and improvements to road safety at Taranganba State School.

The second \$200 million round of Works for Queensland grants was rolled out in late 2017, with local governments already commencing projects. I called on Livingstone Shire Council last year to allocate funding from Works for Queensland to finally seal Svendsen Road, which provides access to the popular Coorooman Creek boat ramp. I am very pleased that council has agreed to my request and will be sealing the busy road with the second round of Works for Queensland funding.

The Works for Queensland program is unashamedly a program about growing jobs in our local economy. This is about jobs. This is what Queenslanders want to hear about. They want to hear about our government's plan for jobs, and that is what we are delivering. My No. 1 priority is growing jobs in Keppel and growing our local economy. That is why I am proud that a program like Works for Queensland is delivering exactly what we said we would do.

Education

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.35 pm): I am honoured to have been appointed the shadow minister for education and industrial relations and Manager of Opposition Business by the Leader of the Opposition, particularly when it comes to the education space as I have three young children currently being state educated at Meridan State College. With my three children I can see firsthand the issues and challenges young people are facing. Also from talking to principals, P&Cs, community members and parents around the state I get an understanding of the issues faced by them.

In the education space we only have to look at the comments made recently by teachers who have been in the profession for 20 or 30 years. They are expressing publicly concern about where the education system is headed in Queensland. We should take no pride in teachers who have been in the system for 20 or 30 years saying that they are fed up with the system now. They are saying that it is all about statistics, analysis and tests, that children are not able to be children and children, particularly young boys, are not able to be young boys in prep and year 1 and that children's education is being stifled because of that. Our education system seems to be wrapped up in NAPLAN, statistics, how many people turn up to exams and the amount of homework kids are getting.

My commitment to Queensland families and my three children is that in this role as shadow minister for education I will tackle these issues. I am going to talk to my children about these things and their experiences at school so that we can ensure that teachers are not leaving the profession. We will be guided by the advice of teachers, particularly those who have been in the profession for many years.

We have some great schools. In my electorate we have Meridan State College, Talara Primary College, Kawana Waters State College, Pacific Lutheran College and Buddina State School. We have a new school in my patch, the Currimundi State School. I went there the other day for their leadership induction ceremony. We have some bright, talented, young students in our schools right around Queensland.

It concerns me that we have seen teachers coming out publicly in the last 12 months to two years saying that they are leaving the education profession because of the stress that is caused. That can be fixed by governments. That can be fixed government policies and curriculum.

We need to look at the bullying issue and the mobile phone issue. We in the Liberal National Party have said that we will survey people to see whether they think there should be a mobile phone ban. I recognise students need their technological devices for learning now, but I do not think kids in the playground need to be instagramming, snapchatting or facebooking each other during lunch breaks. I think a lot of the bullying stems from those online devices. We know it happens not only at school but also outside the school environment on their way home or in their homes. From the Liberal National Party's perspective we will give whatever commitment we can to ensure that we have the best policies and practices in place going forward. We will work with the government in terms of their task force on bullying and cyberbullying. We will attempt to get the best possible scenarios we can.


In my other space of industrial relations, I am horrified at comments that Bill Shorten has made recently about the lockout at the Oaky North mine. We have debated motions in this parliament about miners blockading non-striking members from that site. They have threatened to rape the families' children. They have threatened people to crash their vehicle into a tree on their way home from work. They have made all of these threats. They have said, 'I'll attack you with a crowbar,' and, 'I'll rip out your spine, you dog.' They are CFMEU members targeting non-striking members. Bill Shorten said at the time that he condemned it. It has now been revealed that at the time those comments were being made Bill Shorten was saying how great the CFMEU was. He said in an address to the CFMEU—

You should also say to your families that Bill and Brendan have the highest respect for the mining and engineering division of the CFMEU. These people will be with you the whole way, always have been and always are, always will be. If we form a government, yeah, we'll do the right thing, we won't let you down. The privilege for us today is to be in your company.

Bill Shorten says one thing in front of the CFMEU—thugs that threaten to rape kids—and one thing in front of others. He is a hypocrite. He is a hypocrite of the highest order. The Labor government in Queensland should be ashamed of themselves because they look up to Bill Shorten. Annastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier of Queensland, looks up to Bill Shorten. They should condemn the comments that he has made to the CFMEU members.

(Time expired)

Business and Consumer Confidence

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.41 pm): I want to inform the House about how the Queensland economy is being boosted by the increased business and consumer confidence created by the Palaszczuk government. Confidence is not a coincidence or a happenstance. It is being created by a strong and stable government that is delivering economic opportunity and jobs growth for Queensland.

Confidence in Queensland comes from things like our four-year, \$44 billion infrastructure program and job-creating programs like Buy Queensland, which is making sure local companies get a boost when applying for government contracts; Made in Queensland, which is supporting those manufacturing companies who are exporting to the world; Works for Queensland, which is bringing jobs and projects to councils throughout Queensland; and Advance Queensland, which is the best government program in Australia for supporting innovative businesses and industries.

The CCIQ reports that business confidence has now hit positive territory for the first time in four years—the first time since the Campbell Newman era. The CCIQ stated—

Businesses are feeling more confident across the board. They're telling us that political stability, the Commonwealth Games, elevated commodity prices and the value of the dollar are all contributing to stimulating business activity in the south east and, importantly, in the regions.

Since the election, a majority government has been formed, boosting business confidence which is a direct reflection of the certainty provided by a stable government.

Consumer confidence in Queensland is also rising fast. The latest Westpac-Melbourne Institute Consumer Sentiment Index showed a rise of 8.6 per cent in January. Queensland's consumer sentiment index rose 17.4 per cent over two recent months. Our jobs story also reveals this growing

consumer and business confidence. We are growing jobs at a faster rate than anywhere else in Australia. We have the strongest jobs growth in percentage terms of 4.7 per cent. More than 100,000 Queenslanders have found a job in the last 12 months—152,000 jobs have been created in Queensland since January 2015. We see this confidence created by the Palaszczuk government in the business sector in Bancroft.


North Lakes is now officially the fastest growing area in Queensland. The mayor says it is now the fastest growing area in Australia. The population in North Lakes and surrounding areas has increased from 52,000 in 2011 to 72,000 in 2016. North Lakes is home to more than 900 businesses, supporting 7,700 jobs. That will rise to 13,000 jobs by 2023. Confidence is demonstrated by projects such as the \$250 million Laguna Project, offering boutique shopping, a hotel and an office tower, with construction starting early this year. The Keymax 40-room boutique hotel, with restaurant and function facilities, will also open this year. Another illustration of confidence is the creation of the North Lakes Sports Club, which has been a runaway success. It is now a 3,200-square metre club, with more than 20,000 members already, employing 130 local people.

What these businesses and consumers need is continued confidence. The biggest threat to confidence in our state is the threat of GST funding cuts by the federal government. The Turnbull government is considering changes to the GST that will strip more than \$1.6 billion from Queenslanders. As we have heard today, that is akin to losing 5,000 teachers, 5,000 nurses, 3,000 police and over 1,000 firefighters. It will mean a loss of services to our state, which is the most decentralised in all of Australia. This proposed GST cut would mean a potential loss of consumer and business confidence in Queensland. We know from the Campbell Newman era that cuts to government funding and spending is poison for business and consumer confidence. People just shut their wallets. They stop employing people.

One of the best things we can do to preserve this surging consumer and business confidence is to fight this great proposed GST rip-off being considered by the Turnbull government. To do that we need help from everyone in this parliament—but what have we heard from the Leader of the Opposition? Have we heard the Leader of the Opposition and others stand up for Queensland? Have we heard them condemn this mean and tricky proposed GST carve-up? The answer is no. We have heard nothing. They have remained virtually silent in parliament on this funding carve-up. They have preferred to back 'Mr Harbourside Mansions' and his federal government.

(Time expired)

Blue Cards

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.46 pm): I rise in the House to touch on a couple of issues surrounding youth crime. The issue of youth crime is thrown around a lot in this parliament. We hear a lot about issues on the coast in Cairns and Townsville, but not much is said about the very serious problems in Mount Isa. I can see what the solutions are, but sadly they are not talked about enough in this House. I say to members listening today that we can do something meaningful and substantial in that area.

Particularly in communities of our First Australians in the gulf and in places such as Palm Island and Cherbourg, one of the biggest barriers to meaningful employment is the blue card. It is done with the best intentions. The notion of keeping kids safe is great. Unfortunately, the inadvertent effects of needing a blue card in those Aboriginal communities are killing jobs for locals. It is so acute now.

Members in this House only have to take a trip to Doomadgee or to Mornington Island and talk to people. Talk to Alf Lacey in Townsville and ask him how it is impacting his community. I have had conversation after conversation. There are well-meaning people who have had some troubles in the past. Ironically, on Mornington Island it might be issues with alcohol. When there is an alcohol ban, there are home brew offences and those people cannot get a blue card. The officers in Mount Isa are saying, 'This person is terrific for the job. The whole community would love to have that person teaching their kids,' but someone in Brisbane ticks off and says, 'No, they cannot have the job.'

Unfortunately, many of the jobs requiring a blue card do not relate only to children. If you are a builder in Doomadgee and you are trying to get a job with QBAS—one of the only forms of employment there—because they work in schools and hospitals they need a blue card. Ninety per cent of the jobs in those communities now need a blue card, but a lot of people cannot get a blue card. It is not just about appealing and getting access; it is also about the time it takes to get a blue card. The first message they usually get when applying for a job is, 'Go home, mate. We'll try to get you a blue card on appeal.' It does not work.

The government needs to listen to this because it is a really big issue. The secret to getting kids off the street is having a functional family. Families are not functional if mum and dad cannot get access to work. One of the biggest barriers to getting access to work in those communities at the moment is the blue card. On my last few trips to Doomadgee and Murrumbidgee I did not get people coming up to me saying, 'Rob, can you get me some more money off the government?' I did not hear that. What I did hear was, 'Rob, can you help me get a job?' People want to work and we are blocking them from getting a job through the blue card policy. It is done with the best intentions, but it needs reviewing. It is a cost that is impacting on social areas right across this state and it needs to be taken care of.

Another issue I would like to touch on is our party's relocation sentencing policy. In any form it can be adopted and play a vital role in turning lives around. We have the Cleveland Detention Centre, but we need to get kids out of town into a remote, rural area—I stress the word 'remote'—where there is a peaceful environment and they are taught meaningful skills.

They are not learning things at places like Cleveland. It is not the right place to turn people's lives around. In the bush less security is needed. There is nowhere for kids to run when they are 200 kilometres from the nearest town. That is where they will think about what they have done and start to turn their life around. That is the best spot. It needs to be done in a very concise, well-considered manner at an institutional level. We cannot just dip our toes in the water. There needs to be a real commitment to that, because it is part of the answer. It is part of turning these people's lives around. If we want to address issues such as crime on the street, we need to go back to the root of these problems. It is not the sum total of the problem but a significant part is the break-up of families because they do not have access to work. Meaningful work is part of the solution to turning this around in the long term.

Undeniably, a big issue at the moment is blue cards. I get sick and tired of people saying, 'You're trying to water it down.' We are not talking about removing disqualifying offences. We are talking about the decision-making. Most of these communities do not have more than 2,000 people. I think they are in a lot better position to say, 'You can work with my kids and you can have a blue card that is applicable to Doomadgee only and nowhere else. I know you; I am happy for you to work with my kids.' They should be given the right to make that decision—not us or someone down here in Brisbane—when it is the barrier to them getting work. It is undeniable that it is stopping people from getting jobs and it is leading to bigger social issues. We should be dealing with it here in this House. It is a very important thing to take care of.

Mackay Electorate, Biomanufacturing



Mrs GILBERT (Mackay—ALP) (2.51 pm): I am very pleased to report to the House that Mackay's QUT laboratory situated at Racecourse Mill will be developing the pilot scheme for renewable jet fuel and diesel made from sugarcane waste. The Labor Palaszczuk government is supporting US company Mercurius to bring their biorefinery technology to Queensland. This is fantastic news for Mackay and for the sugarcane industry of our regions. Mercurius plans to build a pilot plant to test different elements of the biomanufacturing process across Mackay and Gladstone. They are going to build a demonstration plant in Gladstone. The Palaszczuk government understands the importance of bringing new industries into the regions to futureproof our economy. New industries add to the livability of regions like mine with new career paths for school leavers and mature age workers wanting to transition into a different industry.

Regions like Mackay that are service centres to the coal industry need to have many economic strings to their bow to buffer them from the rise and fall of coal prices. Mercurius will do this for our region. Mercurius is also on the lookout for five other sites across Queensland to set up processing plants once the demonstration projects are complete. This is expected to attract \$11 million in investment and will continue to provide jobs across regional Queensland. This process will also value add to our already well-established sugarcane industry which my region has been economically reliant on for many generations.

Mercurius Biorefining is a Washington state based company. They have a patented technology to use bagasse, a sugarcane waste matter left after the crushing process of cane. They can also use biomass materials like wood offcuts in their ReACH technology. The fuels manufactured using the ReACH technology will be able to directly substitute minerals based fuels for jet engine fuel and diesel, and they also plan to expand into marine fuel. The Palaszczuk government has its eye on the future of Queensland's economy and jobs. The biorefinery project is another step towards achieving Queensland's vision for a \$1 billion sustainable, export orientated biotechnology and bioproducts future.

The Mercurius company was attracted to Queensland through the Biofutures Acceleration Program's expression of interest. It is only a government with vision which puts out expressions of interest such as this. I am proud to be a member of a government that is leading Australia's biofutures revolution. The Palaszczuk government has a 10-year road map and an action plan for biofutures. The pilot plan and the development of the fuels industry is expected to speed up the manufacturing industry of bioproducts such as bioplastics. Mercurius CEO Karl Seck was recently in Mackay inspecting the QUT Racecourse Mill laboratory. He told me that he is excited about his company's future in biofuels manufacturing in regional Queensland. He said that regional Queensland has all the resources and level of expertise that will enable his business to be successful. Regional Queensland has a favourable business climate, an extensive agricultural industry and world-class universities so we can see why he has chosen my region to set up. With the combination of Queensland's agricultural resources and Mercurius's ReACH technology, the company expects that the production cost of biofuels will be reduced which will make them very competitive.

Before the Palaszczuk government was first elected in 2015, the economy and employment in regional Queensland was heading in the wrong direction. The former LNP government had no plans when the heat came off the mining industry. They just sat back and watched No. 1 William Street be built without any thought for the regions. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government we have in Queensland a progressive government giving back to the business sector. The unemployment rate in my electorate is now down to 4.4 per cent.

(Time expired)


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order! The time for matters of public interest has expired.

EDUCATION (OVERSEAS STUDENTS) BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 201, on motion of Ms Grace—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.56 pm), continuing: I was speaking about the new regime that is going to bring Queensland in line with Victoria and Tasmania when it comes to CRICOS regulations. Under clause 93, guidelines will also be made by the director-general based on national guidelines. Changes will be made to these guidelines to reflect Queensland laws—for example, blue card requirements.

I congratulate the member for Caloundra on becoming a Deputy Speaker. I can see he is looking very excited about being in the chair.


The next provision of the bill is something that I was proud to spearhead as education minister. As a father of three kids who were educated in Queensland, I was pleased to advocate for a modern, world-class education system. Older members may remember the Radford committee and then the TE system, or tertiary entrance system. Since 1993 in Queensland we had overall position, or OP, which year 12 students would get which was supposed to be about getting an overall position for placement into university. If we think about the changes in the 21st century compared to 1993, the changes have been immense in terms of technological change throughout the world generally and yet the OP system was something that was being used inappropriately by employers. They would ask people what OP they had when they might have been going for an apprenticeship or a traineeship. It was out of date and out of touch, and the Labor government had refused since 1993 to change the system. Whether people were looking to go to TAFE, full-time work or university, I wanted our education system to support the modern-day graduate. It was clear that the antiquated OP system no longer achieved this.

That is why in 2013 I launched an online survey so that Queenslanders could have their say on the OP system and so that our system would meet the future needs of Queensland. In 2014 I announced that the then LNP government would consider the content of the review into the OP system led by Professor Geoff Masters and Dr Gabrielle Matters. Prior to the LNP coming into government, as I have mentioned, previous Labor governments refused to consider changing the ranking system, despite the fact that our education system had changed significantly. Students were getting into university not by waiting for their OP. Universities were making offers sometimes based on fee-paying students and then people would change over. It was obvious that the OP system was out of date. There were question marks about our internal system of moderation only when in other states they were having moderation and external exams, so we have encountered issues with the system.

We even saw recently in the media that the league table compared schools not necessarily on like for like in terms of the student cohort but in terms of how many OPs 1 to 5 they were getting, how many OPs 1 to 15 and their percentages. There were then critiques of schools based on these figures. I have noticed significant schools receiving criticism over the last couple of weeks for where they fell on the rankings. That did not exist in the 1990s. We did have to look at our system. Notwithstanding that there were question marks about our unique system of moderation within Queensland, we are still hearing cynicism about schools gaming the system. We are the only jurisdiction which does not have the ATAR system, which will now of course be brought in. It is disappointing that Labor has stalled the process by a year. It is unsurprising given Labor's track record of not achieving much in their last term in government. I am glad to finally see some of these changes in the bill today. The bill transfers the responsibility of calculating the tertiary entrance score from the QCAA, the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority, to QTAC.

Finally, in the time remaining I want to speak about the botch-up about which we have heard a number of times today: the Palaszczuk Labor government's amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act. This government have proven time and time again that they do not know whether they are Arthur or Martha when it comes to trading hours. Whether it is the Gold Coast or Goondiwindi, Labor has been all over the place when it comes to trading hours. There is no better example of that not just at Easter, which coincides with the weekend before the start of the Commonwealth Games, but for the Commonwealth Games themselves.

Last year we had the industrial relations minister, who is now the education minister, saying, 'We're going to have extended hours for cafes and restaurants,' but the Attorney-General saying, 'There will be no extensions on trading hours for pubs and clubs during the games.' Now we have had a concession from this government that a one-hour extension to the trading hours for the pubs and clubs will be given only in the safe night precincts in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach, using the excuse that this is exactly what happened in Glasgow. I say to the government and other Queenslanders: we do not want a Glasgow games. We want Queensland games, Australian games and the games of the Gold Coast that reflect what we have. When it comes to the Gold Coast whether it is political correctness when interacting with our visitors using words no-one knows or trading hours, this government does not know whether it is Arthur or Martha.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (3.01 pm): I rise today to talk to the Education (Overseas Students) Bill. I would like to congratulate the member for Nudgee on her election as chair of the committee and also the member for Currumbin, who is the deputy chair of the committee. It is great to work with two fine women on the committee. I am sure we will get through some great work along with the other members of the committee. I would also like to say thank you to the former chair, who is sitting beside you, Mr Deputy Speaker, who has been appointed the Deputy Speaker. It was a pleasure to serve on that committee in the 55th Parliament. I am pretty sure that we learnt a lot from the Deputy Speaker. No doubt he is fulfilling the role of Deputy Speaker quite well being an ex-principal with experience in trying to keep some of the classes in line. I wish him all the best for his future as the Deputy Speaker of this House.

It is great to get up and talk about the Education (Overseas Students) Bill because we know how much overseas students bring into the economy of this great state. We have talked today about hearing that 16 per cent of the overseas students come to Queensland to be educated. They play an important part in making sure that we get money coming in for the economy throughout Queensland and also for ensuring our good name, the good name of Queensland education, is spread overseas.

The Labor Party is known for its education. I can say that the former minister for education was an absolute gem and I know the now education minister, the member for McConnel, is going to fill those shoes very well. I have had some great discussions with the new education minister, and her passion for education is second to none in this House. I am so pleased to serve on that committee. We talk about our side of the House compared to their side of the House in relation to education. Our side of the House believes strongly in education. I was so glad to be reappointed to the education committee because of our commitment to making sure that everyone in this state is entitled to an education.

There is one thing I always tell students when I address them. Last week at Maryborough West State School, which is a very fine school in my electorate, I told them, 'People can take everything off you, but they cannot take one thing and that is your education. They cannot take it away from you.' It is so crucial with the way our economy is changing with the digital interruption coming that education should be at the forefront of what we are doing as a government throughout this state. I know how great it will be with this education minister. After having conversations with her since she was appointed to that position, I am very confident that Queensland is heading in the right direction and we have the right

Minister for Education. I would like to thank the Minister for Education, the member for McConnell, who has sometimes taken my late-night phone calls regarding schooling in my electorate. I am sure the previous minister has also taken some calls from me of late about schools, and she acted on them also.

As I said, education is really important for moving forward throughout the digital interruption and getting students ready for the next generation of jobs that are coming through. We know that about 10,000 new jobs will appear on the horizon over the next few years. That is why it is so crucial that education is funded correctly and that we have the right legislation in place. When we look at the explanatory notes to this bill I see some of the changes coming through such as the new definition of mature age students.

One provision in the bill that I am very happy about is the ability to exclude from schools people who come in and cause trouble. I have a few schools in my area that desperately need upgrading because parents and citizens have changed. When I was a young man going to school, parents and citizens at school did not come in and carry on like a lot of them do today. I think the way we are heading in society is a tragedy in that the people who are trying to educate the students are treated that way. It is pretty sad that we are heading that way: some schools have to turn their admin buildings into fortresses. Every teacher I know—and I know a lot of teachers—are really committed to their students. I know teachers that work long hours—and we often hear the public say that teachers only work X number of weeks a year or so many hours. However, I would like them to talk to some of the teachers I know, because they start at six o'clock in the morning and some are still going at 11 or 11.30 at night getting the next day's lessons ready. Teachers are a very committed part of our community. I am so glad that I know so many and am so glad to be on this committee.

In the 56th Parliament the Palaszczuk government will be building on what it spent on education in the 55th Parliament to ensure that the kids of this state are educated properly and into the future. If I look at my own electorate I see we are putting \$4½ million into a performing arts hall and \$10.4 million in desperately needed upgrades at Maryborough State High School. We have a great principal there called Principal Done. He has turned Maryborough State High School into a leading school in the district. This year that school experienced one of the highest increases across Wide Bay of year 7 students, which was a pleasure to see.

I see the Attorney-General, the member for Redcliffe, is in the House today. The other day it was great to be at Maryborough State High School when she addressed the legal studies class. I know they were very thrilled and excited to hear the Attorney-General talking about her role, how she became a politician and the study she did prior to becoming a politician. Later I was talking to some of the students downtown. They were pretty excited that the Attorney-General shared her life path with them. I thank the member for Redcliffe, because it was enthralling even for me to listen to how she moved through the education system over a number of years. Education is very important to the electorate.

I also see in the bill that we are modernising things and we have changed the word 'kindergarten' about which I am very excited because we are moving forward, and it is 2018. I could not make the committee's public hearing. However, I was present for the first briefing. We got some great help from the education department. I would like to thank the education department because they came and gave us a thorough briefing on this bill. It was one we would expect from a department like the education department, which is full of very good professionals who made sure that all members of the previous committee were abreast of the changes to this act. We received some great service from all the people who came to participate in those public hearings. It was a worthwhile experience listening to what was happening with education and how the Palaszczuk Labor government is moving education forward in this state.

In relation to shop trading hours, I see the opposition huffing and puffing. As they say in my electorate, empty vessels make the loudest noise. That is what the people in Maryborough tell me about the opposition. The LNP proved that at the 2017 election, because once again they are back on the opposition benches when they thought they were going to be on the treasury benches. It is good to see that we are changing the legislation so that people in Longreach, Roma and areas like that can trade over Easter. I congratulate the minister for acting so swiftly and making sure that these regional communities have shopping over Easter.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: Listen to them, Mr Deputy Speaker.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Order! I call the member for Maryborough.

Mr SAUNDERS: Listen to them. That is the most noise they have made. That is the most noise we have heard. All we hear from those opposite is carp, carp, carp. I have never heard a positive thing, and they have not learned from the 2017 election. The member for Thuringowa is right: they have not learned a thing. Let's be positive and talk about Queensland. Let's talk about the good things and promote Queensland instead of sitting there going on and on. That is why your vote went down. That is why you are finished, and that is why in seats like mine the primary vote went up by 21 per cent because they are absolutely over you. I told you that the people of Maryborough would never forgive you—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr SAUNDERS: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I really do not need your protection from the lightweights on the opposite side, but I can tell you that they will never forgive the LNP in Maryborough. Having said that, I would like to commend the Education (Overseas Students) Bill to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.11 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. As the shadow trade minister, I know that attracting international students and the trade of ideas and education is so important to our state's economy and our trade relations. According to the international education and training strategy, onshore international student visa enrolments in Queensland have the potential to increase from 103,000 in 2015 to 150,000 by 2026. That is an increase of around 33 per cent over 10 years. These students come from over 160 countries and are based all the way across our great state from Gold Coast, Cairns, Toowoomba, Townsville, Brisbane, Bundaberg and Rockhampton to the Sunshine Coast to name but a few places. International education is one of our largest service exports, contributing approximately \$2.8 billion to our economy in 2015. In terms of export revenue, it supports around 19,000 jobs. Of course, why would these international students not want to come to beautiful Queensland to experience our unique natural attractions and learn at our world-class schools?

This bill represents a good step in streamlining the regulation around international education to make it consistent with other states. Essentially, it brings closer alignment with the national framework and removes the duplication that has been occurring. It is important to ensure that there is one set of rules around the whole country for international students and the schools that wish to host them. It is also important when it comes to our state's trade relationships—whether it is resources or goods and services like education—that Queensland puts a consistent foot forward. We cannot afford to flip-flop and create uncertainty which may cause international and overseas students to reconsider moving to another country or—which is the problem we have in Queensland—another state. States like South Australia, to name one, are beating us in terms of international education. Of course that is very concerning, so we need to remain on the front foot when it comes to the opportunities available here in Queensland.

This bill also talks about the change to senior schooling assessment and the tertiary entrance scores which, I would note, the Palaszczuk government has delayed for a year. Let us be clear that the move to adopt the ATAR in Queensland was a result of the former LNP government's long-term thinking about education in this state. This is about a change that was initiated by the LNP when in government, and it was about long-term thinking. We were looking ahead to those students who were originally going to graduate in 2019, but it has now changed to students who will graduate, like my daughter Elke, in 2020. I commend the member for Surfers Paradise and the work that he did to initiate this when he was the education minister. We note that it was on track under the LNP when in government. Unfortunately, we have had to delay that and we have now seen it pushed back to 2020. Those kids who are now in year 11 thought they were going to be part of this, but they are not. They are back to the old scheme, and I know that has created quite a bit of angst across schools not only in my electorate but all across Queensland. I see the disbelief of the education minister.

Ms Grace: I do not know what you are talking about.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take the interjection that she does not know what I am talking about, and that is disappointing because there are principals in the Nanango electorate who I am quite sure would be more than happy to express the uncertainty they have had to go through in pushing that change back. Let me be clear that we need to work with the education department, and the principals can only work with what they are given and the frameworks they are given. They are working extremely hard in stressful circumstances because they had to change the goalposts. I think we should be clear

that the goalposts again have moved because of the Labor government and what the Palaszczuk government has done to those principals and students. On that note, I wish every student graduating in 2020 all the best, as I wish all students graduating this year and the next and all years going forward.

It is important that we provide a framework for these children, whether they go into tertiary education, a trade or straight into the workforce. They need the confidence to have those jobs if that is what they choose to do. I really am distressed about students who are finishing up in the outback, where we see youth unemployment at over 60 per cent in the seat of my good friend the member for Warrego, my good friend the member for Gregory and my friend the member for Callide, who is yet to make his maiden speech in this House so is unable to interject. These are distressing figures for the graduating students who have that hanging over their heads at Longreach high and Charleville high and the students who are out there at Mount Isa who just want a job, whether it is a job in a local shop or a bakery or whether they want to go into a trade. We need to instil some confidence back into the bush. It is so disappointing that we have not had that from the other side over here under the Palaszczuk Labor government.


That leads me to the fact that this bill also fixes up the minister's Easter trading laws. This is the third year in a row we have come into this parliament to fix Labor's sloppy legislation. Who does this affect the most? Once again, it affects small businesses, which are generally in the bush. I note that places like Oxley—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, your interjections are not being taken by the member.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection from the minister. If she does not think that the people this affects in areas such as Nanango and Kingaroy are bush enough for her, that is just a bit sad. I consider Longreach, Charters Towers, Home Hill and all these towns to be bush—and all good luck to them if they have had rain this week as well—but, again, it is an attack on small business, regional Queensland and the lifeblood that holds up this economy. Guess what? Again, this incompetent Labor government has attacked the lifeblood—small businesses—and for the third year in a row we must return to this chamber to fix this legislation. This flip-flopping is not good for business.

Under this government, businesses hardly know if they are allowed to open on any which day, because that is how often in this state the goalposts change. It is absolutely laughable, but we are in here to support the government make this change because we know we have to give them as much help as they can get. Honestly, it is just a debacle. We know that businesses in all those regional areas I just outlined, particularly Kingaroy and Nanango, want certainty about trading over that Easter weekend. What a bungle! How many chances does this minister need in terms of legislating trading hours and those public holidays? We already know that this government flip-flops from one issue to another and that even when they do something they get it wrong.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.21 pm): I rise to address the debate on the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. The Liberal National Party will not oppose the passage of this legislation as it will create a new regime for the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students and those on international student exchange programs. Importantly, this legislation also provides the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority with functions to administer new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems commencing for students entering year 11 in 2019. These important reforms were originally commenced by the former Queensland education minister and current member for Surfers Paradise, the honourable John-Paul Langbroek MP, and I certainly acknowledge the member for Surfers Paradise's contribution to where we are today with respect to certain elements of this legislation.

This bill also makes minor and technical amendments to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000. This legislation also amends the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 to provide that larger retailers, non-exempt shops, in regional areas without Sunday or public holiday trading be allowed to open on the public holiday of Easter Saturday.

The provisions and objectives of the bill are largely consistent with the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017, which was examined and reported on by the current committee's predecessor, the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. That bill, the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017, was yet to be debated when the previous parliament was dissolved and therefore lapsed on dissolution. The current minister has advised of two key differences to the lapsed bill which are incorporated as additional amendments. They are in response to a recommendation of the ETISBC and are amendments to ensure that information or documents obtained by the regulator or authorised

compliance officers under a 'help requirement' cannot be used in proceedings other than for offences created by the bill or about the false or misleading nature of the information or document and are intended to better safeguard rights against self-incrimination. The bill's amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 are intended to address an inadvertent admission made when the act was amended in 2017.


As the Leader of the Opposition alluded to, this legislation is largely focused on changes to education but it will also amend trading hours in regional areas. One may well ask why. Because, as we heard from the Leader of the Opposition, Labor failed to take into account business owners in regional areas when it amended the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill in 2017. What cannot be understated is the impact that the hot cross bungle could have had on regional towns from Mt Isa to Mission Beach and Childers to Charters Towers. Whilst the Labor government says that it was never its intention to stop trading in these regional areas, it demonstrates how incompetent this government is with respect to drafting legislation. The omission of the provision was in fact brought to the attention of the Labor government by the National Retail Association and, again, no-one in the Palaszczuk government even noticed. It was brought to their attention via a third-party provider.

Therefore, apart from rectifying an earlier mistake by the Labor government, the legislation makes significant changes to Queensland's education system. This legislation will align Queensland more closely with the national framework. In particular, the bill removes the duplicated requirement for separate Queensland registration and better reflects the matters the director-general needs to consider under the national framework when considering whether to approve a school for the Commonwealth register of institutions and courses for overseas students, and enhances the director-general's powers for monitoring and compliance.

In relation to international student exchange programs, the bill transitions the current administrative regime to a legislative regime. The legislative regime established by the bill will continue to reflect the consistent and national approach to regulation of student exchange organisations. In addition, the guidelines that the director-general is required to make under the bill will be based on the national guidelines, with modifications to reflect Queensland's specific laws such as blue card requirements. The most recent data published by the Commonwealth Department of Education, which oversees the regime, indicates that in November last year there were 5,678 students under that full-fee-paying scheme. Under the student exchange side, there are 144 inbound and 158 outbound students in that reciprocal exchange arrangement. From 2020, Queensland will move from the current overall position tertiary entrance rank to the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank system, which all other states and territories use to rank eligible year 12 students for university entrance. The calculation of the tertiary entrance score will transfer from the QCAA to the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre. The bill gives effect to the transfer of this responsibility.

Finally, I take this opportunity to mention that the electorate of Moggill has 10 primary schools but just one local high school, Kenmore State High School. As many in this House would know, over the last three years I have been pushing the Palaszczuk Labor government not only to commit to build an additional new high school to serve residents of Mount Crosby and Karana Downs but also to invest urgently in Kenmore State High School's infrastructure master plan. This is an acute infrastructure need for local residents, yet we continue to be ignored by the Palaszczuk Labor government, with the government's only focus being on pork barrelling in inner Brisbane seats.

There are also urgent infrastructure needs for a number of local primary schools including at Moggill, Upper Brookfield, Chapel Hill, Pullenvale, Kenmore, Kenmore South, Brookfield and Mount Crosby. Whilst the re-elected Palaszczuk Labor government remains out of touch with the educational infrastructure requirements of the Moggill electorate—and despite the passage of this legislation and many of its positive elements—it is clear that the inclusion of trading hour amendments in this bill are as a result of Labor's ongoing legislative drafting incompetence. In conclusion, I take this opportunity to wish all students and school leaders in 2018 in the electorate of Moggill all the best for the year ahead.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.28 pm): I rise to speak about the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. Toowoomba is a great provider of education. In my electorate, many high schools have overseas students come in, some on exchange and some on a more permanent education program. I shall speak briefly on this bill because I think it is good that we are setting up a system that will allow for smooth transition so that we have one administration looking after this and it will make the life of those schools easier. Whether it be Toowoomba Grammar School, Toowoomba Anglican College or any of the private schools, I know that all have international students coming in, that they want to grow that business—along with the University of Southern Queensland which I know is not covered by

this bill—and that a lot of overseas students who come into our high schools in Toowoomba often look to go on to tertiary education as overseas students. It is a great business for the people of Australia. It is a \$2.8 billion export revenue, and Toowoomba wants its slice. We have some great schools that are active in that space. At different times all our state schools, be it Wilsonton Highfields or Toowoomba State High School, have exchange students. A couple of years ago I met some German exchange students at Toowoomba State High School, and I know that the students from Toowoomba State High School were very excited about going to their exchange in Germany.

It is really important to ensure that we have a regulatory framework and a system in place so that their education is not affected by being an exchange student. In fact, both of my daughters studied in France as part of their education program from Fairholme and I know that Glennie, the school where my wife works, also has exchange students go to France every year. It is really important that someone going through our system—which, as we know, is currently an OP system and we know, because Labor could not get it organised, that that has all been delayed by another year—whether it is the OP system or whether at a future date it will be the ATAR system, can go on these kinds of cultural exchanges and that we can receive these kinds of cultural exchanges to enrich our education and our knowledge of other places for the students and the people of Queensland. This is a good piece of legislation in that regard to try to simplify it for schools.

When my daughters were going to France on exchange, which obviously made a huge difference to their language skills and their ability in their French subject when they were going for their OP, it was very important that their education flow would not be affected and that this was able to be managed as part of their normal education program. Many schools are doing a really good job with that and it is something that is very important to both the students and the schools.

I want to talk briefly about the OP system. The OP process replaced the TE scores that existed in Queensland that had been in place for an awfully long time. In fact, when we came to government in 2012 we found that the system was failing in many regards and it was beginning to be gamed by students. When it was first introduced a very high percentage of students at schools would go through the overall position process. In recent times we have found that many students are no longer participating in that OP score, which is then to the potential advantage of some kids in the school. We end up with this bizarre situation where a student in a school who has done really well may in fact find themselves struggling to get the OP they require because of their peers. I do not think we should be judging someone's educational opportunities and their educational potential based on how good their peers are. I think we should be basing it on their own individual capabilities. This legislation that will allow the ATAR to be used will make a difference and will make it fairer for students.

One of my daughters is studying in Victoria and one is studying in New South Wales, but both of them had to get their OP translated over to an ATAR score for them to be able to apply to those universities. It was just an unnecessary stress on them as they were trying to apply to study in other parts of our country. Likewise, people coming up from over the border to study at the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba—and lots of them will chose there because it is a great university—will have to get their scores translated in order to gain university entry in Queensland.

The system was in great need of an update. The update had been done due to work by John-Paul Langbroek and the pieces were in place and then we found out that there was a delay. It is not unusual to find a delay. In fact, in my electorate the school hall at Wilsonton was delayed. It was due at the end of November. In fact, I am not sure if it has officially been handed over to the school yet, but I know the school had its first function in there some two to 2½ months late. I look forward to the minister visiting my electorate and officially opening that school hall because it is greatly needed by the community. It is just a shame that it could not be done on time and we will find out through the budget process whether it is on budget.

While talking about delays, we know that the second range crossing is going to be delayed by some seven months. It does not surprise me at all that the changes to the OP system were pushed back by 12 months because there is good form for that from those on the government benches. We know that Labor struggles to get anything done, but when it does often it will be late, and this is another example of that. Overall, the policy direction we are heading here is the right direction and therefore our side of the House will be not opposing this bill.

In the few moments I have left there is one other section of the bill that I wanted to talk about. As someone who has been in business, opening hours were often government controlled in the hospitality industry. Knowing when you can open, knowing when you cannot open, knowing how you can plan and schedule your staff and understanding how to manage your payroll coming through and the costs and

the potential customer base you might have coming in is very important. Over a holiday period in regional areas it is absolutely critical, because some regional areas will have particular events on for Easter and some regional areas will have lots of people go on holiday. Being able to manage and operate your business during that time can make an enormous difference to your profitability over the 12-month period.

What we find is that for no apparent reason—just a complete oversight by a Brisbane-centric drafting team when this bill was put together with no decent oversight from a minister to ensure that they were getting it right—people in Mount Isa, Goondiwindi, Chinchilla, Kingaroy, Roma, Childers, Bowen, Ayr, Charters Towers, Proserpine, Mission Beach, Cloncurry, Weipa, Nanango, Home Hill, Pittsworth, Blackwater, Charleville, Longreach and Oxley were all disadvantaged because of this oversight.

Whilst it is certainly not timely to come in here to fix this—and we note that it has been hidden underneath the title of the bill, but I guess that was designed to try and save some embarrassment for the oversight—at least it has been fixed up and that is a start. We are hopeful that for Easter next year we can get opening hours right. We have had three years of warnings. We have had a hot cross bungle, as it is called by the media, every year for a number of years and what we need to do is to start planning now for opening hours for next year's Easter. I ask the minister to take that on board. We are hoping that we do not have to come in here to correct legislation for Easter opening hours next year.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Order! Before I call the member for Townsville, I say to all members that the noise level in the chamber is rising again. If you want to talk, please go outside and do so.



Mr STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (3.37 pm): Before I start, I want to congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker McArdle, on your appointment to the role of Deputy Speaker and wish you all of the very best over the next 2½ years.

I first want to thank the former committee, of which I was fortunate enough to be the chair, for going through this bill, but of course time lapsed and it was handed to the current committee. I also want to acknowledge and thank the current committee for the work that it has done on this bill given the short and very quick time frames. It is great to see that both sides of the House came to the same agreement that the former committee did in terms of this bill. There are several key objectives of this bill, and several members in the House have already gone through them so I will not spend a whole lot of time reading through the objectives. Broadly, the bill's objectives are around overseas students, changes to our senior assessment and tertiary entrance, technical amendments to the education act and amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act. They are the key objectives that we are debating through this bill.

I want to focus mainly on the first two areas—that is, international students and the change to senior assessment and tertiary entrance. They are the key issues that I will focus on during my contribution to the debate this afternoon.

Probably very few members of this House do not know my history of being a teacher and principal for nearly 30 years. I say that often, because I am very proud of the time that I spent educating students, working with students and nurturing students through some of their most difficult times. Those of us who have had teenagers would certainly attest that some of the most difficult times are during—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr STEWART: I take that acknowledgement from the member for Glass House. Some of the most difficult times but also some of the most wonderful and cherishing times of my life were when I was working with young men and women in schools. Each and every one of us have great schools in our electorates and we are very proud to mention them. I am not going to do a rollcall of the schools in my electorate that I work with, but I will say that teachers work exceptionally hard to get results for their kids.

We heard the member for Nanango, the Leader of the Opposition, say that the reason students from overseas come to our Queensland schools is the world-class education that they receive. It is a cutting-edge curriculum. We are at the forefront of leading not only Australia but also the world in a whole range of imperatives relative to our curriculum. The only way we deliver that high-quality education is through high-quality teaching and high-quality teachers.

I was really disappointed to hear the member for Kawana say that we have problems with teachers and bag our teachers, saying that there is too much focus on data and too much focus on individual students. I will tell members that the reason international students come to our great state and to the fantastic schools that each and every one of us have in our electorates is the high-quality education that focuses on individual students. It is not a broadbrush approach. In other words, we do not sheep dip kids and say, 'This is it. I've now taught you how to extrapolate parabolas.' It does not happen like that. The reason teachers drill down into the data, the reason teachers spend so much time looking at the assessment of individual students is to give the individual student the very best, the absolute world-class quality education that they deserve in every single one of our classrooms. Whether those classrooms are at Pimlico State High School, Brisbane State High School, or Longreach State High School, every one of those students deserves this quality education. We demand the best of our teachers, and that means teachers drilling down into that data not only to find out what the students are doing exceptionally well but also to find those areas that they need to work on to make sure that we get the best quality outcomes for each and every one of our students, including our international students.

Why do international students come to our great state? We heard the Leader of the Opposition say that they come to our beautiful state, and why would they not? We are the best state in Australia. Certainly, I agree with that, but the reason international students come to our state is more than just for the culture and Queensland's natural beauty. Their parents send them here knowing that, when they go into our schools, they will not only get a high-quality education but also that our schools lay down the foundations and provide the future pathways for when these young men and women become the future leaders in their own country.

This education is about setting out a very clear pathway for trade and business at an international level. It establishes those networks and gives overseas students an understanding of not only our education system but also the way in which Australia operates. That is why international students come to our cities and we send our students to other countries—to make sure that they get that understanding, develop networks and ensure that they get the highest quality education they can, knowing that they are going to be future leaders who will establish international trade opportunities and create international business communities. That is why we do it. It is a long-term investment. I am proud to say that the more we do this, the better we can sell our great state and the better we can sell our outstanding educational programs that are delivered each and every day in our schools by our highly qualified and sensational teachers. I will back them every single day until the day I die.

The other change that we are seeing on the horizon—and we heard the member for Surfers Paradise refer to the foundation of this change—is the change to senior assessment. I can tell members that this change that we are implementing through this bill that we are debating is the biggest change that we will see to senior education since the introduction of VET qualifications in secondary schools. We have to get change of this scale—the implementation of going from school based assessment to having standardised assessment in various subjects across our state—right. We have to make sure that the i's are dotted, the t's are crossed, every single teacher has a 100 per cent commitment and understanding, and the students are thoroughly prepared for this change. We do not want to start the race with some of our students, whether they be at Ilfracombe, or at Charters Towers, with only half an understanding of this change. We cannot afford to have our teachers not know what they are doing. We need to get this right.


The reason the implementation of this change was pushed back 12 months was not a Labor initiative. That pushback came from secondary principals who said, 'We need more time.'

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr STEWART: I take that interjection from the Minister for Education. The principals said, 'We need more time to make sure our students get this right, to make sure our teachers have the skill set to get this right.' It is not about, as the opposition leader said, Labor getting this wrong. I do not care whether the schools in the Nanango electorate have this change right and they are ready to go; the state of Queensland is bigger than the electorate of Nanango. We have to make sure that every single one of our teachers has this right. That is what this is about: making sure that they have the skill set behind them, the understanding, and they are ready to go.

These changes are going to propel our students into the next level of education—preparing them to enter tertiary education, making sure that they have the skill set. We do not want to disadvantage any student, whether they are in a school with 40 or 50 secondary students or a school such as Bwgcolman on Palm Island, where there are 10 students in years 11 and 12. Every one of our students in each and every one of our electorates needs to be prepared. This delay is about working with the

teachers, working with the principals, working with the students and working with their parents to get this change right. These changes will certainly set us up to be great leaders in education. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.47 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Education (Overseas Students) Bill. This bill seeks to change the framework surrounding the provisions of courses to overseas students in international student exchange programs. This is an important topic. We know that there are many benefits to international exchange programs for students, whether it is educational, personal development or the long-term benefits that come from experiencing another culture. We know that overseas placements get students thinking about different perspectives. Those overseas placements help students learn other languages and make them more aware of global issues. They also help young people improve their self-confidence, self-esteem and social skills.

International placements are a great opportunity and I am glad to see that so many schools in my electorate of Mudgeeraba have formed partnerships with schools internationally and provide opportunities for international placements. Robina State High School is one terrific example of a school that values international education. Under the leadership of their outstanding principal, Julie Warwick, and Deputy Principal, Ben Weeks, the school has created a number of international programs to foster cultural understanding. They want to provide students at both Robina State High School and its sister schools with culture and personal development opportunities.

After a lot of hard work, Robina State High School can now boast that it provides opportunities for students to form lifelong global networks. Each year the school welcomes visitors from overseas on short and long-term programs. These international students choose Robina State High School, because they know that it is one of the best schools that Queensland has to offer. These students know that the school has great facilities and an outstanding curriculum. The school's Japanese immersion program and sister-city arrangements with schools in Japan are second to none. Thanks to the \$500,000 security fence that the international students helped to deliver to the school community in the last parliament, international students also know that the school offers a safe and secure learning environment.

All Saints Anglican School at Merrimac also offers a dedicated international centre that prepares students for international placements by offering a dedicated English language course. Every year international students can take advantage of the All Saints Anglican School international program for either a semester or an academic year as a high school student. I commend Patrick Wallas, All Saints principal, for championing this international program and providing overseas students with an opportunity to be immersed in the Australian way of life and our education system.


Further south in my electorate in Reedy Creek, Hillcrest Christian College has embraced international students for more than two decades. In 1996 Hillcrest commenced its international student program and it now accepts international students from prep to year 12. This is an incredibly successful program which supports students from overseas and gives them a genuine Australian education experience. It is led by a dedicated head of teaching, learning and global education. Well done to Jeff Davis for his leadership since taking over as principal in 2015.

Similarly at King's Christian College, I know principal Rees Davis is also committed to providing a great learning environment for all students, including those the school welcomes from other countries and cultures. Just north of Reedy Creek in Mudgeeraba we have Somerset College whose principal, Craig Bassingthwaite, facilitates a small number of international families every year so that their students can have access to the great education Somerset offers. I also know that Emmanuel College at Carrara, ably lead by Patrick Innes-Hill, aims to do the same. In the Mudgeeraba electorate we are lucky to have a number of exceptional schools and educational facilities that offer terrific programs for local and international students.

Schools in my electorate range in size from 13 students at Numinbah Valley State School to 1,852 domestic and international students at All Saints Anglican School. For each of them I have been proud to deliver additional funding and new facilities. These facilities include new or upgraded learning hubs, libraries, tuckshops, classrooms, kitchens, gardens, car parks and playgrounds as well as better equipment, extensive security upgrades and flashing school zone signage.

I would also like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of the principals I have not yet mentioned: Veronica Wasiak at St Michael's College; Sarah Jane Ash at Springbrook State School, who is currently seconded as an acting principal in the Currumbin electorate; Kelly Fletcher who is acting as principal at Springbrook; Warren Greinkie at Numinbah Valley State School; Daniel Duke, who is also seconded to another position whilst Lindi Chapman is acting as principal at Mudgeeraba State School; the fabulous Colleen Hope at Mudgeeraba Special School; Dr Randall Pointing at

Merrimac State School; Craig Douglas at Gilston State School; Deidre von Guilleaume at Mudgeeraba Creek State School; Gayle Alessio OAM, who received an OAM in this year's honours, at Clover Hill State School; and Belinda Coulahan at Beechmont State School. I look forward to continuing to support my schools and my principals as they deliver great education outcomes for local and international students in the Mudgeeraba electorate.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.52 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I congratulate you on your appointment to the position of Deputy Speaker. It is great to see you taking it in your stride and delivering extremely well already. I rise to briefly address the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. As speakers before me have mentioned, a large component of the bill focuses on overseas students and the ability for them to operate in schools across Queensland. I want to focus on another aspect of the bill, one that is of interest and was spoken of at length by the member for Surfers Paradise, which was the introduction of the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems. I note that the committee's report states that in 2016 the Queensland government committed to introduce a new senior assessment and tertiary entrance, or SATE, system for students entering year 11 in 2019. This government may have agreed to introduce it in 2016, but the previous LNP government agreed to do so two years prior.

I refer to a media statement from 29 December 2014, when the then minister for education, training and employment, the honourable John-Paul Langbroek, said—

Students in Queensland will benefit from new assessment and tertiary education systems under proposals unveiled by the Newman LNP Government today.

...

The OP system has served Queensland well since its introduction in 1992, but it is becoming less relevant as education evolves.

I commenced my high schooling whilst living in Sydney. For many years I was facing the likelihood of having to complete the HSC. Even at the school I was at, the equivalent of Brisbane State High, many students looked forward to it with a sense of dread and foreboding. There was a lot of concern around that form of senior assessment and tertiary entrance system. It was highly competitive and came down to how well a student performed in those final exams. When we moved to Queensland in the fourth term of my grade 10 it was quite a different system that I was moving to. Back then it was the TE score. I was one of the last students to receive a TE score. The concept that you actually looked at the performance of your schooling over the course of two years was certainly far more sensible than what I was seeing during my time in New South Wales. Like all good things it served a purpose and it needed to be reviewed and it was not long after I finished my schooling that the OP score came in. My wife Taryn was one of the first students to receive an OP.

That was back in 1992. It was said at the time that Labor would review it after 10 years. It was not until an LNP government came to power in 2012 that that review actually took place. That was 20 years after the OP system was implemented. We commissioned an independent review of the Queensland system by the Australian Council for Educational Research. It included extensive consultation with teachers, universities, parent associations and, believe it or not, unions. The Australian Council for Educational Research made 23 recommendations.

In December 2014 the LNP government, led by the education minister at the time, John-Paul Langbroek, the member for Surfers Paradise, released our response. In that we supported the key recommendation in the review which included moving away from the overall position tertiary entrance rank and the Queensland Core Skills test. Instead there would be three school based assessments plus one external assessment for each senior subject. My experience dictates that that was probably the best way to go. It was a blending of what was good about the New South Wales HSC with what was good about the Queensland system of continual assessment over those two years.

Again I point out that this was back in December of 2014. We read in the committee report and the explanatory notes of this bill that somehow the government stumbled upon this in 2016. As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, delay after delay after delay has led to a level of uncertainty for a number of students and certainly for teachers and administrators in our schools. A number of students, principals and teachers who were expecting to be going through this new SATE system are not. Finally we are getting to this significant change.

I do agree with the member for Nanango and others who have spoken that this will be a significant and positive change for our senior students and for tertiary entrance. As others have said, it allows those who do want to pursue tertiary opportunities straight out of high school, as myself and a number of others have done, to transfer through jurisdictions far more easily than currently, but it also allows opportunities for students who do not necessarily want to pursue tertiary opportunities straight off the

back of high school. I think of my own eldest son who, having completed a certificate in construction at the Technical Trade Training Centre at Caloundra, has picked up an apprenticeship and is now six months into his apprenticeship as a chippie. This system will allow opportunities for all students. I applaud the change, albeit coming a little bit late.


I want to take a brief moment to mention education as it relates to my electorate of Glass House. I particularly pay credit to the education department for coming to the assistance of Montville State School following a rather hairy storm on Friday, 16 February. It was like a mini tornado that literally ripped through the top of Montville on the Blackall Range. There were trees down across the entire school. There was a serious concern held by the new principal that we were going to be unable to open the school on Monday. Everyone pitched in. On Sunday the education department was there with chainsaws and chippers and put in a sterling effort to get the school ready to open on Monday morning. It was great for me to be there on the Friday of that week to attend the school leadership ceremony and to help badge the new leaders of that great school.

I acknowledge that, unfortunately, due to the redistribution, the electorate of Glass House has lost a number of fantastic schools. However, through the hard work of some of us on this side of the chamber, fortunately those schools have picked up some equally good local members to represent them. I have reluctantly accepted that I have had to hand over Palmwoods State School and Chevallum State School to the new member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt. I know he will do a great job working with the principals, teachers and students of those fantastic schools.

In the south of the electorate unfortunately I have lost the Caboolture Montessori School, which was one of my little gems. It is one of those pocket rocket schools that you really do not know too much about until you get involved in them. They do a fantastic job under principal Yvonne Rinaldi. I also acknowledge the Australian Christian College Moreton, where my eldest daughter is enrolled, and the new Pumicestone State School, which was built by the LNP when in government, on Pumicestone Road in Caboolture North. Unfortunately, all three of those schools have left the electorate of Glass House, but they have been picked up by the new member for Pumicestone, Simone Wilson. I am very grateful that they too will be represented by a stellar local member.

In the short time remaining, like others I want to reflect on the fact that, hidden in this bill, are more changes to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act to allow Easter trading across the state. Easter has only been around for 2,000 years. It is not like it suddenly pops up as a surprise and that the government cannot see it coming. It is not as if it pops up out of the blue. Sure, getting your head around the cycles of the moon to keep an eye on the shifting date, which may fall somewhere between the end of March and the end of April, might be challenging, but you can literally Google the date for Easter out to the 3000s.

There is no excuse that, for three years running, the House has had to make adjustments to the trading hours act because those opposite cannot make the right amendments to the act in the first place to allow businesses to trade across the state, particularly in rural and regional Queensland and also, I understand, in Oxley in the seat of Mount Ommaney. That should have been sorted out far in advance. We give our support to sorting this out. The last thing we want to see is businesses do the wrong thing at Easter. However, it is simply not good enough that, in this day and age, they cannot get it right in the first place.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.02 pm): The Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018 is a sensible bill that will create a new regime for the regulation of providers of courses for overseas students and international student exchange programs. It is important to regulate the quality of courses taught and to protect students. In overseas countries, parents view Australia as a safe place for their children to travel to in order to gain a high-quality educational experience.

There are flow-on effects for our economy. Every student who has a favourable experience in our Queensland schools is more likely to return as a tourist with their families or as a university student. In 2017, I believe 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 the student participating in those student exchange programs because reciprocal exchange is accepted in lieu of the payment of fees. Most students participating in the exchange programs are under the age of 18 years and travel without a

parent or guardian. Mackay has a sister city relationship with Matsuura in Japan. Every year, Mackay students travel to Japan and Japanese students come to Mackay. The students who participate in the program find it to be invaluable for their own personal growth and for their cultural development.

Currently, in Queensland the providers of international student exchanges are regulated under an administrative scheme that applies nationally consistent guidelines. This bill introduces a statutory regime for the regulation of the providers of student exchange programs. The legislative scheme reflects the requirements and obligations imposed on providers under the existing administrative regime. Importantly, the scheme provides the department with appropriate regulatory oversight powers to safeguard the welfare of international exchange students coming to Queensland to study. The new legislative regime does not apply for short-term cultural exchanges that occur under visitor visa arrangements.

The bill will also provide the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority with functions to administer new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems, commencing for students entering year 11 in 2019. In 2018, our first full-time prep students entered year 11. I know that their parents were concerned that once again those students were to be the guinea pigs for change. They pushed back on this as they did not want their students to be the first to take on the new system. Teachers in my electorate to whom I spoke told me that they felt those students were not ready for the changes so were really pleased that we took the sensible approach of pushing the changes back to 2019.

The overhaul of the new assessment and tertiary entrance systems will combine school based assessment, developed and marked by classroom teachers, with external assessment set and marked by the QCCA. Previously there were no external exams to compare students. There was only a system of moderation between local schools. The new ranking will replace the current overall position or OP score with an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank or ATAR score.

The bill will also amend the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act. The amendment will reverse the unintended consequences that non-exempt shops in areas without seven-day trading would not be able to trade on Easter Sunday and other public holidays over the Easter break. This is a sensible bill and I commend it to the House.



Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (4.07 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker McArdle, congratulations on your role. I know you will undertake it with much professionalism. My sincere congratulations to you.

I rise to contribute to the debate on the Education (Overseas Students) Bill. I note that, although the title of the bill refers to the education of overseas students, it also contains quite remarkable amendments in relation to regional trading hours. Those amendments have not been reflected in the title of the bill. Last year as part of the Labor government's amendments to the trading act, the words 'including Easter Saturday' were removed from the allowable hours section, which would have caused a four-day closure of shops in regional towns over this Easter break. In media reports, this has become known as the Labor government's hot cross bungle. Thankfully, the omission of the provision was brought to the attention of the government by the National Retail Association. The amendments will commence on 30 March 2018, ensuring that shops are able to open on Easter Saturday in communities without seven-day trading.

The consequences of the omission were serious as all non-exempt shops in areas without seven-day trading would have had to close on four consecutive Easter holidays, that is, Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday. Let us be clear that it was not the government that picked up the errors; it was the National Retail Association that picked up the errors in the Labor government's legislation. Had the retailers not brought the matter to the attention of the government, shops in those regional towns would have been closed on Easter Saturday.

The areas affected by the hot cross bungle include Mount Isa; Goondiwindi; Chinchilla, which services my electorate; Kingaroy; Roma, my home town; Childers; Blackwater; Ayr; Charters Towers; Proserpine; Mission Beach; Cloncurry; Weipa; Nanango; Oakey; Home Hill; Pittsworth; Charleville, in my electorate; and Longreach. The retailers in these centres are shaking their heads as are the chambers of commerce as to how this could have happened.

I wish to emphasise how important these amendments are for the community of Roma, which is in my electorate. This year for the annual Easter in the Country festival the community is expecting many locals and visitors. The volunteers who run the Roma Easter in the Country festival do a tremendous job. I know they would want all of the businesses in Roma open for the Easter weekend.

Many travellers stop and stock up on food and supplies at these businesses in Roma and they join in the fabulous country entertainment that occurs over that weekend. Easter is one of the biggest fundraising weekends of the year for many of the local clubs. I know Rotary, Lions, Apex and Zonta are often out selling soft drinks, fish and chips, burgers and donuts, to name a few.

If it is a cold Easter weekend those fundraising clubs may need to restock from local retailers if they run out of bread or something like that. If it is a hot weekend a club might run out of bottled water. They have to run off to one of the local retailers and stock up on those provisions. It is very hard when 10,000 people visit your town and therefore increase the population to work out how much the local service club will sell.

If this hot cross bungle of the Labor government was not picked up and corrected, shops would have been closed for four days over Easter and the reputation of the community's regional event could have been damaged. The ability of local service clubs to maximise their fundraising activities could have also been seriously curtailed.

I want to inform the House about what the Roma chamber of commerce president, Cyril Peet, said in the local paper about the Labor government's hot cross bungle. He slammed the legislation. He said that the wording blunder could have had a disastrous effect on the Roma business community. Mr Peet is a great small business owner and is the president of the Roma chamber of commerce. They work really hard to bring more business activity into that community. The article reads—

Mr Peet said the extra closures, as stated in the botched amendment, could result in 'panic buying' in regional towns.

'There are only three public holiday days where shops in Roma are made to close,' Mr Peet said.

And the general trend is when the shops close in Roma, we see what I call panic buying, which is a problem I'd say for rural towns.

For example on the Sunshine Coast where shops are open seven days a week, it's not such a big deal when things close, but in Roma where we have certain times and that is it, if our shops were forced to close for a four day period, it would be a disaster.

I think it would also cause issues with produce delivery that would be seen in the days following Easter as well.

This law change would hit hardest in the country where you only have two or three supermarkets that supply the surrounds.

Mr Peet said the changes would have potentially interfered with the Easter in the Country festival, which is held in Roma over the Easter weekend.


Easter in the Country is a five-day celebration showcasing the country lifestyle. Now in its 41st year, the event is expected to draw crowds of more than 10,000 people to the town.

Another thing to consider, is the fact that Roma is hosting Easter in the Country during that time. Organisers of the event are trying to convince smaller businesses in the area to remain open for the event, which will attract big crowds from all over—this is a chance for Roma to get extra business that we wouldn't usually have.

If the population doubles over Easter, and the stores have to close, what are people going to do for food? Not everyone is going to eat out. Many people will want to be making food, whether they are at home or camping out for the event. It would be impractical if not impossible.

We can handle one day, but four, it just doesn't make sense.

I think Mr Peet has hit the nail on the head when it comes to this issue. We know that the Palaszczuk Labor government does not really like regional Queenslanders, but this bungle of regional business trading hours, food supply and tourism events in regional Queensland is taking the Labor dislike of regional communities to a very disappointing level.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.14 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker McArdle, I commend you on your appointment as Deputy Speaker. It is a sterling choice. You are certainly a person who has been around this parliament for a long time and has a lot of dignity, and you are well liked throughout parliament.

I rise to speak to the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. From the outset, like all members in this House I want to pay tribute to teachers right across Queensland. Teachers play an incredible role in our children's lives. They have such an important task, whether they are teaching kindy, prep or grade 1 right through to grade 12. They are the ones who play a major role in shaping our children's future. Whether children go on to tertiary education or a trade, teachers are teaching and moulding tomorrow's leaders. We must recognise that teachers have the most difficult job but a job that would give them a lot of joy.

Seeing students go from primary school through to high school and achieve their dreams, whether it be a tertiary education to become a doctor or nurse or a trade to become a mechanic, it must give teachers great pride that they played a significant role in that. I pay tribute to all teachers right across Queensland. They play a significant role.

This bill is to create a new regime for the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students and international student exchange programs. This is important in the seat of Gregory. We have an opportunity to increase our overseas student intake in education facilities right throughout Queensland. Our agricultural and pastoral colleges have been providing courses to overseas students. In the last couple of years we have seen students coming in from Indonesia to learn about the beef production techniques we have in Australia, from the yard through to the slaughter yard. We have been able to capture the opportunity to teach students from Indonesia at the Longreach Pastoral College and the Emerald Agricultural College.

The Longreach Pastoral College will play a significant role in educating overseas students. The Longreach Pastoral College was opened in 1967. There is a fantastic story behind the reason we opened the pastoral college. Significant people in the town of Longreach, such as Sir James Walker and others, wanted to have a university of the outback. That vision was back in the 1960s. They wanted to have a university of the outback. They were able to meet with the Premier of the day and government representatives to start that process. In 1967 the Longreach Pastoral College opened. It has provided an excellent educational facility for outback and regional people.

In 1971 the Emerald Agricultural College was opened. This is another significant contributor to our education system. We are starting to see overseas students attracted to regional and rural areas. Normally overseas students are attracted to the east coast for a variety of reasons such as transport, airports and accommodation facilities. We have fantastic educational facilities in both Longreach and Emerald to continue to attract Indonesian students.

We must also look to tap into South-East Asia and see whether we can attract more overseas students into these educational facilities. As the member for Townsville and the opposition leader, the member for Nanango, said, the reason we have overseas students wanting to come to this country and this state is that we provide a first-class service. They take that education back to where they have come from or stay on here. They have an excellent opportunity to fulfil their dreams in whatever career they choose.

This bill also provides the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority with functions to administer the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems commencing with students entering year 11 in 2019. From 2020 Queensland will move from the current overall position or OP tertiary rank to the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank or ATAR, which all other states and territories use to rank eligible year 12 students for university entrance.

This is incredibly important. I would also like to acknowledge the fantastic academic achievements in regional and rural Queensland, especially in the seat of Gregory. Last year members might remember a story about Longreach State High School having one of the top OPs in the state. For a school that has gone through seven years of drought and is struggling in the current climatic conditions, Longreach State High School can still produce excellent academic qualifications for university. I pay tribute to all of those involved in the Longreach State High School. They are a fantastic community, dedicated to the community and to the town. I especially pay tribute to those students who come along and fulfil their academic potential and put their best academic qualifications forward. Longreach State High School did well.

As the member for Gregory, I am very lucky to have 54 schools in the seat of Gregory. Only last week I went to one of the small schools in the electorate—Arcadia Valley State School. Arcadia Valley is in the most south-east part of the electorate. It is north of Injune and south of Rolleston. It is a beautiful school. Arcadia Valley is what they like to call God's country when it comes to cattle production. It was the first of the brigalow blocks to be opened up. The school has doubled in size since last year: it has gone from four students to eight students. It is one of the very few schools in Queensland that has been able to double their size in one year. I congratulate all of the students, the teachers and of course the parents. Only a couple of weeks ago I went to the captains' ceremony at Blackwater State High School, which is another proud school.


We have to make sure that we have the right ranking system and tertiary entrance system available for all students across Queensland. If we can match up with the rest of the state it will make it easier for students to go into the tertiary education that they want to go into. I really welcome this. Let us hope it is a smooth transition from OP to ATAR, making sure that our students get the best opportunity.

Finally, tacked onto this bill is the amendment to trading hours. As a consequence of an omission all non-exempt shops in areas without seven-day trading must be closed on the four consecutive Easter public holidays—Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday. The main areas

that would be affected are in regional Queensland. The two areas that would be most affected in the electorate I represent are Blackwater and Longreach. It would have a devastating impact on those towns. Blackwater is just getting through a massive mining downturn. It is a town that is slowly but surely getting back on its feet, and small business is suffering there. The last thing we would want to see is an administrative error that affects the shops there—we have a Woolworths and an IGA. Also, Easter is when the tourism season starts in Longreach. Can you imagine people packing up their caravan and driving out to Longreach in their four-wheel drive from Brisbane or Sydney only to find everything shut? What a great welcome mat that would be for people in our tourism industry.

We need to support our small businesses in regional and rural Queensland. We have to give them every opportunity to stay open. As I said before, the tourism season starts at Easter in the outback. As all members know, the outback needs tourism. Tourism has become our third commodity. We have beef, we have wool and we have tourism in the outback. Tourism is an important part of our economy that puts disposable cash into the town. We have to make sure that the welcome mat is out and we have businesses open at Easter to make sure that tourists stay in Longreach and do not head off somewhere else or turn around and head back to the east coast because there is nothing open in Longreach. It is important for regional Queensland.

I would like to give a shout-out to the Heatley Secondary College in the member for Thuringowa's electorate. I had an opportunity to go there and one of the most amazing things I saw was the adult college. There are some great opportunities there for people in my area when it comes to audio and visual technology in the digital age. I would love to talk to the Minister for Education about this. Outback Queensland needs to be able to tap into those opportunities at the Heatley adult secondary college.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (4.24 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. This bill modernises the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students, establishes a new legislative regime for regulating providers of international student exchange programs and supports the implementation of the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system for Queensland. I recommend this bill be supported today. There are two areas of the bill that I would like to focus on. One of them sets out to modernise the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students and the other establishes a new legislative regime for regulating providers of international student exchange programs.

The delivery of education to overseas students in Australia is a powerful driver of our economy. International education is Australia's third largest export behind iron ore and coal. In the 2016-17 financial year, international education delivered over \$4 billion to the Queensland economy. We have seen the massive growth of overseas students studying at our universities over the last 10 to 20 years, and now we are seeing more and more overseas students coming to Australia to study at our high schools.

In Queensland, over 85,000 international students from 160 countries come here to study at our universities, training colleges and schools. With this number of international students we need to make sure that Queensland has learning providers that can deliver quality education and a safe learning environment where students can reach their academic potential. One hundred and fifty state high schools across Queensland now offer enrolments to international students along with over 100 non-state schools.

International students are not only choosing to study in the metropolitan Brisbane area but also opting to study and experience student life, as we have heard from our regional members, in Queensland regional and country areas. In my electorate of Ipswich international students are coming to study in Ipswich at the Ipswich Grammar School and Ipswich Girls' Grammar School. Students are coming from a number of countries such as China, India, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Vietnam. They are choosing Ipswich because it is in a unique position where it can offer students an experience of living in a regional area while also being in fairly close proximity to Brisbane. When I met with principals Richard Morrison from Ipswich Grammar School and Dr Peter Britton from Ipswich Girls' Grammar School, they talked about the connections those children are bringing to their schools and how it is enriching the cultural life of the school as well as the academic life of the school.

Studying outside of Brisbane is a great opportunity for international students to experience not only a quality education in regional Queensland schools but also life in regional and country towns. They are making lifelong friendships with local students and families and forging new networks that will help them in their journey after high school.


The Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996 commenced on 7 December 1998 and regulated providers of courses to overseas students. Since its enactment though there has been significant change in the regulation of providers of courses to international students, in particular with the establishment of the national framework under the Commonwealth Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000.

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 CRICOS 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. This 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.

The other component of the bill I would like to touch on briefly concerns the new legislative regime for regulating providers of international student exchange programs. International student exchange programs are a wonderful opportunity for Queensland students to experience life in a different country, develop foreign language skills, build up valuable knowledge of unique cultures and build independence and resilience.

In 2017, 144 international students and 162 Queensland students participated in international secondary student exchange programs. 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. This arrangement is enormously beneficial to students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds who may otherwise not have the financial means to travel overseas. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.29 pm): I am delighted to rise to speak on this bill. As there has been such a focus on international exchange and overseas students, I have great pleasure in reflecting on my own fortunate experience of having been an international exchange student and knowing personally just how much this enriches young people's lives.

Since I was at school a great number of new programs have become available to young Queenslanders and young Australians to go out into the world to study and to see our international friends come to study here in our state. This legislation really is recognising that this is not just a major cultural experience; it is a major economic export for our state. About \$2.8 billion in funds comes into our state as a result of this industry. We also know many of our international students will have homestays. Some will not; they will stay in other student accommodation. Whatever the arrangement, there is so much more benefit to us than the economic dollar because of that ongoing understanding that people have when they come to live in our country, as we do when we go to live in somebody else's country.

I landed in Japan as a 17-year-old with five years of high school French, which was not all that useful in Japan. I am pleased to say that Asian languages are a lot more common. Perhaps Japanese has fallen off in favour of some other Asian language. I really want to urge people to encourage their young people to take up a language. It certainly unlocks the world. People do not have to be able to interpret or translate a foreign language at the level they would for a medical conference to connect with other people. When people take the time to learn a foreign language, it says to them that they care enough to make the effort to understand how to communicate in their own language. For me it was a great experience and I went on to study the Japanese language when I returned to Australia to take up my university studies. That wonderful experience taught me so much more. I reflect on this because I believe this is true of many other people who have the fortunate experience of being able to study overseas or who come here.

When we go to live in somebody else's home or form friendships with people in their country we start to learn that, while we have a lot of stereotypes about countries and the way people perceive certain cultures, there is nothing like actually living with people to realise that people are people; there is diversity among nations. I certainly found that to be the case having had seven host families. People cannot say, 'This is the way of a Japanese family.' While there may be certain cultures that people share, what they obviously find out after a while is that people are people. There is diversity within races. When they are not a native speaker of a language they will understand more deeply how easy it is to be misunderstood or to misunderstand others. I think even those lessons in the process of starting to grasp a foreign language and cultural differences bring a little bit more tolerance and understanding of how easy it is to misunderstand. That in itself is part of that experience, which is so valuable to international students and for us as a nation. We are an export nation, so to welcome the world to our schools, to our training institutions here, is a wonderful thing that has a great benefit for years to come.

I want to shout out to the Brisbane City Council student ambassador program and particularly recognise that these lovely young international students coming here to this capital city will go back to their home countries and, hopefully, form long-term relationships between our countries, which has an ongoing benefit. I think that is a model that could be replicated in many other cities and towns in Queensland—to see these young people not just as temporary visitors but as lifelong friends with benefits that go on for years to come through that deepened understanding. They also have that cut-through into understanding our local economic opportunities to hook into our local businesses through those relationships that they form. I also want to acknowledge the New Colombo Plan that the federal government has launched with a focus on the Indo-Pacific region. Once again, it is a great opportunity to unlock the world.

This legislation before us does a number of things. It certainly seeks to regulate or to put in place a legislative regime that reflects some of the administrative procedures—and then improves upon them—that had been in place. There is a responsibility under the Commonwealth act for providers of education to overseas students to be registered, but they had this interface with the state based system. These particular changes in the legislation really seek to strengthen those provisions. I believe the intention certainly is to safeguard the welfare of international and Australian secondary exchange students and to protect Australia's reputation as a destination for international education and training. That is very important because, when things go wrong, those who are doing the right thing often pay the price. We do not want things to go wrong, but we need to have a system that addresses things in a speedy and credible way to work in the best interests of all involved.

There are a number of other changes, as has been alluded to, that provide that the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority will be provided with functions to administer the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance scheme commencing for students entering year 11 in 2019. As we have heard, the OP system is out and the ATAR system is coming in. It will bring us more in line with our interstate jurisdictions. This was a process that commenced under the former education minister John-Paul Langbroek when the LNP was in government. I am pleased that it is finally coming to fruition. The intention of this program is to make it fairer and more transparent. We hope that is the case. Anyone who has dealt with this would know that achieving that balance between assessment in schools and ensuring a fair outcome for young people can be very complex. I hope that the system provides greater transparency as well because transparency is important to ensure that there is fairness and equity in the way this is applied. I do believe that is the intention of the changes that we see before us.

There are some other minor and technical amendments to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000. The doozy is the one that has been slipped in—and that certainly has not been referred to in the title of the bill—which is the fact that there are yet more changes to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990. This is a fix-up, a bungle. It is a slip, slop, slap and we are not talking about a health campaign. It is a slip-up on the legislation, it is sloppy work and it is slapping back in a quick fix.

An opposition member: Hot cross bungle.

Ms SIMPSON: It has been referred to also as the hot cross bungle. It is a slip, slop, slap approach to legislation. Considering the way this has been bungled with yet another admission of a failure to properly translate legislation, the criticism has to be copped by the government. We have seen too many times when bills have been brought in by this Labor government with lots of amendments rushed through on the floor of the House that have been tacked on in the middle of the debate and shock, horror, a few months later we see the legislation hauled back into this parliament with another raft of amendments to fix up the mistakes because of the sloppy way that legislation has been managed by this government. They are hardly knocked over in the rush of trying to get a huge legislative program

through. They are hardly so busy in the rush that we would not think they have time to get this right. It is a go slow, go easy government; but it is go sloppy when it comes to the way that legislation has been brought into the House with a raft of messy and improperly drafted amendments moved on the floor of this parliament. Then we see this fix-it legislation having to be brought back in later.

The amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 are to ensure that the provisions that were wrongly taken out of the legislation are put back in. They are about ensuring the transfer of unchanged provisions from the now rescinded trading hours order into the amended legislation and the provision permitting non-exempt shops to continue to trade on the Easter Saturday public holiday in those regional areas without seven-day trading, which were inadvertently omitted. That is a pretty sloppy inadvertent omission. We want businesses to have clear legislation that supports the regions and enables them to get on with business. Obviously, we support the legislation being fixed, but it should not have been bungled in the first place.

(Time expired)



Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (4.40 pm): I, too, rise to make a brief contribution to the debate of the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. This bill, and in particular the aspect of international students and the regulation of their relationship with authorities in Australia, is of particular interest to the people of Toowoomba because our Toowoomba Regional Council, the Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise and the community at large want to see Toowoomba as a major part of the education system. International students play a major role in that.

Toowoomba has 86 schools, both primary and secondary. Toowoomba boarding schools make up 20 per cent of all boarding schools across Queensland. A significant number of those students are in fact international students, and why would international students not want to come to Toowoomba? It is a beautiful city. It has a diversified economy and there are lots of opportunities for students to move on to university when they complete school. It is a stated goal of the Toowoomba Regional Council and our local economic development board to make education a primary part of our economy. As the service centre hub for Southern and Western Queensland, that is the right thing to aspire to. As education is jostling for position as Queensland and Australia's third largest export, we understand how important education is to the future economic prosperity of the Toowoomba region and Queensland itself.

More importantly, in a multicultural city like Toowoomba I want to acknowledge the fact that international students can in fact be the human bridge between cultures. We have seen great benefits in the diversity of our community through international high school students, many of whom stay on to study at the University of Southern Queensland. I am very happy to make a contribution to the debate of this bill not only for the economic prosperity which will come to the Toowoomba region as a result of a well-regulated and well-supported international student marketplace but also because of the cultural diversity that international students bring to our beautiful city.

There are a range of schools in my electorate, and my good friend and colleague the member for Toowoomba North has canvassed a large range of Toowoomba private schools and state schools that work in the international student space. I will not repeat all of the schools because he has many of those schools in his electorate, but I want to reflect on a couple of the schools in my electorate of Toowoomba South that do a wonderful job in encouraging international students to come to Australia and Toowoomba and settling them into their new community. I am thinking in particular of Centenary Heights State High School. The principal there, Maryanne Walsh, is one of the most outstanding educators in Queensland, and I think of the P&C president Wayne Heading and vice-president Alistair Webb, who are busy preparing Centenary Heights State High School for their 50th anniversary this year and the wonderful job they do in encouraging international students to come to Toowoomba.

Harristown State High School does an amazing job. They have an international student program. Their principal is Ken Green. I am looking forward to spending time with their year 12 students and the entire school assembly. In fact, I will be speaking at the Anzac Day service there shortly. They too do an amazing job encouraging and integrating international students into their school community and I commend them for it. I particularly reflect on Chris Parker, who does an amazing job working with the students there.

I think of Christian Outreach College Toowoomba—Principal Michael Bray and Chairman Ken Wooton—who also have an amazing and very integrated international student program. They encourage students to attend Christian Outreach College. It was wonderful to share their 35th anniversary with them recently. They do a wonderful job educating Toowoomba students as well as international students who come to Toowoomba.

Of course, I include the school I attended, Concordia Lutheran College. I welcome the new principal, Mr Adrian Wiles, who was previously a principal at St Peters Lutheran College here in Brisbane. It is wonderful to welcome Adrian to the Toowoomba community. I know that he is going to do an amazing job encouraging international students and working with current students as well. I know from my experience at boarding school how great it was to have the influence of international cultures. I boarded with plenty of students from Papua New Guinea and Japan, so I pay tribute to Adrian and I wish him all the very best. The chairman of Concordia Lutheran College, Kyal Osborne, is a good friend of mine. He does a wonderful job working with the school, and I know that international students are a vital part of Concordia's planning for the future.

I also acknowledge St Xavier's College, a Sisters of Mercy school, which recently launched their strategic plan. It is an exciting time for St Xavier's College. Toowoomba, as I have alluded to, is a very competitive education space. There are lots of schools and lots of people who want to be educated there as it is the education hub for Southern and Western Queensland. St Xavier's has redrafted its strategic plan. I wish Sharon Collins, the principal there, all the very best for the future. I know that international students make up a large part of McAuley House, their boarding house, and I look forward to working with them and their international students into the future.

As I alluded to, there is obvious flowthrough from international high school students who attend our local university, the University of Southern Queensland. Nobody can mention the University of Southern Queensland and the role of international students there without mentioning the name of one woman, Dellys Kelly. Dellys very sadly passed away on Thursday. With some latitude, I want to briefly note her contribution to international students at the University of Southern Queensland.


It was 1958 when Dellys had the idea of Toowoomba as a growing city, a metropolis deserving of its own centre of higher education, so she packed up the car with her young children and drove to Canberra seeking a meeting with Prime Minister Menzies. Somehow Dellys talked her way into the Prime Minister's office, and upon meeting Dellys I am not quite sure whether the Prime Minister knew what he was in for. She asked him for support to build a centre of higher education in Toowoomba as she knew that the future of Toowoomba was bright, both for local students and also international students, of which Toowoomba sought its share of the market. The Prime Minister said, 'Dellys, if you go away and raise £30,000, come back and tell me about it and we will see what we can do.'

I think the Prime Minister underestimated Dellys, because she went away and in a couple of months raised that £30,000. You can only imagine how much that is in today's dollars. She went back and put her case to the Prime Minister, and there was born the very beginning of the University of Southern Queensland—a centre of higher education for a great city like Toowoomba. I have to say that while she was there the Prime Minister convinced her to sign up to the very young Liberal Party, and she joined the Liberal Party for the princely sum of two guineas on 14 June 1958. Upon her untimely passing on Thursday, although she had reached the ripe old age of 86, Dellys had been a member of the Liberal Party—and now Liberal National Party—for nearly 60 years.

Toowoomba and the University of Southern Queensland would not have been the same but for Dellys' contribution to the university and what she did to get a local centre of higher learning for the people of Toowoomba, the community of the Darling Downs and for all international students who followed. Dellys was an outstanding friend, colleague and supporter to many of us. It saddens me greatly that she will be buried in Toowoomba on Friday at St Patrick's Cathedral at 11 o'clock. Toowoomba, the community, the LNP and her many friends and family—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Toowoomba South, can I counsel you that I did give you some latitude. Perhaps your speech would be more apt during an adjournment. Can I bring you back to the long title of the bill, please?

Mr JANETZKI: On that note, the University of Southern Queensland owes a great deal to Dellys Kelly and I pay tribute to her.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.50 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. The bill was tabled by the Minister for Education, the Hon. Grace Grace, on 15 February 2018. The bill provides legislative reforms in three areas: it provides for a new senior assessment regime for our year 12 students in Queensland administered by the Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority, the QCAA; it establishes a new regime for regulation programs offered for international students; and, finally, it amends the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 to provide that larger retailers, non-exempt shops, in regional areas without Sunday or public holiday trading, seven-day trading, be allowed to open on the public holiday on Easter Saturday.

With regard to the QCAA reforms, on 18 October 2016 the Queensland government committed to introduce new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems for students entering year 11 in 2019. The ministerial senior secondary assessment task force assisted in the development of the bill. The task force included representation from state and non-state schooling sectors, parent groups, the secondary principals associations, teacher unions and tertiary institutions as well as the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority and the Queensland Tertiary Admissions Centre, QTAC.

The new systems provided for in this bill will include a new senior assessment approach combining school based assessment developed and marked by classroom teachers but also with external assessments set and marked by the QCAA. As well, it provides for new processes to strengthen quality and comparability of school based assessment including endorsement of school based assessment by the QCAA prior to their use and moving from the current overall position, otherwise known as the OP tertiary entrance rank, to a new rank or a new category called the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank which will, no doubt, be called the ATAR when introduced.

With regard to the overseas student educational reforms contained in the bill, they provide for a new regime of regulation for providers of courses for overseas students and international students studying in our great state of Queensland. As the minister outlined in her introductory speech on 15 February 2018, the bill modernises the regulation of providers of courses for overseas students, establishes a new legislated 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 same package of legislated amendments was introduced in the last parliament through the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017. The 2017 bill was considered by the former Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee, which recommended four amendments to the bill. Those four amendments were considered in the formulation of this bill currently before the parliament.

Student exchange programs offer students the opportunity to attend high school and undertake university studies in another country. International students are critical to the Australian economy and in Australia they are our third largest export. In Queensland in 2016-17, this industry contributed over \$4 billion to our economy. The regulation of overseas students' education and training involves a cooperative model of shared responsibility between the Australian and Queensland governments. The framework comprises the Commonwealth Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 and the national code of practice for providers of education and training to overseas students in the national code and the Queensland Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996.

In Queensland, the Education (Overseas Students) Act 1999 commenced on 7 December 1998 and regulated providers of courses to overseas students. Since then, the national framework has been established pursuant to the Commonwealth Education Services for Overseas Students Act. The Commonwealth act requires providers of education to overseas students to be registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses of Overseas Students. 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 training of overseas students.

Finally, with regard to the amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990, these amendments overhaul the retail trading hours arrangements for the benefit of the community, business and workers and commenced on 31 August 2017. In the course of transferring unchanged provisions from the now rescinded trading hours order into the amended legislation, a provision permitting non-exempt shops to continue to trade on the Easter Saturday public holiday in those regional areas without seven-day trading was inadvertently omitted. As a consequence of the omission, all non-exempt shops in areas without seven-day trading must be closed on the four consecutive Easter public holidays, Good Fridays to Saturdays to Sunday and Easter Monday. The areas affected by this omission included Mount Isa, Goondiwindi, Chinchilla, Kingaroy, Roma, Childers, Blackwater, Bowen, Ayr, Charters Towers, Proserpine, Mission Beach, Cloncurry, Weipa, Nanango, Oakey, Home Hill, Pittsworth, Charleville and Longreach. There was never any intention by the government to stop trading by non-exempt shops on the Easter Saturday public holiday in those areas without seven-day trading. The bill will commence on 30 March 2018 and allow non-exempt shops in areas without seven-day trading to open on Easter Saturday. I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. KJ JONES (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (4.55 pm): I am also very fortunate to be the ministerial champion for international education.

An honourable member interjected.

Ms JONES: I will take that interjection. I am very excited today to have this role on behalf of the Queensland government. I wish Minister Grace all the very best in the Education portfolio, but in this new portfolio of innovation and international education I look forward to bringing some of the learnings from that previous portfolio so we have a strategic approach across government in regard to growing international education.

We have already heard from a number of speakers—and I am pleased to see the significant bipartisan support here today in regard to growing international education here in Queensland—and, certainly, this is something to which we are very committed. In 2016 it was our government that released the international education and training strategy as part of our Advance Queensland agenda. After years where there was not a clear, articulated policy by the previous government, we committed \$25.3 million to growing international education over five years. In fact, our goal is to see international education grow in terms of what a lot of members spoke about today from about \$4 billion to \$7.5 billion, supporting more than 26,000 jobs in Queensland by 2026.

As ministerial champion for international education, I look forward to working with the international education community to grow this great industry by promoting Queensland's strong research and innovation industries as well as supporting affordable and high-quality student accommodation, statewide student hubs and a student-led international student advisory group. Across government, we want ministers having international education focused trade missions to those markets where we want to grow stronger relationships. That is why today I am very pleased to support the minister and this bill before the House, because it modernises the regulations of providers of courses to overseas students and establishes a new legislative regime for the regulation of providers of international student exchange programs.

A lot of the work that happens in international education in Queensland is predominantly in the tertiary and training sectors; however, we host students in school environments as well. Certainly, more than 100 non-state school and 150 state schools provide education to overseas students in Queensland. In fact, in my local community The Gap State High School has a very large Chinese student population and its Mandarin program is very strong—something from which I know all students in that school benefit.

I thank those opposite for their support of this bill. We are doing a lot of work at a state government level, but I take this opportunity to call on the Australian government to continue to ensure Australia's reputation as being a welcoming destination for international students.

Many of the levers that are available for us to grow our international student market sit with the federal government. These are important levers including quality assurance and visas. I want to ensure that I have the bipartisan support of the Queensland parliament to make sure that the Australian government continues to open up further improvements to the visa framework and to maintain Australia and Queensland's competitiveness as a destination to attract these students to our state. What we do not want to see are any restrictions to these visas which would make it harder for students to choose Queensland, particularly regional communities in Queensland.

I recently hosted the international education advisory group in Townsville. This was extremely welcomed by the Townsville community. We were very welcomed in Townsville, but Cairns also sees this as very much part of growing its economy. Certainly, the minister and I would hate to see any restrictions by the federal government that would make it harder for these regional communities at a time when they are trying to grow this market.

Today, during the lunchbreak I was able to pop next door to QUT to hold a China think tank with leaders from across the industry at all levels of education, and the Department of Education was well represented there. I want to thank Scott Sheppard, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of QUT International and Development, for his leadership in this area. We know that China is now the largest segment of international students in Queensland and we as a state government want to continue to see this grow. We absolutely see that our future as an economy is very much linked to the growth in China.

We value our relationship with China very strongly at a state level and we will continue to ensure that everyone understands that we very much see our relationship with China as fundamental to Queensland. As a state government we want to do all we can to continue to see the exchange of people, ideas and knowledge between China and Queensland. We see this very much as a shared relationship where we both have beneficial growth. With those few words, I want to commend all of the people who have worked on this legislation and want to put on the record that I look forward to working closely with the international education community to grow student numbers and to grow jobs here in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (5.01 pm): International students foster long-term goodwill and understanding between our country and others from where students originate. These fond memories of time spent in our state stand us in good stead for the future promotion of our country, our state and our regions. A local school in my electorate that understands the importance of establishing close links to international students is Bundaberg Christian College. In fact, the college is quite proactive in enticing international students to study in the region. The college has groups from Japan that come to visit for a week-long student experience and the college expects the arrival of these students in July this year. The college is also currently liaising with a sister school in Japan regarding one or two senior students who will be arriving later in the year to study at the school for one term.

Interestingly, the college is working with Central Queensland University and other key stakeholders in the region to develop a study cluster in order to attract more international students to the region. While typically locations such as Brisbane, the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Cairns are popular destinations for our international travellers, it seems Bundaberg is considered less popular. Bundaberg and the Burnett region has so much to offer. We are the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef, deliver world-class turtle experiences, experience an ideal climate and are the fruit bowl of the state. Need I say any more? It is hard to believe that we are typically considered less popular than our counterparts. The promotion of this region to international groups is therefore ongoing work and is one which the college and other key stakeholders are committed to.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the good work of Bundaberg Christian College. The college continues to think outside the box and provide its students with unique learning opportunities, academic and biblical foundations to enable each of its students the ability to reach their potential and give them the best start in life. Just last month I joined the students at their junior assembly to talk about reusable Boomerang Bags and the impact of plastic pollution. The college is a big supporter of promoting the importance of cutting back on plastic in our society and how each and every student can make a difference to the environment. In fact, the college was behind the push to get Boomerang Bags up and running in the first place in the region, helping to reduce our reliance on plastics.

I was honoured to join the year 9 students in the lead-up to their Clean Up Australia Day activities where we combed the roadside in an effort to make our region clean and litter free. Students were able to reflect on the impact each and every one of them had on the environment. This initiative is part of the school's Rite Journey program aimed at year 9 students to support their development in becoming responsible and resilient adults. Participating in a community event like this is one of many activities students at Bundaberg Christian College do every year as part of the Rite Journey program.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Burnett, I just remind you of the long title of the bill and bring you back to what we are debating.

Mr BENNETT: International students will also benefit from Rite Journey as it is a program that rejuvenates and reinvigorates the traditional process of a rite of passage in transitioning year 9 students and other international students who participate from dependency to responsibility. The rite program seems to be having a positive impact on these students and is clearly transforming their lives. During the roadside clean-up event I met some respectful young students who were eager to do their bit in the community. It was really wonderful to see and I commend Bundaberg Christian College.

Getting back to the long title of the bill, the bill was referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for consideration, with a report date of 2 March 2018. The committee recommended that the bill be passed. There were no other recommendations. The bill creates a new regime for the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students and international student exchange programs and provides the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority with functions to administer new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems commencing for students entering year 11 in 2019.

It makes minor and technical amendments to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000. On this serious issue, during the election last year the government said that it would implement a no-card no-start policy in relation to closing a loophole in the blue card system. Despite changes in this bill relating to the working with children legislation, Labor has missed the opportunity to make the changes and is exposing those most vulnerable—our children.

The bill amends the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 to provide that larger retailers in regional areas without Sunday or public holiday trading be allowed to open on the public holiday on Easter Saturday. The bill modernises Queensland's legislation to achieve closer alignment with the national framework.

In addressing the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018, one will find not in the title of the bill but parked way down the back in the legislation a serious issue, an important issue. This complete debacle is Labor's trading allowable hours legislation and it is now on the record with many amendments. It has affectionately been called the hot cross bungle. I flagged in August 2017 that we had grave concerns about the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill 2017 as it was proposed then—namely, that it would make it easier for major retailers, particularly Coles and Woolworths, to dominate local community run and owned supermarkets and convenience stores in regional communities like Bundaberg and its surrounds.

The opposition listened but those opposite did not. We identified problems early with smaller hardware stores and motor traders and caravan traders in my region. In the course of transferring unchanged provisions from the now rescinded trading hours order into the amended legislation, a provision permitting non-exempt stores to continue to trade on the Easter Saturday public holiday in those regional areas without seven-day trading was omitted. As a consequence of the omission, all non-exempt shops in areas without seven-day trading were going to be closed over Easter—Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday. Regions affected include areas in my electorate including Childers. The omission of the provision was brought to the attention of the government by the National Retail Association.

Sadly, I can advise the House that we tragically saw the demise of a popular family run hardware store in Bundaberg. Labor ignored the warnings and concerns given by previous submissions to the committee that opposed this, with many claiming that the government's plans were anti community, anti consumer and anti competitive and worked solely in the interests of the major national supermarket chains. There were concerns that the only sectors driving this policy agenda were some union stakeholder groups and large multinationals.

Locally in the Bundaberg region many concerns were raised. The region was on its knees. The policy agenda will affect jobs in my community and in rural Queensland generally and should not be taken lightly or dismissed. I again thank Dale from Takalvans, Brad Solomon from Bundaberg Motor Group, Ross Gray from Ross Gray Holden and Ben Searle for standing up to this regressive legislation as they knew that seven-day trading would have killed off their family run caravan and car businesses. These small businesses know that they would be taken for a ride. Sadly, others have not fared as well.

I always had concerns about this legislation as it dictated which retailers could open their doors and who would be disadvantaged—namely, those local family run small businesses. Labor's policy is all about backing the big end of town—the big businesses over small businesses—and in the end it means that consumers lose out and jobs will be lost.

Despite the claims of those opposite, Bundaberg family owned small businesses told me that the changes would lead to a loss of quality licensed staff who do not want to work all weekend. It would also force an increase in overheads in businesses that are already facing increased financial regulation and running on tight margins.

When all of this started, the legislation was based on recommendations made last year that were not totally independent. Much has been said about that. Community driven, family owned businesses provide vital support and are the heart of our communities. If they are forced to downsize or close their doors, a direct adverse impact right across our communities will be felt. As local businesses close, consumers have less shopping choice, especially in regional Queensland. This is a reality. As local businesses close, there are few options for consumers in our regions.

More market dominance means that it is easier for major operators to increase prices. History has shown that that occurs especially with fresh produce—something on which my region depends. Queenslanders lose jobs because jobs lost in the independent stores are replaced in the major chains and sometimes workers are paid at half the penalty rates. One would think that those opposite would be concerned about those impacts on our communities.

When we shop in our local community supermarkets, our money stays in our communities' economy rather than going off to the head office of a multinational company. Keeping money local supports our local businesses and community ventures. As we know, there are nearly 800 independent supermarket operators employing near 21,000 staff. Nearly \$3 billion is spent in Queensland alone. This is now seriously under threat and should not be ignored.



Mr COSTIGAN (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.15 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, as you would know, education is big business. It certainly provides a lot of opportunities across Queensland for people who are engaged in that sector. As I recall, it is worth \$3 billion to the Queensland economy. Like many other honourable members of this House have said in this debate, I want to acknowledge those who work in our education sector.

There is no doubt that North Queensland is no stranger to international students. In fact, we see that at every Cowboys game at 1300SMILES Stadium, where there are students from Papua New Guinea who go to St Teresa's College Abergowrie. I see the member for Cook has pricked her ears. That would resonate with her and other members of parliament who represent areas of North Queensland. The situation in my electorate is no different. When I think of international students, straightaway I think of the schools in my beloved Whitsunday islands. A lot of people forget that the islands are communities in their own right.

Mr Krause: Hamilton Island.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take that interjection from the member for Scenic Rim, who mentioned Hamilton Island—a school that is more than 30 years old and which has a great history of having international students. Why? It is because of hardworking people coming to Queensland for opportunity. That is something that I am sure we need to be working hard on. I know that this side of the House is working hard to create those opportunities. People come to work in the tourism sector, so we have international students at Hamilton Island State School, such as from the Philippines. I think last year there was a student from Macedonia at Hamilton Island State School. There is a great history of people working in the full spectrum of the tourism industry on Hamilton Island sending their children to Hamilton Island State School. It is not the smallest school in my electorate and it is not the only school on the Whitsundays islands. A lot of people do not realise that Hayman Island also has a school.

Mr Minnikin: What a gig.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth. It is the northernmost school in my electorate and it is the smallest school.

Mr Lister: Are you going to check it out?

Mr COSTIGAN: I take that interjection from my new friend and colleague the member for Southern Downs. I will do a John Cougar Mellencamp and check it out. I am no stranger to Hayman Island State School. It is only a small school, particularly after Cyclone Debbie, but it has international students from the Pacific islands—from Tuvalu, Kiribati—as well as South Africa and the Philippines. The parents of those kids are working in the tourism industry on Hayman Island, which I sometimes romantically refer to as Royal Hayman as it was then known in the halcyon days of Sir Reginald Ansett, because that is when the school started. That school has a great history of students coming to it from throughout the world. I commend the teachers there.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take that interjection from the Manager of Opposition Business. His sister worked at Hayman Island until the intervention by that wicked witch called Cyclone Debbie.

The building continues on Hamilton Island after Cyclone Debbie. The population of the school is down to three students. It is my fear that that school will close. I do not want to see the school close. I appeal to the minister not to close the Hayman Island State School so as to grow tourism in the place that I call paradise and attract those parents—those mums and dads—who are passionate about tourism. Some of them have worked in exotic places around the globe and have to come to the Great Barrier Reef. It is a great opportunity for them. If they have the opportunity to educate their kids on the island, it becomes a much more attractive proposition. We do not need a penny-pinching education minister. I will give the minister the benefit of the doubt. We need to keep the Hayman Island State School open. It has a great history. In fact, on its 60th anniversary I took a cake over to the school—happy 60 years for Hayman Island State School with those international students.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Whitsunday, I appreciate where you are heading, but can you come back to the long title of the bill.

An honourable member: It was good stuff.

Mr COSTIGAN: I thought it was pretty good stuff. I will talk about visas for international students. Recently, one of my constituents, Mr Peter Burns, contacted my office. He has an issue with his stepdaughter, who is an international student.

Mr Power: That's a federal issue.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take that interjection from the member for Logan. It is not a federal issue, because the state school has basically said, 'Yes, you can come. Bring your child here, but it will cost you a fortune.' I am told that the immigration department has told Mr Burns that the bridging visa allows his stepdaughter, Tuyet Anh Thi Le, to go to Proserpine State High School. Mr Deputy Speaker, with your professional background, I am sure that this issue will be of interest to you. Tuyet and her mother are here on bridging visas while they await the issuing of their permanent visas. That could take up to 12 months.

I am told that the department of immigration has told Mr Burns that the bridging visa would allow Tuyet to attend school. She is 16 years of age. Mr Burns approached the state high school to enrol his stepdaughter. They advised him that there would be an enrolment fee of \$194. Of course, he was happy to pay that, but then he was told that there would be an additional fee of \$398 a week for his stepdaughter to attend school. Mr Burns cannot afford that. He is concerned and I am concerned that his stepdaughter is falling behind. I will be writing to the relevant ministers. There is some impasse between the federal and state governments that needs to be resolved, because Tuyet is an international student who is in a situation where she is going to fall behind. Mr Deputy Speaker, I know you are passionate about education. Without education, what do we have for our citizens of tomorrow?

I will not go over the ground that has been covered already by members on both sides of the House in relation to the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. I acknowledge my great friend the member for Surfers Paradise for his work in this very important area of public policy. I also pay tribute to a man who has been passionate about international students, the late Billy Molloy. For many years he was a Mackay city councillor. Mackay is a sister city of Matsuura in Japan. I think the member for Mackay touched on this in her contribution to the debate on this bill. The late Billy Molloy is remembered through an English speaking essay competition that students at Matsuura in Japan are invited to enter. When it comes to international students, there is a great relationship and history between Matsuura and the city that I represent in this place, the great city of Mackay.

I will go to the small business component of this bill, which has been touched on by members on this side of the House. I love hot cross buns, but I am not so big on the hot cross bungle. I thank the National Retail Association for putting this issue on the menu. It has been very messy and it has been outlined very clearly by members on this side of the House.


Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South. It has been a dog's breakfast. I know many people in small business in Proserpine. Proserpine was one of those towns that was going to be affected. I watched upstairs in my office the contribution by the member for Gregory and I heard him refer to the tourist season in his area, which starts at Easter. The situation is no different for the Whitsundays, with the grey nomads visiting places such as Dingo Beach, Queens Beach, Bowen, Proserpine and Airlie Beach at that time. I represent in this place the great sugar milling town of Proserpine, the town where I proudly rode my horse—it was mine for the day, anyway—up the main street telling those pesky, stinking greenies to get out of my town the day before last year's election. Small business operators in that town, such as Sophie Camm at Cherrie Baby, the good people of Proserpine Pies and Pastries, Robert and Sue Filby from Filby's Motors—great Toyota dealers and I saw them last Friday night at the Cowboys launch in Townsville—Maria Plemenuk from Whitsunday Hair Studio and Barbara Cochrane from Fresh Fields newsagency were going to be impacted. Let us not sugar-coat this. Imagine coming into Proserpine on Easter Saturday and finding the place is closed!

The minister has some form in relation to scratchings. If we go back to what happened with the Racing portfolio, we had more scratchings than a year's program at Eagle Farm and Doomben put together. There were a lot of scratchings. This is a bit of fix-up work, but better late than never. The people of Proserpine can breathe a sigh of relief. Proserpine has had tough times on the back of Cyclone Debbie. I am sure the members of the Proserpine Chamber of Commerce, of which I am a proud member, its president Chris Patrick and secretary Karen Vloedmans, will be breathing a sigh of relief. I might leave it there.

An opposition member: No! More! More!

Mr COSTIGAN: I would like to have a bit longer but I will not move for an extension of time. As they say in the classics, better late than never. I support the bill before the House.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.20 pm): I support the Education (Overseas Students) Bill. The member for Whitsunday has gone on yet another rollicking romp through his electorate. I thank him for his contribution. I take the member to task though. He did forget to mention the Cannonvale State School. I will be letting the principal know about that.

I thank the committee for its work on this bill. I had the great privilege in 2009 to join a program called the Australia Latin America Leadership Program, which brings together young leaders from Latin America and Australia with a view to building long-term links between our regions. It was a very worthwhile program to be a part of. The majority of the participants came from a surprising sector. There were many from mining, there were many from the finance sector, from the agricultural sector and the energy sector, but by far the largest group were from the tertiary education sector. It was my first exposure to this sector. I worked with young people who built a career in this sector both in Latin America and in Australia and it was really the first time that I came to understand the significant economic benefits to Australia from this sector and the challenges that sector faces with the movement in the Australian dollar. It was a real eye-opener for me.


There are many significant immediate economic and cultural benefits from these types of programs. We have students paying rent, earning income and paying taxes while they are here and contributing to our diverse multicultural society. There are longer term benefits. I know for a fact that that program, which was nearly 10 years ago now, has yielded many relationships that have gone on to create business opportunities and opportunities for government and social and educational exchange between the two regions of Australia and Latin America. These will have significant long-term benefits for our entire community. Many of these benefits start with people being involved in the overseas education sector.

I see the benefits of the overseas education sector in my own community. There is a very large building being constructed on the border of my electorate in the electorate of South Brisbane at Buranda which will be filled with students from overseas. They will bring much prosperity into our local community. I meet many students when I am out doorknocking and visiting local schools. The students I meet in our local schools are very enthusiastic about the opportunities they have received to come here to Australia and participate in our educational process. I also meet many students who have gone in the other direction as well.

The principals and teachers in my electorate—in fact, my good friend the member for Mansfield would have told me about this in her time at Cavendish Road State High School—talk about the significant benefits of having overseas students in our schools. The Palaszczuk government rightly prioritises support for all aspects of the overseas students sector. This government prioritises all aspects of our education sector, unlike those opposite who sit silently while the Turnbull government takes cuts to all aspects of our education sector. No part of our sector is safe from Malcolm. I do not think he has seen a part of the education sector he does not want to cut back.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr KELLY: I will take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth. Maybe he will leave the boatsheds alone. This bill supports the overseas students sector by streamlining many processes. It will make it easier to manage and support students in both the high school and the tertiary sectors. We continue to improve and refine the way we manage this sector. It is incredibly important for our community economically, socially and culturally. It is incredibly important in securing our future as a state. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.25 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. While the bill is primarily an education bill with some useful measures in it, it has an unusual inclusion of a trade issue regarding Easter trading tacked onto it and without due recognition of that in the bill's title. I will focus my comments on the education issues, noting the contributions of those on our side about the government's mess on Easter trading.

It has been my pleasure, prior to my nine years in parliament, to have a career in education as well as international aid and development and chaplaincy work. Having been fortunate to receive a good public school education, including at three Queensland universities, my education career has included TAFE teaching in science, high school tutoring, tertiary level lecturing in multiculturalism, Aboriginal and Islander education and intercultural preparation courses for Australians travelling overseas in volunteers abroad type programs. I have also had the opportunity to travel widely overseas and to see where many of the international students originate from, particularly Asian students, and to find out what they hope to gain from a student exchange in Australia. Many Asian countries, like China, India, Japan and Malaysia, send their students to Australia because they can receive a good education

for a reasonable price and in a safe place. It is a highly competitive sector and Brisbane and other Queensland cities must compete with other Australian capital cities as well as with the USA, Canada, Europe and the UK for the growing Asian student market.

As the local member for the Cleveland district seat of Oodgeroo, education has always been an important portfolio to me. Achieving local outcomes for our primary and secondary schools, our Redland City TAFE and other tertiary education providers is important. What is clear, however, is that this government is failing to provide the best education possible for Queensland students, with Queensland often lagging behind most other states year by year despite the excellent work done by our teachers and other educators and allied staff. Queensland is consistently one of the worst performing states in Australia, whether considering primary school students assessed through NAPLAN tests or the rate of students pursuing higher education according to a recent Deloitte report.

With respect to education, the bill does a number of things. It replaces the regulatory systems used in our state to monitor and ensure compliance for both Australian students attending overseas educational institutions and foreign students attending our institutions here in Queensland. This will align Queensland's regulatory systems with national guidelines in other states of Australia, including Victoria and Tasmania, which have established similar regimes. With numbers last recorded in November 2017, there were 5,678 students utilising international programs throughout Queensland. Ensuring each of these thousands of young people receive an education at the highest standard is very important to our future and to theirs.

Another purpose of the bill is to amend the Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act to support the implementation of the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems. While the new systems value school based assessment processes, they add external assessment tasks in order to ensure universality and conformity across Queensland.

In terms of the seat of Oodgeroo, Cleveland district schools have an excellent reputation for exchange study programs with foreign countries. The Cleveland district and Redland City provide a great location for international students, with exceptional exchange programs in both the urban and rural environments of the beautiful Redlands, which is only a short ferry ride across Moreton Bay to North Stradbroke Island. The relatively short distance to Brisbane City and the Gold Coast makes Redland City an ideal location for international students, and they come by the thousands.

One example is the exchange program run by Cleveland District State High School, which operates one of the CRICOS programs for registered international students. Having hosted international students for more than a decade, Cleveland District State High School puts on a great program that not only involves experiencing South-East Queensland but also includes a trip to Cairns to see the beauty of tropical North Queensland. In the first term of 2018, 42 international students are studying at Cleveland District State High School. Some are here long term and are intending to study at Australian universities when they complete high school, while others are here for short-term stays. Those numbers are expected to climb to more than 60 in the third term of this year.

Our students come from a range of different countries, including the Philippines, Norway, Brazil, Papua New Guinea, China, Italy, Japan, Austria, Germany, India and Vietnam among others. Within the Redlands, the majority of students live in homestay accommodation with Australian families. Our international students give glowing endorsements of the program and regularly say how much they have enjoyed the experience. Today, time does not allow me to elaborate on the many individual stories and reports that have been made by international students, but their experiences are overwhelmingly positive.

It is not just the international students who benefit from being here and seeing our amazing state. As stated on the school's website, the international student exchange program—

... broadens the perceptions of domestic students ... offering firsthand information about other cultures and countries previously gleaned only from textbooks or electronic media. The exchange of knowledge and opinions which occurs between domestic students and international students is a powerful one.

As parliamentarians, we are here discussing these amendments to the legislation because we are aiming to improve international student programs that benefit our students and broaden their perspectives.


While on the topic of Cleveland District State High School, it is important to note that 2,000 or so students, both domestic and international, will benefit from the new indoor auditorium currently under construction that the school community and I had been calling for over many years. The growth of the

school community has put significant pressure on the school's facilities and will continue to do so as the population increases in the area. Cleveland District State High School will continue to need investment in buildings if it is to continue to keep up with domestic and international student demand.

Today in the parliament I again raise this need and ask the education minister to immediately approve the new buildings that are needed and under consideration at this time or risk substantial overcrowding in the current facilities. Approvals are needed now so that construction can begin as soon as possible. In the medium to long term, more land will be needed for the school's expansion, again to cater for current domestic and international growth, or alternatively a new high school could be built nearby. One option is for the government to consider the DPI land at Ormiston, which Cleveland District State High School could potentially share with the DPI.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Oodgeroo, I bring you back to the long title of the bill, rather than the topic you are on now.

Dr ROBINSON: Certainly. I was just coming to a conclusion. The education measures contained in the bill are important and I support them in as much as they will assist in providing students in the Cleveland district and overseas students in exchange programs with a better education. I support the bill.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (5.34 pm): I too rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. From the outset, as I always do, I thank all education committee members from the 55th Parliament and the 56th Parliament who participated in the review of this legislation. Both committees recommended that the bill be passed. The objective of the bill is to create a regime for the regulation of overseas student courses and international exchange programs. The current regulatory framework is a shared responsibility between the federal and Queensland governments. The Commonwealth act sets out the legislative requirements for education and training providers that provide courses for overseas students studying in Australia on a student visa.

As most speakers in the chamber tonight have done, I give a big shout out to my local Rotary clubs, which run wonderful exchange programs that certainly give our school students a taste of different cultures. Early last year, a Brazilian student came here and learnt some good old Aussie slang at an Aussie school. She certainly appreciated the top-class educational facilities we have in this country. I think in part she really did not want to return home because of the wonderful friends she had made here. Exchange programs build a cultural bridge between Australian students and those from countries such as Brazil and Japan. There are plenty of Japanese exchange students in my local schools.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take the interjection from the member for Scenic Rim: she was an exchange student here many years ago. The current Queensland framework does not meet the national framework expectations. This bill aligns the state legislation with the national framework in a way that removes any doubling up.

In the 55th Parliament, the education committee made four recommendations and I wish to talk about recommendation No. 2. The committee recommended that the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017 be amended to limit the type of amendments to an approval that may be made by the chief executive without prior notification to an approval holder. The department made some comments around this, which are outlined in the 56th Parliament's committee report. I believe that the intent of the previous committee was to limit the amendments made by the chief executive officer that had potential restrictions. Sending a notification to providers and informing them that this is what is going on will give them a right of reply. That was my only concern when originally reading through the bill.

The bill includes provisions for the administration of new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems under the authority of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority. I was on the education committee for nearly six years before I took on my new role as a deputy whip. The member for Surfers Paradise got the ball rolling to bring us into line with other states in setting up the Australian Tertiary Administration Rank, or ATAR, score to replace the old OP system that was around when I went to school, which is quite a fair few years ago.

I wish to keep my contribution short. Obviously, this bill ensures that we come into line with other jurisdictions. Just to filibuster a little for the benefit of the member for Scenic Rim, we have some really good educational facilities in the Theodore electorate. I give a big shout out to my local principals for the wonderful work they do, as well as to the teachers in my electorate. Certainly, being a teacher can be trying at times, as they work at the coalface to ensure that the needs of students are met. I will finish my contribution there.



Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (5.39 pm): In making some comments to this bill, can I say that we have some fantastic secondary schools in the Scenic Rim electorate. As the son of a schoolteacher I take my hat off to teachers and principals alike. I know we have some in this chamber. They do a great job for our community. Tamborine Mountain State High School was recently shown as 14th in the OP rankings for the category of OP 1 to 5. That school, along with Beaudesert State High School, Boonah State High School, McAuley College in Beaudesert, Emmaus College Jimboomba and the Kooralbyn International School, will be affected by the changes to the senior assessment process in Queensland.

This process was started quite a few years ago, as many other speakers have said. A review was undertaken in 2014 and decisions were made by the then government of the day to change the senior assessment process and bring in a different ranking system for tertiary entrance. It is an important change that brings Queensland into line with most other parts of Australia, if not all of Australia. People undertaking planning in schools and even students undertaking planning have had to take into account these changes.

About 18 months ago I had representations made to me by a couple of teachers in my electorate who were planning curriculum for the coming years at their schools. They were disappointed that the Labor government of the day decided to delay the implementation of the changes to senior assessment by a year because they had already made plans for their curriculum and hired teachers for particular courses on the basis that this system would commence in 2018. In fact, they even had students who were planning their pathways on the basis of particular subjects being offered and particular pathways being put in place.

Whilst it is coming about, it has been delayed a year. It needs to be recognised that that delay caused consternation for some schools in terms of the planning that was undertaken, the hiring of staff and the planning of assessment or courses to be undertaken by students. Nonetheless, we support the change to move away from wholly internal assessment with a system of moderation to a system that has some form of external assessment built into it. As other members have probably noted, the new senior assessment system will generally use external assessment for 25 per cent of the overall subject result in most senior subjects and 50 per cent of the overall subject result in senior mathematics and science subjects.

As the member for Theodore noted as well, the bill also formalises a system for the accreditation of overseas exchange programs. He mentioned that Rotary clubs in his electorate take in exchange students from overseas. The Rotary Club of Beaudesert takes a number of exchange students every year. It is a wonderful opportunity not only for our local community to receive those people on exchange but also for the people coming from overseas to experience the wonderful Australian way of life, and in particular the wonderful lifestyle we have in the Scenic Rim.

The other part of the bill that I want to talk about is the amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act. It seems not that long ago that we were in this place talking about another trading hours bill. The bill we are debating tonight addresses yet another stuff-up by the Minister for Industrial Relations in relation to trading hours. It just goes to show that the government cannot get it right when it comes to small business.

We have this bill that is fixing up a stuff-up from last year. We remember the Racing Integrity Bill, which the member for Whitsunday referred to earlier, where the government had to vote against so many of its own provisions because it could not get it right. Hopefully, they have it right this time and will not have to rely on the National Retail Association to do their research work for them. One would have thought that, with all the staff that the government has at its disposal, it would be able to get a simple thing like trading on Easter Saturday correct.

Mr Bleijie: They hate Easter. I told you.

Mr KRAUSE: I will take that interjection from the member for Kawana. It is a big stuff-up. In the last bill they brought into this place they proposed extending trading hours to Sunday for motor dealers across this state. It was a proposal put out without any consultation. That would have had dire consequences for motor dealers across the state. Of course, the government and Minister Grace were forced to retreat from that position, tail between their legs. They stuffed that up as well.

We get used to seeing the stuff-ups of this government in this place. We saw it last term with the introduction of the vegetation management legislation. No doubt we will be seeing it again this term. That will represent yet another stuff-up from this government. We will oppose those measures when they come into this place because we are a team that understands what needs to occur for small businesses and business in this state to flourish. The government needs to get out of their way when it comes to regulation. The government needs to facilitate conditions that enable private sector jobs to be


created and not put up needless regulation, especially in the agricultural sector, where there are so many other factors weighing against those people in the agricultural sector. They do not need more vegetation management regulations put in place.

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I have been very flexible in this debate, but I think when we start talking about vegetation I think we have gone off the title of the bill just a bit. My point of order relates to relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): The member will come back to the bill.

Mr KRAUSE: There are probably a number of schools in my electorate that have forestry plots which will probably be affected by vegetation management laws. I will come back to where I started with this point. This bill represents the fixing up of yet another stuff-up by the government.

I spoke about motor dealers. I will also speak about small hardware shop owners. They are affected by this bill. The bill extends trading hours in certain regional areas to fix the government's mishap from last year. Whilst it is welcome that they are fixing this up, it would have been better if they had not got it wrong in the first place. We live in hope.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.47 pm): 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.

The substantive amendments contained in this bill were contained in the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017 and considered by the former Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. I thank those members of the former committee for their consideration of the 2017 bill and the stakeholders who provided submissions to the former committee.

On 15 September 2017, the former committee tabled its report on the 2017 bill and in that report the former committee made three recommendations for amendment. These recommendations were 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 Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018 creates a new regime for the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students and international student exchange programs, provides the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority with functions to administer the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems for students entering year 11 in 2019, amends the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 and makes other minor and technical miscellaneous amendments.


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 per cent of the overall subject result in mathematics and science subjects and 25 per cent 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.

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. When we roll out the new system in 2019, we want to

get it right and ensure that it remains strong for many years to come. We want what is best for Queensland students, so our government took the advice of our key education stakeholders because we will not risk rushing this reform process. We will deliver a world-class curriculum and learning and assessment system for teachers, students, parents and the wider community.

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 that all schooling sectors, the QCAA and QTAC support the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (5.52 pm): It is a privilege to stand in this House today to speak in support of the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. What the education system provides for this country, especially this state and the schools in our local areas, is underestimated. When I was a member of the education committee, I learnt that one of the universities had a turnover of nearly \$2 billion. That gives members an idea of what some of our universities mean to our society and especially what that means to some of our local schools as well.


The regulation of overseas student education and training involves a cooperative model of shared responsibility between the Australian and Queensland governments. It is up to the federal government to give out visas to students coming to Australia, but it is good to have a regulation like this to ensure that the standard of our courses in Australia is maintained so that we can keep providing education to overseas students. When we look at it like that, education is a big employer in this country.

I asked the Fraser Coast Anglican College this morning to provide some figures and they have got back to me. Last year they had 18 full-fee-paying international students, one exchange student—which is usually through the Rotary Club of Hervey Bay, and it is always good for students to have that experience overseas—and 384 students visiting in short study tours. Some students who visit come back to this country to get a full education. When we think about the number of students travelling throughout Australia, 384 is a significant number travelling to Hervey Bay. Hervey Bay is a young city and it is growing fast. We are trying to build up the education industry in Hervey Bay. The Sunshine Coast university has a presence in Hervey Bay. It also has a presence on Fraser Island at Dilli Village, where a lot of American students visit to learn about the ecotourism business.

This does not just benefit the education industry. When there are nearly 400 students coming through Hervey Bay, they need accommodation, so it is also good for the tourism industry. Next year the Fraser Coast Anglican College is expecting 15 full-paying international students, one exchange student and over 300 students visiting in short-term study tours. That number will certainly grow by the end of the year.

The Fraser Coast Anglican College is unique because of an afternoon there are always kangaroos on the oval. That gives a lot of international students a real experience of what Australia has to offer. I will always remember when one group of Japanese students went over to Fraser Island and laid on the ground, looked up and saw stars for the first time in their lives. They had never seen stars in the sky before like they did on Fraser Island, especially when in the rainforest looking up through the trees. They were amazed at just how many stars were in the sky.

We do not publicise what the education industry is worth to Queensland and especially to all of our local communities throughout the state. In Hervey Bay, we have St James Lutheran College, Xavier Catholic College, Urangan State High School and Hervey Bay State High School. As I said before, we also have the presence of the Sunshine Coast university. I would like to pay tribute to all of the teachers who make a difference to a lot of students around the world.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.57 pm): I, too, would like to speak to the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. At the outset, having been married for 25 years to my wife, who has taught for 25 years, I give a special call-out to all teachers—those who teach international students as well as those who teach domestic students.

Mr Watts: Make us all look bad.

Mr MINNIKIN: Absolutely. International education, as has been said by previous speakers, is an extremely important part of our trade opportunities. It contributes to Queensland's overall economy. Indeed, in my fair electorate of Chatsworth, I am very proud to have San Sisto College, which is a girls' college. They often have overseas students attend that college. They do an absolutely wonderful job as ambassadors not just for the nations that are visiting but for the students who are members of the San Sisto fraternity. They do a wonderful job. Sadly, another college that I formerly had in my electorate of Chatsworth until the redistribution late last year was Whites Hill State College, which now resides in the electorate of Greenslopes. Whites Hill State College also has a proud tradition of welcoming overseas students. My final point before I get into the substance of this bill is that I was very proud, not too far from this august chamber, to teach and tutor international students myself at QUT many, many years ago.

The substance of the bill itself is one of our largest service exports, contributing just under \$3 billion a year to our overall state economy—that was back in 2015—in terms of export revenue, supporting 19,000 jobs. Academic excellence, competitive living costs and a safe and healthy lifestyle is what makes Queensland an ideal place for international students to study. In fact, late last year—a matter of days before the state election—I was very honoured during caretaker mode to attend an international students forum. It was a joint bipartisan approach with the current Speaker, Mr Curtis Pitt, who represented the government in relation to the international students awards.

It really brought home to me on that particular night, literally just before the state election late last year, just how important international students are not just to our economy, as outlined earlier, but also in terms of the fabric of making those lifelong connections. It was very endearing to hear that many of them wanted to come back in the future to visit Australia and bring back their family and their friends. They also wanted to take away little touchstones from our culture as well and to intersperse it with their own. I think that is a truly wondrous thing.

I note from the background that on 15 February the Minister for Education, Minister Grace, introduced the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018 into the Queensland parliament. As many members would know, the bill was referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for consideration, and that report was due on 2 March. The committee recommended that the bill be passed. I also note that the LNP position is to not oppose this bill. There were no other recommendations.

The provisions and objectives of the bill are largely consistent with the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017—from last year—which was examined and reported on by this committee's predecessor, the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. That bill was yet to be debated when the previous parliament was dissolved and, therefore, lapsed on dissolution. The bill's specific objectives, if we look at the education component, were to create a new regime for the regulation of providers of courses to overseas students and international student exchange programs; to provide the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority with functions to administer new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems commencing for students entering year 11 in 2019.

It also goes on to make minor and technical amendments to the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000; and, lastly, amending the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990 to provide that larger retailers of non-exempt shops in regional areas without Sunday or public holiday trading—in other words, seven-day trading—be allowed to open on the public holiday. I will return later to spend a little bit of time on that objective of the bill.

Minister Grace has advised of two key differences to the lapsed bill incorporated as additional amendments: firstly, in response to a recommendation of the former ETISB committee, amendments to ensure that information or documents obtained by the regulator of authorised compliance officers under a 'help requirement' cannot be used in proceedings other than for offences created by the bill or about the false or misleading nature of the information or documents as intended to better safeguard rights against self-incrimination; and, secondly, the bill's amendments to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990, and, again, I will come back to that one.

In relation to overseas students, as has been said by previous speakers, schools providing education to overseas students are regulated through a cooperative legislative model between the Commonwealth and the states and territories. The cooperative model includes the Commonwealth legislation and the national code, the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018. Currently, schools must meet requirements of the Commonwealth and the Queensland legislation and they must be registered on both the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students, known as CRICOS, and the Queensland register.

Very importantly—and we on this side of the chamber note—the bill attempts to modernise Queensland's legislative framework to achieve closer alignment with the national framework. In particular, the bill removes the duplicated requirements for separate Queensland registration, better reflects the matters the director-general needs to consider under the national framework when considering whether to approve a school for the CRICOS qualification and also enhances the director-general's powers for monitoring and compliance.


The legislative regime also established by the bill will continue to reflect the consistent national approach to regulation of student exchange organisations. On that particular point, I also note that previous speakers have spoken about particular student exchange programs in their electorates. I am very proud to note that the Carindale Rotary Club, which I am very proud to represent in this chamber, has probably one of the stellar examples of that in the greater Brisbane area.

I also know that the senior assessment and tertiary entrance system will also be modified. From 2020 Queensland will move from the current OP position. I fondly recall some of the speakers from both sides of the chamber talking about when they first entered school and about receiving one of the very first OP marks. I guess I do need to be carbon dated because I am from the era of the TE system, which goes back even before the OP system. I was waiting for an interjection from Minister Grace to say, 'Indeed, member for Chatsworth, you wouldn't know it from looking at you,' but there was no interjection forthcoming. I can proudly say I can see the TE system morphed into the OP system, but now we are going to align with the rest of the states around Australia and introduce the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank.

Mr Bleijie: Did you do that on a slate?

Mr MINNIKIN: I also note that, because he has attention deficit disorder, sometimes the member for Kawana would dearly like me to take the interjection. As tempting as it is on this occasion because of the fine interjection it was, I will have to respectfully decline because I have other matters to consider before me in my remaining two minutes. The Australian Tertiary Admission Rank, the ATAR, which as I have said already all other states and territories use, ranks eligible year 12 students. It is a very sensible amendment.

I enjoy a robust relationship with the minister, but I have to say it is absolutely ridiculous that here we are talking about a specific bill referred to as the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018 and yet snuck into this particular bill when we look at some of the talking points are actual amendments to the trading hours. It absolutely defies all wisdom and convention that we see this when we look at the vast number of resources and staff at the minister's disposal. Yet again, if we are talking about education and looking at the course work in front of me, I would sadly have to give it a big fail. It is absolutely abysmal. Here we are literally with four seconds to go—the mark is a big fat 'F'. Better luck next time!

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (6.07 pm), in reply: After that wounding I really do not know how I am going to cope! Honestly, it was like a wet lettuce leaf.

I thank all honourable members for their contribution to this debate on the Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2018. The bill seeks to replace the Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996 with a new act that will regulate providers of courses to overseas students and providers of international student exchange programs. I have taken on board a lot of what was said. It is a really important program. This is fantastic for the state. It is great for the students who come here and it is great for our students who go overseas. In Queensland we have over a hundred non-state schools and 150 state schools that provide education to overseas students. In the 2016-17 financial year international education provided a significant contribution to the Queensland economy and we have a policy that we want to grow that economic contribution.

In addition, in 2017, 144 international students and 162 Queensland students participated in student exchange programs. This new regulatory framework established by this bill better reflects Queensland's role and responsibilities under the national framework for the regulation of providers of education to overseas students and provides the department with appropriate regulatory and oversight powers to safeguard the welfare of students participating in international student exchange programs.

The bill also supports the implementation of the very important new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems, which the Palaszczuk government committed to introduce for students entering year 11 in 2019. In addition, as mentioned earlier, the bill also amends the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act to ensure that non-exempt shops may continue to trade on the Easter Saturday public

holiday in those regional areas without seven-day trading. This amendment will ensure that businesses and consumers in the affected regional towns have early notice and the assurance that existing Easter Saturday trading arrangements will remain in place.

I will now address some of the matters raised by honourable members during the course of the debate. I will begin with the title of the bill and the concerns of the member for Kawana and others that it did not incorporate 'and other amendments'. I am sure the opposition well knows that the Department of Education receives advice from the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel with regard to the naming of the bill. The member for Kawana should be aware that references to other legislation amended by the bill is referred to in the long title of the bill but not in the short title of the bill.

The fact that the member for Kawana raised this concern is not surprising, coming from a former attorney-general who brought legislation to this House that was unconstitutional. If you talk about people in glass houses, you would swear that the member for Kawana has never made an error. Let me refresh his memory. Let me cast his mind back to 4 June 2014 when the former member for Callide, the then deputy premier, had to move an amendment outside the long title of his Sustainable Planning (Infrastructure Charges) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to fix the member for Kawana's mistakes—the unconstitutional parts that were in the bill.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think it was you, Mr Deputy Speaker Robinson, who ruled against the member for Beaudesert talking about vegetation management during his contribution, and I think the minister is now diverting outside the long title and the short title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Yes, the minister will return to the bill. I did allow a little latitude on the issue of the long title of the bill only because it had come up in some of the speeches. If the minister could return to the bill, that would help.

Ms GRACE: When you talk about someone with a glass jaw, let me tell you. Then he bungled the hold harmless clause and moved the wrong amendment in that particular legislation. *Hansard* will show that he moved a massive 169 amendments during the consideration in detail stage to the two industrial relations bills. They had a majority in this House of 66 seats and he could not even get it right with that many seats. In relation to people in glass houses, I think the member for Kawana should probably keep quiet and accept it. When it comes to the alternative universe he resides in, he says as if it is fact that somehow in the trading hours legislation we had not planned for a systemic introduction of the bills. The fact is that it was streamlined. It was all done and it was all introduced according to our time frames, but it does not change the way the member for Kawana keeps talking about it.

I will now move to the contribution of the member for Currumbin, who at least raised a pertinent matter concerning this bill. I thank the member for Currumbin for her concern about the QCAA's capacity to purchase and revise assessments for use as external assessments. I can assure the member that this was addressed in committee. The response to this matter is on the public record. The Department of Education provided clear written advice to the former committee outlining that this is similar to existing syllabus functions of the QCAA.

The new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems are, without doubt, reforms involving complex interrelated systems that will impact over 50,000 year 12 students and their families each year. This government is a responsive government and a responsible government. We have listened to the QCAA's recommendation that schools and teachers be provided with more time to ensure they are fully prepared for the new arrangements. This is not a simple transition. The Palaszczuk government listened to the stakeholders across schools in state and non-state school sectors and the tertiary education sector, which uniformly—let me repeat that for those opposite—which uniformly supported the revised time frame. This is the stark contrast between the Palaszczuk government and those opposite. We listen, act responsibly and take matters seriously.

Another stark contrast is all of the self-congratulating coming from those opposite throughout today about their involvement with the review of the senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems. This government is focused on action and being responsive to the needs of Queensland, not just talk and patting each other on the back. Let us be clear about this: the opposition did not invest one dollar in the implementation of the new systems. The Palaszczuk government has invested \$72.9 million over five years in progressing the introduction of the new systems. This includes \$27.5 million in 2017-18 which provides funding to the QCAA and QTAC to prepare for implementation in 2019. There is an enormous amount of work required for this transition, and this funding is there to ensure—as the member for Townsville and the member for Mansfield, as former principals, would rightly know—that the training, the syllabus and the curriculum is all in place so that students can smoothly transition to this new system.

Under this government the following has been done to progress the new systems: a new SATE was guided by the ministerial Senior Secondary Assessment Taskforce. This task force was informed by representation from parent groups, secondary principals' associations, teachers' unions and tertiary institutions. The QCAA is redeveloping senior syllabuses, including 46 general and 25 applied subjects. During 2016 and 2017 more than 40,000 year 11 students in approximately 350 state and non-state schools participated in external assessment trials. We had to implement a trial system to be sure that this goes smoothly for those students. In 2017 joint information sessions were held by the QCAA and QTAC. In July 2017 the QCAA commenced a program of fully funded workshops for teachers on planning, teaching and assessment using the redeveloped general syllabus.

With all of this work being done, is it any surprise that the QCAA and all of the stakeholders have supported a delay in the implementation of the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems? It is only a matter of common sense from the responsive, serious, getting-on-with-business government that the Palaszczuk government represents. People would only be surprised if they were out of touch and so far removed from the real needs of education in Queensland—like the opposition is—that they raised the concerns they did time and time again during this debate. This is a government that listens to Queenslanders and acts and implements what we said we were going to implement along lines that ensure a smooth transition. I again thank all those involved with the development of this bill. I thank the committee for its report. I am very pleased there is bipartisan support for this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 150, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (6.19 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (6.19 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

POLICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (IDENTITY AND BIOMETRIC CAPABILITY) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 15 February (see p. 89).

Second Reading



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.20 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018 addresses three important legislative priorities for the Palaszczuk government. First, the bill provides a legislative framework to facilitate Queensland's participation in the identity-matching services made

possible under the national facial biometric-matching capability. Secondly, the bill overcomes current limitations in the Criminal Code in adequately addressing the threat of homemade explosives. Lastly, the bill provides for extended liquor trading arrangements for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee has examined the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. I take this opportunity to table a copy of the government's response to the report.

Tabled paper: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report No. 1, 56th Parliament—Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill, government response [261].

The committee makes the recommendation that the bill be passed, for which I thank the committee. The committee also makes a recommendation that the amendments in this bill that relate to the creation of a statutory framework to support Queensland's participation in the identity-matching services should be reviewed after two years. The government agrees with this recommendation. Given that identity-matching services is a complex national project, it is entirely appropriate that its operation should be reviewed to assess the continuing effectiveness of the capability and the legislative provisions that support it. For that reason, I accept that such a review should occur in accordance with the committee's recommendation.

I also note that the committee's comments suggesting oversight of the use of identity-matching services data and that the Public Interest Monitor would be a suitable statutory officer to undertake such oversight. However, the committee may be assured that there is already significant oversight of the identity-matching services data through the intergovernmental agreement that all jurisdictions have signed up to. Under the agreement, the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management will exercise ministerial oversight of the IMS. The National Identity Security Coordination Group will support the ministerial council in its oversight role. The Identity Security Coordination Group includes representatives from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, all first ministers' departments and will also include the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner as an observer.

Oversight of the identity-matching services is further strengthened by legally binding participation agreements for each participating agency that will detail the terms and conditions that apply to the use of the IMS. 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. I take this opportunity to thank the committee, and the committee secretariat staff who supported them, for their hard work under such tight time frames and for their bipartisan and constructive approach to this bill. The bill delivers on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to participate in the identity-matching services.

On 5 October 2017 the Premier along with other first ministers signed an intergovernmental agreement on identity-matching services. This bill provides the legislative framework for Queensland's participation in that capability. This is a national capability that offers a number of critical, law enforcement, national security and fraud prevention benefits for the Queensland community. The impetus for the development of the capability is a recognition of the impact of identity crime.

In 2016 the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department estimated the financial cost of identity crime nationally was \$2.2 billion annually. This type of offending has broader consequences. Identity crime is also an enabler of other serious crimes such as terrorism and drug trafficking. The ability to confirm identity and to ensure the veracity of government identity documents moderates these significant risks and provides our police with an effective tool to keep Queenslanders safe. This debate occurs on the cusp of the biggest event ever held in Queensland—the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. A major event of this scale requires a significant security response. We want the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games to be the safest and most successful ever. Operational Sentinel—the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games security operation—will deliver that response.

Technology that makes identification simpler and faster has clear benefits to those tasked with keeping Queenslanders, athletes and visitors safe during the Commonwealth Games. The Palaszczuk government is providing police with cutting-edge technology to keep our community safe. But we also recognise that access to this type of capability must be balanced by effective safeguards. For this reason, the use of the technology is constrained to permitted purposes that are outlined in the bill. The bill contains a new offence provision for use of Department of Transport and Main Roads information that is outside these permitted purposes.

At the Commonwealth level, the identity-matching services bill 2018 is currently before the federal parliament. That bill also contains robust safeguards, including the creation of an offence provision, constraints on the use of the capability, and reporting requirements. In addition to those legislative

safeguards, a rigorous policy and governance framework will control the use of the capability. It includes the development of participation agreements between participating agencies and a requirement for privacy impact statements to inform access policies governing the use of the capability.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering on its promise to provide our police with the tools they need to meet contemporary challenges that we as a community face, such as identity crime and terrorism. Access to the identity-matching services will greatly assist our police in doing just that. Images from Queensland will be beamed to a television audience of 1.8 billion people during the Commonwealth Games. It is an opportunity of a lifetime to show the world the best that Queensland has to offer. Not only will the amendments contained in this bill assist in making the Commonwealth Games a safe and successful event for all, they will provide an effective mechanism to meet the ongoing challenges our police face in keeping Queenslanders safe.

I now turn to the amendments in the bill that increase the maximum penalties associated with explosives offences under sections 470A and 540 of the Criminal Code. The current penalties for these offences—of two and three years respectively—will be raised by this bill to seven years imprisonment. This is to ensure that the penalty for these offences reflects their seriousness and the risk to community safety associated with this type of offending.

Section 470A is also expanded to ensure that the manufacture or possession of explosives in circumstances that pose a risk of injury to a person or damage to property is captured by this offence provision. Given the clear and significant risk to public safety posed by this type of offending, it is important to ensure that appropriate deterrents are in place—particularly before a major event like the Commonwealth Games.

In relation to liquor trading hours during the Commonwealth Games, the Palaszczuk government has given careful consideration to the most appropriate way to strike a balance between the economic interests—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Members, there is too much noise in the chamber. If you want to have a conversation, take it outside.

Mr RYAN: As I was saying, in relation to liquor trading hours during the Commonwealth Games, the Palaszczuk government has given careful consideration to the most appropriate way to strike a balance between the economic interests of the tourism and hospitality sectors and the public interest in ensuring a safe environment in and around Queensland's licensed premises.

In this regard, the bill amends the Liquor Act 1992 to enhance tourism and hospitality experiences for participants and attendees of the games by granting an additional hour of post midnight liquor trading to licensed premises in the Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise safe night precincts each night from 3 to 17 April 2018 inclusive. This will allow extra time for visitors to enjoy a meal and some entertainment after late-night sporting events during the Commonwealth Games. It will also pave the way for licensees in Gold Coast safe night precincts to make the most of the economic opportunities offered by the games.

Under the Commonwealth Games extended trading hours authority provided by the bill, licensees of licensed premises in Gold Coast safe night precincts will be granted the additional hour of post midnight liquor service automatically. This means that these licensees will not have to apply for the additional hour. In addition, these licensees will not be required to pay either an application fee or an extended trading hours approval risk criterion licence fee that would ordinarily apply in respect of the additional hour of post midnight liquor service.

On top of the extra hour of liquor trading, the bill also provides for licensees in Gold Coast safe night precincts to apply for temporary late-night extended trading permits for dates during the games period without paying an application fee. Minimising the administrative and financial burden associated with seeking longer liquor trading hours during the games period supports licensees in contributing to a vibrant night-life in Gold Coast safe night precincts.

The amendments to the Liquor Act 1992 represent a balanced approach to facilitating a vibrant and safe night-life during the Commonwealth Games without compromising the government's tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy framework. These amendments ensure the continuation of the ID-scanning arrangements that currently apply in respect of licensed premises in Gold Coast safe night precincts. For licensees currently subject to the ID-scanning obligations, the bill provides for the scanning of patron IDs to continue during the additional hour of liquor trading authorised by the games authority. For licensees that are not currently subject to the ID-scanning obligations, the intention is to ensure these licensees will not be required to scan patron IDs during the additional hour of liquor trading authorised by the games authority.

The policy of capping the number of temporary late-night extended hours permits available to a licensed premises for special occasions at six per calendar year will also remain in effect. However, as the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming has indicated, the Commonwealth Games are a special occasion that span a 15-day period. Licensees will be able to seek temporary late-night extended hour permits for multiple consecutive days during the games period. The existing permit framework represents an appropriate number of opportunities for licensees to engage in very late-night liquor trading beyond the hours otherwise allowable on a permanent basis for the Commonwealth Games, particularly given the games authority provides an automatic extra hour of liquor trade in Gold Coast safe night precincts.

Increasing the number of available permits would undermine the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy of this government and expose the community to increased risk of alcohol related harm. As I noted when I introduced the bill, research indicates that the rate of alcohol related assaults increases significantly with every additional hour of late-night liquor service. That is why the single additional liquor service hour has only been granted to licensees of licensed premises in Gold Coast safe night precincts. It is anticipated the entertainment hubs of Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise will become a particular focus for visitors to the Commonwealth Games and where the largest proportion of participants and attendees of the Commonwealth Games will gather.


As safe night precincts, these areas already have resources to address the risks of increased alcohol related harm arising from very late-night liquor service. Unlike other areas in the Gold Coast local government area, the Gold Coast safe night precincts are subject to requirements to implement additional harm minimisation measures such as high-visibility policing, ID scanning, transport, and rest and recovery services.

The bill will also ensure that swift action can be taken against licensed premises in Gold Coast safe night precincts that operate in a manner that adversely affects or is likely to adversely affect public safety or public order. Upon receiving advice to this effect from the Police Commissioner or an assistant police commissioner, the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming is authorised under the bill to issue a public safety restriction notice to a relevant licensee. A public safety restriction notice may revoke the games authority for a licence, vary the hours of the licence, impose conditions on the licence, suspend the licence or impose a combination of these measures. Public safety restriction notices will only have effect during the games period.

Amendments also authorise the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming to revoke or vary a public safety restriction notice if the commissioner is satisfied there is no longer a threat to public safety or public order. Under the bill, licensees issued with a public safety restriction notice are not entitled to seek a merits based review by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal or receive compensation for losses sustained as a result of being issued with a restriction notice.

I note the lack of a QCAT review was cited as a concern in some submissions to the committee. While I acknowledge this concern, the parameters around issuing a public safety restriction notice provide for this remedy to be taken fairly and appropriately having regard to public safety and public order. Given the paramount importance of keeping the public safe, whether they are at games venues, restaurants, entertainment venues or their accommodation, it should be noted that the Queensland Police Service is supportive of the proposed Liquor Act amendments. During the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee inquiry into the bill, the Police Commissioner, Ian Stewart, stated that the bill strikes a reasonable balance between catering for tourism and having regard to policing services so that there is still that separation between the day and the night-time economies.

The Palaszczuk government recognises that, in general, licensees want to do the right thing and strive to create a safe environment for their staff and patrons. However, the unprecedented number of visitors to the Gold Coast creates a unique operating environment for licensees as well as for the Queensland Police Service. We simply cannot afford to be without the necessary safeguards that this bill provides for minimising alcohol related threats and potential threats to public safety and public order. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.36 pm): I rise to speak on the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill as introduced by the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services on 15 February 2018. At the outset I want to thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its speedy consideration of the bill and the changes which are primarily geared towards counterterrorism preparedness by our law enforcement agencies in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games. The LNP will not be opposing the changes as proposed in the bill. The changes primarily stem from a COAG agreement in October last year when all first ministers

agreed to establish identity-matching services, the IMS, as part of the intergovernmental agreement. On that note, I want to thank the federal coalition government for its leadership on these reforms and the work done by our federal Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon. Peter Dutton.

As outlined in the explanatory notes, the intergovernmental agreement agreed to share and match identity information to prevent identity crime and promote law enforcement, national security, road safety, community safety and identity assurance outcomes. Under the IGA, each jurisdiction has agreed to make the necessary legislative amendments to facilitate the collection, use and disclosure of facial images and associated identity information between participating entities. With this legislation Queensland will be the first state to enact these changes, with legislation still sitting before the Commonwealth parliament. The main source of information includes driver's licence images and associated data held by the states and passport and immigration images held by the Commonwealth. Given the volume and growing importance of this information for counterterrorism and law enforcement, the IMS will establish a streamlined and nationally consistent process for sharing it.

The police believe that access to the IMS will be a substantive benefit to law enforcement and community safety, particularly in relation to terrorism and serious organised crime investigations. It will also enhance police capabilities with regard to identity crime and community safety—that is, identifying missing persons or deceased persons at disaster events and major events, road safety in the detection of unlicensed drivers or multiple licensed persons, and also identity verification.

In Queensland, amendments will be required to the Transport and Main Roads and Queensland Police Service legislation to explicitly provide that relevant information may be shared for the purposes of the IMS. Current transport legislation constrains the ability of the state to participate in the IMS owing to limitations on the disclosure and use of personal information. Currently, the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 enables the use and release of personal information and digital images collected by TMR for limited purposes. It does not allow disclosure to entities for the purposes envisioned under the IMS.

The LNP believes that there will be some missed opportunities in relation to the changes made to the Liquor Act for the Commonwealth Games. The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games is the largest event ever hosted by Queensland and will showcase our state on the world stage. Approximately 6,600 athletes and officials and 690,000 individual unique visitors are expected to attend. With the majority of the Commonwealth Games being held on the Gold Coast, it is anticipated that there will be increased patronage of liquor licensed premises on the Gold Coast, which is why it is puzzling that this bill relates only to the licences within two safe night precincts at Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach. As the Queensland Hotels Association submitted to the committee, to expect Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach alone to accommodate these numbers is unrealistic and exacerbates safety and transport concerns. The extended trading hours should apply to all licensed venues in the Gold Coast local government area, which is clearly defined and offers ease of enforcement.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr WATTS: For those members whom I hear interjecting, I will come back to that later. This should be an opportunity to spread the economic benefits as far and wide as possible on the Gold Coast. It is not only about the two weeks when the games is being held; we are trying to show what this state has to offer so that we can encourage visitors to come back and spend more money, creating tourism jobs in the long term, not just during the Commonwealth Games.

As the non-government committee members noted in their statement of reservation to the committee report, ensuring that visitors can come, enjoy a safe experience and spend money at local businesses will boost tourism in the retail and hospitality sector and create job opportunities in the short and long term. We think there are some missed opportunities and that the government should have been more receptive to suggestions put forward by the industry stakeholders, specifically, for the extended hours for the Commonwealth Games trading period to not be deducted from the standard six-day allocation given to licensees, to expand the extended trading hours to encompass all licensed venues in the entire Gold Coast local government area, and that the safe night precincts across the state where other Commonwealth Games events occur be afforded the same extended hours as those on the Gold Coast. These seem to be common-sense suggestions that spread the benefit of the changes much wider than intended by the bill.

I thank the members of the committee for their contribution to the consideration of the bill, particularly the member for Southern Downs and the member for Lockyer. I realise it is the first time they have participated as members of a committee and I think their thoughts and deliberations in relation to this legislation were valuable.

We do not want Labor's Commonwealth Games legacy to be some kind of ID scanning debacle like we saw happen last year with the Crown Prince of Denmark, or a few nightclubs and bars in Surfers Paradise or Broadbeach being so jam-packed that nobody will want to enjoy a safe night out on the Gold Coast. We do not want our games to be like the Glasgow games. We should be aiming for much better than the Glasgow games. As I mentioned, I think there are some missed opportunities in relation to the changes to the Liquor Act. We do not believe that the Labor Party has consulted widely enough.

I want to touch briefly on identity theft and identity crime, because it was covered in the explanatory notes to the bill as a key enabler of organised crime and major crime, including drug trafficking, money laundering and terrorism events. Recent estimates by the federal Attorney-General's Department indicate that each year identity crime across Australia costs \$1.6 billion, with the majority of that amount—around \$900 million—lost by individuals through credit card fraud, identity theft and scams. According to the Federal Police, identity crime continues to be a key enabler of serious organised crime, which, in turn, costs Australia \$15 billion annually. This crime crosses our borders, which is why it is important that there is a national solution and that each state does its part.

As part of this debate, I think we should be encouraging members of the public to do what they can to protect themselves from those who commit identity crime and identity theft. These criminals often prey on the most vulnerable in our community, which is very sad. We must continue to promote awareness and education so that everybody can be diligent.

I would also like to thank the minister for considering recommendation 2 and making sure that the legislation is to be reviewed. I want to talk specifically about what I envisage is a possibility that could happen on the Gold Coast during the games, which could cause great international embarrassment. I hope the minister will consider this as we debate this bill. We are expecting 690,000 unique visitors to the Gold Coast, which will be a fantastic thing, but that means that, if they all want to go out after 3 am we need to get 22,258 people into each of 31 premises that will still be open. I am not suggesting that everybody is going to go out, but if we do the maths on the venues that are available compared to the total number of licences across the Gold Coast local government area, which is 1,262, we can see that there would be only 500 or 600 people per venue, assuming that everybody wanted to go out, which we know is not going to happen.

There are 242 premises in the safe night precincts of Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise, with 47 available post midnight and 31 available between 1 am and 3 am. That means that, potentially, on a night such as the closing ceremony we could have tens of thousands of people on the Gold Coast unable to get into a venue, lining up outside venues, or visiting a bottle shop and wandering around. If we want to have a law and order problem, not having more venues open and available is going to create that issue. Although I understand that not everybody who goes to the games is going to go out late at night, those who want to go out at night need to be inside a venue that has a security scanner at the door and has security guards so that people can be checked. That is the ideal standard. We know that, on this occasion on the Gold Coast, not everybody is going to get into those venues that are available. So we are faced with the problem of the scanning issue for those licensed premises that do not have those facilities.

It is going to be a judgement call as to whether we are going to turn the streets into chaos because the licensed premises cannot cope, or the hotel rooms are going to be turned into nightclubs because people have gone to the liquor barns, bought all the liquor they can and have taken it back to their hotel rooms, or everybody is going to tuck themselves into bed neatly late at night and get up very early in the morning for a jog along the beach. All of those things are possibilities, but I am very concerned and I know that the QHA members and other people who have been involved in the liquor industry for a long time are concerned—

A government member interjected.

Mr WATTS: The member can say 'vested interests', but the simple fact is that these people week in and week out make sure that tens of thousands of people across our state have a safe night out.

These are the people who have invested in security. These are the people who have invested in CCTV. These are the people who have their RMLV. This is their lifeblood. This is their industry. They are not looking to cause any problems. They are looking to take advantage of what is going to be Queensland's biggest ever tourism event.

During the games there will be stress on public transport and that is why changes have been made to public transport. With the aquatic centre, the hockey centre and the games village at Southport why do we not have extended opening hours at Southport? Why will everybody be forced onto public transport up and down the coast and then have to line up at a venue they cannot get into which will

cause frustration and annoyance. People will be carrying bottles in and out of these places because they are going to want to consume alcohol and have a good time. They have come to watch the games and soak up the atmosphere. To limit them to 31 venues is fraught with danger for other areas of the coast and for hotels that do not have the safety procedures and security in place to secure their venues. It will stretch the police resources out of precincts and into private premises up and down the coast to deal with some of these issues.

I ask the minister to seriously consider looking at the liquor licensing provisions for the Commonwealth Games that form part of this bill to see if we can come up with some common-sense approach that would allow these businesses—and some might say vested interests but I have no interest in any liquor industry premises—to benefit from the Commonwealth Games in the same way that retailers that have had their hours extended can. People who invest their own capital in running a small business should have an opportunity to benefit from this great event that is being hosted here in Queensland.

There is a lot of upside but there is some potential downside. I do not think the strategy that is being put forward in this bill is a strategy that will minimise the downside. I believe that problems will be pushed away from areas where the resources are, where the professional people are, where security companies are operating and where CCTV is in place, into private residences and establishments where groups of people will get together, turn the music up loud, annoying people who want to get up and go for a run on the beach in the morning, rather than going to a venue that has been designed and purpose built for them to have a good time.

It was a different time, but during Expo liquor licensing was freed up. People have great memories of that time. Policed right, using modern technology and looked after in appropriate ways and with RSAs and RMLVs and other safeguards in place, I think the industry of the Gold Coast is experienced and qualified enough to manage a massive influx of tourists having a good time—if the government will let them. Not all of these places are nightclubs with pumping music. Some of them are just bars where people will want to sit and have a casual drink. They will not be able to do that on the time scale that they want because they will be restricted.

As I have said, in my opinion that will mean that if you have a liquor barn you are about to get a high turnover and if you have a residential premise where people will be staying on holiday you are about to have a lot of parties in your premises that may cause problems. There are 15,000 volunteers. At the end of the closing ceremony if those 15,000 volunteers visit those 31 premises that is 483 per premise.

Mr Ryan: They are not all there at the same time.

Mr WATTS: Of course they are not. I take the minister's point that they are not all there at the same time. I absolutely accept that, but is he looking at the numbers of people that will be there? There will be 690,000 unique visitors over the period from 70 nations. There will be 6,600 athletes and 15,000 volunteers. If one looks at the number of venues that can access these late night trading hours, it is 31 venues once you get to three o'clock in the morning. If anybody thinks those 31 venues are going to be able to cope on any one of those nights I would be very surprised. I will be interested to see Minister Lynham lining up in one of those crowds so he can make an assessment himself about whether he thinks the provision of licences was enough or not. Not everybody wants to go to bed early in the evening, particularly when they are on holiday enjoying all that the Gold Coast has to offer.


Further to that, these people are going to return home after potentially having had a bad experience in Queensland because they had to line up. We are hoping that their IDs will get through the scanner. I am concerned that the maths has not been done on the number of venues available. I hope that the Attorney-General is advising the minister to make some amendments going forward that will lead to a more sensible approach for the people of the Gold Coast and also to extend that to areas where other people are hosting Commonwealth Games events.

The bulk of the bill mirrors what is required by the Commonwealth government and will minimise the exposure of the people of Queensland to terrorism threats and identity theft and other crime that result from our agencies not being able to share their data across borders. We have no problem with that part of bill. I welcome and acknowledge that the minister has listened in relation to the review. I think the review is a solid idea.

When it comes to liquor licensing I am very concerned about our international reputation and the difficulty that we will have managing that volume of people in that small footprint over that period of time. It will certainly stretch police resources. If it is opened up to other venues they will all employ security. They will put people on as their licence requires. There will be far more qualified people in the

local government area of the Gold Coast able to exercise some control and management over the crowd than if all these people are funnelled into two tiny little footprints that will simply not be able to cope with the volume of people. Their frustration will be vented out on the street where security does not have jurisdiction and where the police will be left with the difficulty of dealing with it. It is much better to deal with it in a venue under CCTV with security in attendance and all the other measures we have around alcohol distribution in our state.

I encourage the minister to seriously consider looking at the liquor licensing provisions. I know there is a philosophical belief on the other side that we should shut all these venues and everyone will go home to bed. I do not think everybody who is coming to the Commonwealth Games will be going to bed, particularly if they have seen a great event and want to go out and party with their friends and enjoy their international trip here to Queensland. I implore the minister to seriously consider and discuss with the QHA as a matter of urgency options to manage the influx of people into the Gold Coast local government area.


 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.58 pm): I rise in the House to speak in support of the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill. I recommend that members of this House vote in favour of the legislation, which is what I understand will occur.

The objectives of the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018 are: to provide a legislative framework to facilitate Queensland's participation in identity-matching services; to remove the requirement to obtain an access approval order for the Queensland police to access Queensland driver licence digital images for non-transport related offences; to remove the requirement for the Department of Transport and Main Roads to report annually to parliament via the minister on access to Queensland driver licence digital images; to overcome the current limitations in the Criminal Code in inadequately addressing the threat of homemade explosives; and, last but not least, to provide for extended liquor trading arrangements for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Debate, on motion of Mr Russo, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Ormeau and Coomera Train Stations, Park-and-Ride Facilities

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.00 pm): I imagine members have seen tonight's media reports about the Commonwealth Games park-and-ride debacle. For the people of the Gold Coast, the good news is that that will be over at the end of the Commonwealth Games when things will go back to normal. Tonight I rise to further advise the House regarding the park-and-ride facilities at Ormeau and Coomera train stations on the northern Gold Coast. In recent months, things have gone from bad to worse with double the number of cars to spaces. I will focus on Ormeau train station, which is the subject of recent news reports about people being fined for illegal parking. People have no choice but to drive on our clogged roads, the M1 in particular, if they cannot find a car spot.

I have a copy of an email to Donna Gates, the division 1 councillor and deputy mayor, from a senior constable at the Norfolk Village Police Beat. It states—

Good afternoon, no doubt you've probably been inundated with requests regarding the Ormeau Train Station and parking. We have recently received a complaint regarding vehicles parking on the footpath and attended today resulting in 12 infringement notices issued. We will no doubt continue to receive complaints and have little choice in attending and taking action. Residents are doing the right thing by catching public transport however the parking there is becoming overcrowded.

Why don't we catch the bus to the train station, I may hear members say. That is fair enough. It is a good question and I will explain why. If you wanted to catch the very first bus to the station to get to work in Brisbane in time to do an eight-hour shift, taking half an hour for lunch, you would catch the 7.25 bus on the 721 route or the 7.54 bus on the 722 route, and so it goes on. However, it does not matter what bus you catch—even if you catch the very first bus—you cannot work an eight-hour day and get back in time to catch the very last bus from the train station. Therefore, it is absolutely impossible to use public transport to get to the station.

There are no car parks and no bus services. What about safety? Today I have sent to the minister's office a dozen emails, all with the details on them, for him to give consideration to over the next couple of weeks until he responds to some petitions. The first email is dated June 2017. It outlines an important issue and states—


... I would like to highlight a safety issue at Ormeau Station ... My daughters both study at uni in Brisbane and commute there by train. Most mornings ... they can only park on a grassy area in a far corner of the station. There is no lighting and no security camera anywhere near this area. When they return at night they need to walk there in the dark, sometimes at 9 or 10 at night.

Another email states—

The parking situation at Ormeau railway station is now ridiculous. The main car park is full by early in the morning ... Living in Jacobs Well public transport to the station is simply non-existent ... My youngest daughter—

(Time expired)

Townsville Stadium


 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (7.03 pm): This is an important week with many different events going on, but in Townsville none is more important than the kick-off to the NRL season when the Cowboys play the Sharks on Friday night. More importantly, it is JT's 300th game. What complements JT's 300th game is the Townsville stadium. In 24 months, they will be kicking off in the brand-new stadium, built by the Palaszczuk government as the result of a 2015 election commitment. It is the Palaszczuk government's only major infrastructure project and is worth \$100 million. Mr Speaker, as former treasurer you contributed another \$40 million to make sure that project got up and going. I shall tell the House what is happening with it.

I lobbied exceptionally hard with the former minister for state development. I said to him that we needed local content in this particular project, that is, locals building our local stadium. He said to me, 'Member, we'll do a minimum 80 per cent of locals building that stadium for you.' I can tell the House that 99 per cent of the jobs in the construction of that stadium have gone to locals. So far, there have been 28,267 work hours spent on the stadium. The project has a target construction workforce of 6.6 per cent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, which is not a bad target. What is Watpac achieving? I can proudly say that, through its efforts, Watpac is delivering 26.9 per cent of jobs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, remembering that the target was 6.6 per cent.

It is also interesting to note the estimated number of North Queensland businesses engaged in the extended supply chain, which is about creating jobs. Two hundred and thirty-eight North Queensland businesses are involved. This government is getting on with delivering jobs. The total value of trade packages awarded is \$35 million and, as I have said, 99 per cent of jobs have gone to locals. To give one example, NQ REO decided to make the concrete pylons that are being driven into the earth. That would have been outsourced, but the company decided to step up and do the job.

The North Queensland stadium is being built by North Queenslanders for North Queenslanders. It will be the home of the North Queensland Cowboys. The Palaszczuk government is delivering on its promises, delivering on local jobs and delivering on confidence in North Queensland. This Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job.

Sugar Industry, Marketing

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (7.06 pm): Today the Premier shockingly showed absolute indifference to one of our biggest agricultural industries, the \$2.5 billion sugar industry. When asked to rule out scrapping sugar marketing laws, the Premier flippantly batted it away by saying, 'That wasn't on my radar'. The dismissive words reveal a disturbing lack of interest in the export industry and confirm how little Labor cares about Queensland farmers and regional communities. What reassurance can canegrowers, their families and regional communities now have that Labor will put growers' interests ahead of the profits of multinational sugar milling companies? The extraordinary reply is cold comfort to an industry that is the lifeblood of communities up and down Queensland's coast.


Together with the members for Whitsunday and Burdekin, I have talked to canegrowers, their families, workers, stakeholders and industry representatives in their electorates. Whether in the Burdekin, Sarina, Mackay or Proserpine, they all say the same thing: 'Keep your hands off our laws'. In the last parliament, the LNP delivered a marketing system that gives growers real choice for the first time since Labor deregulated the sugar industry. Farmers are put ahead of multinational millers. It gives them certainty and protects their rights. It ensures growers are not strongarmed by millers that hold a monopoly for processing in their districts.

I have no doubt that the clear and unambiguous message throughout the minister's listening tour of regional and rural areas is that canegrowers want the current marketing laws to remain. The minister assured communities by saying, 'I have a lot of empathy for people in the regions and I will exercise my voice' and 'There is no replacement for face-to-face meetings with people on the ground and engaging with people'. Experience has taught me to judge this government by what it does and not what it says. Let us hope those face-to-face meetings were not merely a token gesture and that the overwhelming views of canegrowers, their families, mill workers and regional communities will be

forcibly represented in the cabinet. Growers are justifiably suspicious and distrust the government's intentions. Their industry has dealt with the legacy of previous governments, including the Beattie and Palaszczuk governments, ignoring their legitimate concerns.

During the sugar marketing crisis of 2016-17 the government sat on its hands and watched growers pushed to the brink. The previous minister and the Deputy Premier sided with the multinational sugar milling companies. The LNP fixed that mess with practical, common-sense changes which recognised the market is not perfect. If Labor repeals the laws that means it prefers to side with the multinationals instead of farmers. This lethargic government needs to stop its antifarmer crusade and keep its hands off the current sugar marketing laws.

Chinese Lunar New Year

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (7.09 pm): I speak this evening about a very important cultural celebration that happens in my local area every year—that is, Chinese Lunar New Year. My seat of Stretton has the highest number of people born overseas of any electorate in the state. It also has the highest number of people who speak a language other than English at home. The overwhelming multicultural composition of the Stretton electorate means that in my community various important, unique and harmonious events are celebrated including Chinese Lunar New Year, Eid al-Fitr and Diwali, among others. It is a place of fantastic cultural celebration that is embraced by the whole community. We lead the way in diversity and richness of culture and we certainly lead the way when it comes to celebrating Chinese Lunar New Year.

Chinese Lunar New Year is a fantastic community celebration that is well supported by local schools, businesses and shopping centres. It is an event that is embraced by the whole community, fostering cultural understanding and inclusion. I know that the Queensland government recognises this important cultural event. It was wonderful to see the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister Enoch, the member for Toohey and the member for Mansfield at many events celebrating Chinese Lunar New Year.


There were many wonderful events occurring in my local community. I attended various events held by local organisations including the Federation of Taiwanese Associations—and I want to particularly acknowledge Florence Day, the Secretary General—the Lions Club of Brisbane Chinese and the Lions Club of Brisbane Vietnamese who held a fantastic joint Chinese Lunar New Year celebration. I want to particularly commend Kelvin Yeh and Huy Vuong, the respective presidents, who worked together so well.

I also wanted to commend my friends at Tzu Chi Brisbane for their New Year's blessing. I know the member for Toohey always enjoys attending that event. That was held on Sunday. I thank Tzu Chi Brisbane for all the work they do in our community. I got to enjoy some fantastic food, lion dancing and cultural performances to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year with friends and community members.

For the benefit of the House, these Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations celebrate the Year of the Dog. In case members do not know, the years of the dog are 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994 and 2006. Interestingly, current US President Donald Trump along with former US presidents Bill Clinton and George W Bush were all born in the Year of the Dog so there is and have been plenty of dogs in the White House.

I commend all the hardworking community members who worked so hard to spread joy throughout the community during the Chinese Lunar New Year period. I wish everyone in the community and all members of this House a very happy and prosperous Year of the Dog—xinnian kuaile gong xi fa cai.

Gregory Electorate, Rainfall

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (7.12 pm): I rise tonight to put on the public record the rain activity experienced in the electorate of Gregory. In the space of a few days more than 400 millimetres of rainfall has fallen across the region. Mount Macquarie at Blackall has had 57 millimetres; Noonbah Station at Longreach has had 84 millimetres; Western River at Winton has had 216 millimetres; Bexhill at Tambo has had 66 millimetres; Eltham at Isisford has had 50 millimetres; Wando Station at Winton has had 146 millimetres; Clarendon at Blackall has had 75 millimetres; Jedburgh at Yaraka has had 45 millimetres; and Newark Station at Jericho has had 30 millimetres.

The Ilfracombe Dam had been bone dry since January. The town was staring down the barrel of having no water. A downpour over the weekend brought the first inflow into the dam since 2016. The whole region has breathed a sigh of relief. One only has to see the expression on the face of the Mayor of Longreach, Ed Warren, on the news when he was at the dam to understand the relief of the townspeople when that dam started to fill up.

Despite the good news shared amongst some Western Queenslanders, many are yet to receive some rainfall. Some people have seen 200-plus millimetres while their neighbours have had nothing. That is nature's cruel reality in drought-stricken Western Queensland. Western Queensland has had some of the driest country in Queensland over the past seven years. Despite the recent patchy rains, the threat of drought remains very real.

The majority of graziers in Western Queensland are destocked. Many have not had an income for five to seven years and are struggling to put food on the table. Those lucky enough to receive rainfall are too scared to restock without the promise of more rain to come. The uncertainty has hit all of the communities in my electorate hard—small businesses are struggling and families have left in droves chasing work and a reprieve from unrelenting drought conditions. People are emotionally, physically, mentally and financially exhausted.

I want to remind everyone in this parliament that the drought is not over. It is far from over. Four days of rain does not undo seven years of relentless drought conditions. It does not immediately put food back on the table for struggling graziers. It does not help people restock their breeders or help small towns like Longreach, Winton and Blackall revive their main streets.

Now more than ever we need to support our farmers, graziers and our rural communities. They are the backbone of our agricultural industry. They put food on our tables and drive billions of dollars in revenue from agricultural exports for this great state. I do not want these rain reports to make anyone think that we are out of the woods and the drought is over, because it is simply not. Our farmers and graziers need our support now more than ever. Without our farmers and graziers, Queensland's economy would not survive.

Special Olympics



Mr BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (7.15 pm): I rise this evening to praise a group of local athletes in Gladstone who are very dear to my heart. Eleven athletes from Gladstone have been selected to compete as part of the Queensland team at the upcoming Special Olympics Australia National Games. Every four years hundreds of athletes with an intellectual disability from all over Australia demonstrate their skills and sportsmanship at the Special Olympics Australia National Games—the flagship event of Special Olympics Australia.


The Special Olympics provide such a great opportunity to transform the lives of people with an intellectual disability and it is fantastic to see so many athletes from Gladstone heading to the national games in Adelaide in April. The Gladstone team has athletes competing in the following: soccer, Adam Knust, George Button, Beau Westlake and Tyler Roberts; swimming, Ruby Lawler and Levi Harris; basketball, Rachel Smith and Nicole Corowa; and equestrian, Shelby Davis-Hill, Ellie Bloomfield, and Sarah Rukavina.

The athletes are led by Ruby Lawler and Adam Knust. Ruby's swimming achievements and Adam's soccer skills and their sportsmanship are shining examples for the rest of the team. The athletes are supported by five officials—Suzie Lawler, Donna Smith, Terry Fellows, Kasey Mossman and Debbie Knust. I had the great pleasure last weekend of presenting the athletes with their uniforms. To see their excited faces was such a joy.

The Special Olympics in Gladstone has grown from strength to strength. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Debbie Knust for her work as president over many years and wish her all the best in her retirement and welcome new chair Suzie Lawler. I would like to wish the team the very best of luck for the national games in Adelaide. I cannot wait to celebrate with them upon their return. I know that they will all give their best and have a great time representing the Gladstone community.

I will finish by reading the Special Olympics motto which speaks volumes for these great kids travelling to Adelaide. 'Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.' The motto of the Special Olympics is about finding the courage to give it a go. Giving all you have got may be going to an event for the first time, swimming across a pool, running to second base or just having the courage to ask a friend to dance at the state games. The Special Olympics nurtures athletes and shows them that there is an abundance of caring coaches and other volunteers who will support and challenge them in their efforts to give it all a go.


Cyberbullying

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (7.18 pm): The *Fraser Coast Chronicle* has done a wonderful job reporting on cyberbullying and how it should stop and the role we should all play in our cyber community. Everyone in this place has the ability to stamp it out. More recently, the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* had reported on recent tragedies in Queensland of young people taking their lives and how we should all be responsible to rise up against the 'dark unloading' online which has proven to be a killer. Words do hurt especially our youth. Not only do they hurt our youth; they hurt people's families, relatives and anyone who loves the person being targeted. We all need to practice what we preach. I would like to update the House today with this statement: it is just not good enough to talk about it; we all need to walk the path to stamping it out.

Mr Speaker, can you imagine my surprise when I read the comments on the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*'s own Facebook page the very day news broke about the dismissal of Mayor Chris Loft from the Fraser Coast Regional Council when the chronicle allowed a number of people to pile on with pictures of celebration. That was not very nice. I wonder whether people think that, after everything that has happened to Chris Loft and his family, they should resort to name calling, especially on such a hard day for that family.

Do the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* social media management team think that it is okay for them to provide a vehicle for such name calling to take place? Well, I say no to all of it. It is not okay. I now wonder how genuine the reports are to tackle such a cyberbullying culture when partaking in it is allowed. We all need to show a good example to our youth. If we do not show a good example to our youth, how do we expect children to act differently in the schoolyard? If parents do not set a good standard and carry on like that on Facebook, how can we expect their children not to do the same? We have to set a good example for our kids. We should not blame the kids at school; we should blame the parents sometimes and the absolute rubbish that we see on Facebook.

Miles, Mr J; Special Olympics

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (7.21 pm): I want to thank the community that I am privileged to represent because they have been doing something pretty awesome for a pretty awesome young man. To those who made a donation, organised an event, turned out or did something else that has seen us as a neighbourhood get the money together to sponsor one of our own to compete at the Special Olympics: thank you, on behalf of the entire community of Springwood.

Last year I spoke in parliament about this inspirational young man. Jacob Miles lives in the electorate of Springwood. About four years ago he contracted meningitis. Jake was hospitalised for weeks, and his family had to prepare for the worst—they were told his chances of survival were only about fifty-fifty. As I have got to know Jake, I have recognised that he is a pretty tough kid. He pulled through, and that in itself took guts and determination—but he did more than just pull through.


Before his illness, Jake was a keen footballer—quite a good Rugby League player—but meningitis left him with an acquired brain injury that prevented him playing. I think a lot of kids—actually I think a lot of us—might have just given up at that point. Instead, Jake switched sport. He learned to play basketball so that he could continue to strive, compete and achieve—and he absolutely has achieved.

Jake, like a lot of other Queenslanders, is going to the Special Olympics next month as part of Team Queensland. Like the member for Gladstone spoke earlier this evening, I cannot tell you how proud I was on Saturday to be standing with Jake and his 230 teammates from right across Queensland to present them with their team uniforms.

Every athlete who represents Queensland in any sport has to work hard to get there—just to get to the top—but everyone who competes at the Special Olympics has to work harder. All of the athletes I met on Saturday have had to push past some kind of barrier or obstacle that other athletes and most in society do not have to deal with. What is truly amazing about the Special Olympics is that there are no concessions made for these athletes. Instead, the Special Olympics makes adaptations that are fair so that these outstanding, extraordinary athletes can compete on a level playing field.

Next month I, like everyone in Springwood, will be cheering for Jacob Miles and all his teammates, as they wear the colours of our state. I know that all of Queensland will be behind our Special Olympics team no matter where they are from.

Navua Sedge


 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.24 pm): Recently I met with representatives from the Malanda Beef Plan Group, the Tablelands Regional Council, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biosecurity Queensland officers for an update on navua sedge control strategies and future research. Last year we secured \$250,000 for research and education on this noxious weed. I thank the member for Mulgrave for his assistance. However, those at the meeting agreed that this weed is not just a danger to the Tablelands' \$149 million agricultural industry. Without the existence of a pre-emergent herbicide and more resources allocated to control this weed, navua sedge should be seriously considered as a biosecurity threat with the potential to devastate the east coast's billion dollar agricultural industry.

Department of Agriculture and Fisheries officers have called navua sedge 'the worst pasture weed' they have encountered. Other councils are joining with TRC and escalating the threat level navua sedge poses to their communities. Local government, Biosecurity Queensland, local farmers and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries are all working together to fight this noxious weed on the Atherton Tablelands, but they need more resources to prevent navua sedge causing untold damage to the coastal agricultural industries which have the most diverse and highest yield crop production in the state.

Government funded trials on two Tablelands properties over the next two years are a necessary step to managing navua sedge locally, but more resources are needed to control the spread. We cannot wait until the weed has devastated the industry. We need to act now to make sure navua sedge does not have the opportunity to destroy agriculture in the state in the way panama disease is affecting the banana industry or in the way prickly acacia is affecting the grazing industry.

Currently there is no pre-emergent herbicide available to control navua sedge, and the only herbicide available on the market has a limited effect on the ongoing control of the weed. This is partly because of unsustainable withholding periods which mean cattle are unable to access pastures for 10 weeks after every spray. The herbicide has to be applied twice, 14 weeks apart, so cattle cannot access a paddock for 20 to 24 weeks out of the year. This reduces the carrying capacity of the land to the point that it is almost useless for cattle and dairy producers. More is needed to ensure producers are able to continue using pastures with sustainable ongoing viable productivity. I call on the minister to deliver the review of funding which had been scheduled for November last year and to allocate the resources needed to reduce withholding periods, develop a pre-emergent herbicide and prevent navua sedge becoming a biosecurity disaster.

World's Greatest Shave

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.26 pm): Mr Speaker, in just over a week's time I will be sporting a dome that is much like your own esteemed crown. That is right, Mr Speaker—the famed silver locks which have seen me compared to everyone from Shaun Micallef to Richard Gere and even Colonel Sanders are coming off. They are coming off for a cause that I know you support, Mr Speaker. I will be taking part in the World's Greatest Shave to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation.

I first saw the great work of this foundation in the early nineties when I was nursing at the RBH in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit. They supported patients and their families in all sorts of practical ways. The foundation also devoted considerable resources to research. It is thanks to research that we have made significant advances in the care of various types of blood cancers, and people are getting much better outcomes.

After seeing this good work, I decided to collect money for the foundation and have done so most years since the mid-1990s. Last year my brother's partner was diagnosed with leukaemia. The support received from the foundation was tremendous and it made a huge difference to everyone involved. This is a very stressful time for any family, as you well know, Mr Speaker, and the foundation made it that much easier. For my brother Pete, the foundation's help meant that he could concentrate on caring for his partner, Sam. I am pleased to report that Sam is making good progress.

The World's Greatest Shave is on from 14 to 18 March. I would encourage all honourable members to join the shave. I know the member for Clayfield is joining in, as he does every year. He is getting rid of the beard, I believe. If you cannot shave, you can put on a colour. Of course all members can choose whatever colour suits their political allegiances if they like. Perhaps we should get the whips to do a quick count—I am sure the reds will win!

I would also like to acknowledge Dr Trevor Olsen and the Holland Park Lions Club who were instrumental in starting the Leukaemia Foundation. Under the sponsorship of the Holland Park Lions Club, still based in my electorate, the inaugural meeting of the Lions Leukaemia Foundation was held on 2 September, 1975. Six members of the Holland Park Lions Club were in attendance. These were Bernie Stevenson, Keith Ledger, Graham Powell, Fred Bylett, Robert Kendall and Ken Walters. Forty-three years on and the foundation in 2016-17 has invested \$1.862 million in research and provided 53,798 nights of accommodation. The Holland Park Lions Club are rightly proud of this, and I am pleased to report that they are still going strong.

Mr Speaker, the next time you see me I will be looking slightly different. Perhaps we will be doppelgangers. I may even have to borrow a beanie to keep my head warm, but I know this will be for a great cause. I urge all members of this House and all members of the community to support the World's Greatest Shave.

The House adjourned at 7.29 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, 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, Palaszcuk, 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