



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

### Thursday, 8 March 2018

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## THURSDAY, 8 MARCH 2018

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.



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

**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.

### SPEAKER'S RULINGS

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



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 6 March 2018 the member for Mudgeeraba wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services deliberately misled the House during a ministerial statement on 15 February 2018 when he stated—

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

Earlier on 6 March 2018 I made a statement in the House regarding my expectations concerning allegations of contempt for deliberately misleading parliament. In that statement I detailed my expectation that in such matters I require sufficient particulars of not only the allegedly deliberately misleading statements but also clear analysis demonstrating that such statements were not only misleading but also deliberately misleading. In my statement to the House I was very clear that any correspondence not providing sufficient evidence may be simply dismissed by me without further action.

The part of the minister's statement alleged to be deliberately misleading was, 'When the LNP was in government it cut health services.' The correspondence from the member for Mudgeeraba demonstrates that the budget for the Department of Health under the Newman government saw year-on-year increases. However, it does not address the issue of 'health services'. Furthermore, the correspondence does not present any substantive evidence that the minister was aware at the time of making the statement that it was incorrect nor that the minister intended to mislead the House.

In the absence of any substantive evidence, I have 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:* Letter, dated 6 March 2018, from the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding a matter of privilege [\[280\]](#).

#### Question on Notice, Out of Order



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, yesterday the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice rose on a matter of privilege in relation to question on notice 106 asked by the member for Toowoomba South. The Attorney-General later wrote to me about the matter. I table the correspondence.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 7 March 2018, from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Leader of the House, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding a question on notice [\[281\]](#).


The Attorney-General asked me to rule the question out of order on two bases. Firstly, the QPRIME database, the subject of the question, is regulated by the Police Service Administration Act 1990, which is administered by the Minister for Police, not the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Secondly, the question asked would likely, if answered, breach the law as there are strict rules around access to QPRIME and the provision of information from databases.

I rule the question out of order on the basis of the first objection. There is clear precedent that questions must be asked of the appropriate minister and, if not, are out of order—see, for example, Speaker Simpson on 30 May 2012 at page 277 and Speaker Simpson on 19 November 2013 at page 3882.

In respect of the second objection, a question would not normally be ruled out of order on the basis that to comply would be in breach of the general law as opposed to being in breach of the standing orders. However, a response that to answer the question providing the reasons why the information is not provided would be considered an answer to the question.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### International Women's Day

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, today is International Women's Day. To mark this important occasion, last night parliament was lit up in the colours of International Women's Day—purple and green—and this will be the case again this evening. In Queensland, International Women's Day is marked during Queensland Women's Week, recognising and celebrating the achievements of Queensland's women and girls, our mothers and sisters, our daughters, our partners, our granddaughters and, let us not forget, our grandmothers.

The struggle for gender equality has had a very long history from the suffragette movement and continues today, quite rightly garnering significant global attention through the #MeToo and 'Time's Up' movements. Everyone has a role to play in creating a Queensland community that respects women, embraces gender equality and promotes and protects the rights, interests and wellbeing of women and girls. Queensland Women's Week is being held from 3 to 11 March with the theme 'Celebrate wellbeing. Everybody wins'. I trust all members will join me in endorsing this important initiative on International Women's Day.

## PETITION

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

### Dingo Beach, Boat Ramp; Blackcurrant Island

**Mr Costigan**, from 674 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the existing boat ramp at Dingo Beach and leave Blackcurrant Island in its pristine state [\[282\]](#).

Petition received.

## TABLED PAPER

### TABLING OF DOCUMENT

#### MINISTERIAL PAPER


The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace)—

[283](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 40, 55th Parliament—Managing the performance of teachers in Queensland state schools (Auditor-General's Report 15: 2016-17), government response.

## MINISTERIAL PAPER

### Ministerial Expenses

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): I lay upon the table of the House the public report of ministerial expenses for the period 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017. This report outlines expenses for ministerial portfolios for the period 1 July to 12 December 2017 and the subsequent portfolios for the remainder of the year following my government's return to office.

*Tabled paper:* Public report of ministerial expenses for the period 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017 [\[284\]](#).

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### International Women's Day



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): In 1929 a kindergarten teacher named Irene Longman walked into this place. Not only was she the first woman ever elected; she was the first ever to run. It is difficult for us to picture the strength it took for Irene to do what she did. She was forbidden to eat inside. Can you imagine Irene sitting alone outside listening to the sounds of the men inside literally shutting her out?

It is fitting that as a woman now sits in this chair and 29 others in this chamber, we celebrate International Women's Day today. I am committed to ensuring that women have equal opportunities in any government that I lead. My cabinet is a shining example of equality—half men, half women. I do not know anywhere else in the world that can boast that claim. Forty-eight per cent of our caucus is also women. As of June last year women comprised 43 per cent of representation on Queensland government bodies, up from 37 per cent 18 months earlier, and we are on track to reach 50 per cent by 2020.

This week I started International Women's Day celebrations with a fun run joined by the Deputy Premier and Ministers Jones, Farmer and Grace, helping to raise, along with other women there, much needed funds for the Mater for breast cancer research. I thank the Mater and the RACQ for organising this walk. I spoke at a United Nations breakfast on Tuesday. Its theme was 'Leave no woman behind', examining the role of women involved in the aftermath of natural disasters. This week we launched Women of the World Festival, which will be held during the Commonwealth Games.

Only a generation ago many Queensland women were denied the futures they wanted for themselves, shut off from education and employment because it was decided that their lives were to be spent as wives and mothers. We are about inclusion in whatever form it takes. That means we do not tolerate exclusion; we fight it. Prejudices have to be faced and conquered. History has taught us that every time these evils have been defeated we have been better for it. That is what International Women's Day is all about.

Mr Speaker, Irene Longman achieved a lot from her lonely table for one outside. She was responsible for women joining the Police Service, a more independent Childrens Court, the care of children with disabilities and a host of other achievements. I would like to think that if she could be here now she would celebrate with us. But she would remind us that we can do more, and we will.

### Tourism Industry



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): Every day the world learns more and more about what a wonderful place Queensland is. The world learns this through our wonderful products and produce when companies such as Bundaberg Brewed Drinks secure a contract through Pepsi to supply its drinks throughout 400,000 outlets across the United States. Bundaberg ginger beer is already the top-selling ginger beer in California. The world learns it through screen productions that highlight our state like the ABC international production of *Harrow*, which premieres this Friday night starring Ioan Gruffudd and features Brisbane in almost every shot. Most of all, the world learns how wonderful Queensland is through tourism when it comes to visit.

Later today I will be joined by a number of my ministerial colleagues to mark the official start of work on the Queen's Wharf development. This \$3 billion project will support 2,000 jobs during construction and employ 8,000 people once it is operational around 2022. The scale of this project, with five hotels, 50 restaurants, bars and cafes—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I am sorry to interrupt. Members to my left, the Premier is not being provocative. She is making a special statement, as I hear it. You may not agree, members to my left, but I ask you to listen to the Premier make a ministerial statement.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The scale of this project—with five hotels, 50 restaurants, bars and cafes, and the casino—will take years of excavation and basement construction before it rises above ground level. Queen's Wharf is just one of a number of key infrastructure projects which are due to be completed early next decade that will propel Queensland into a new field of opportunities in global tourism. I know that the Minister for Tourism is well aware of these opportunities.

At the Port of Brisbane, near Brisbane Airport, work is already underway on the \$158 million Brisbane International Cruise Terminal, which is the second project to advance to delivery through my government's market-led proposals scheme. That terminal will be able to cater to the world's largest cruise ships, some of which are over 270 metres in length. It will provide a permanent home for the cruise ship industry here in Queensland, which this weekend sees the arrival of *Queen Mary 2*.

Then we have the second parallel runway, which is a \$2 billion, 3,300-metre runway that will double the capacity of Queensland's largest airport and which, by 2035, is forecast to support an extra 7,800 jobs in Queensland and inject a further \$5 billion into the Queensland economy. It is against this backdrop that next week Queensland will play host to the 2018 Routes Asia conference. This is the only event in the Asia Pacific dedicated to the development of new aviation routes. Between Queen's Wharf, the new cruise ship terminal and the Brisbane Airport second runway, my government is determined to make Queensland Australia's gateway to Asia and beyond.

### International Women's Day; Queensland Economy



**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.42 am): Before I get into the substance of my ministerial statement, I join with the Premier to acknowledge and extend my best wishes to all women in the chamber and right across Queensland in celebrating International Women's Day. I hope that this Premier, our leadership team, and in fact the Labor government here in Queensland give inspiration to all young girls in Queensland to stand up to lead and represent their communities.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's strong record on economic management is continuing to deliver for Queenslanders. The Queensland economy had its strongest ever quarter of domestic economic activity in the fourth quarter of 2017, according to data released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics yesterday. Queensland's trend state final demand rose by 0.7 per cent in the December quarter 2017 to be 2.9 per cent higher over the year. In seasonally adjusted terms, state final demand rose by 0.9 per cent. What is more, this is the eighth consecutive quarter of growth. That is two years of solid growth under the Palaszczuk government following the wind-down of the mining construction boom. In the last two years quarterly state final demand has risen by more than \$4.6 billion. This means that in December quarter 2017 domestic economic activity was around \$50 million higher per day than in the December quarter 2015.

In contrast, in the last two years of the LNP government they shrank domestic activity. Quarterly trend state final demand fell more than \$2.2 billion over the two years to the December quarter 2014, equating to around \$24 million less domestic economic activity per day over the period. Do not take my word for it. One-time economist and one-time LNP preselection candidate Nick Behrens said yesterday—


QLD's state final demand increased a very healthy 0.9% in the Dec Qtr and follows a 0.5% increase in the September quarter. Household & government final consumption expenditure both contributed strongly to the growth.

This confidence to invest by business shows that the Palaszczuk Labor government's economic plan is working and delivering real and measurable benefits for Queenslanders. No wonder the NAB Monthly Business Survey for January 2018 shows business conditions greatly improved over the year, with confidence remaining high. Queensland's business condition index rose one point to 18—the highest amongst the states in Australia—which is an increase of 14 points over the year. As a result, businesses are deciding that now is the time to invest. This is reflected in Queensland's state final demand, which was driven by strong business investment with an increase of almost 12 percentage points over the year, including a 10 per cent rise in machinery and equipment investment; a 9.7 per cent rise in engineering construction investment; and a 10.7 per cent rise in non-residential construction investment.

Businesses are also hiring more Queenslanders, with over 110,000 jobs created over the past 12 months, the majority of them full-time jobs. In fact, for every part-time job created over the past year almost two full-time jobs were created here in Queensland. At six per cent in January 2018, the state's trend unemployment rate is down from the 6.7 per cent peak of the Newman government, which was the highest unemployment rate our state has seen in the past 15 years. More people are feeling confident that they will find a job so they are re-entering the labour market. That is why the trend participation rate has risen strongly over the past year from 64.3 per cent in January 2017 to 66.1 per cent in January 2018. I think it is worth noting, especially today, that 55 per cent of the jobs created in the past 12 months have gone to women, and participation in the workforce for women is at its highest level since 2011.

The data is clear and our plan is working. Growth is up, confidence is up, investment is up and unemployment is down. Only a Palaszczuk Labor government can deliver strong economic growth and create jobs while keeping our assets in public hands.

### Queen's Wharf

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.47 am): I am pumped because not only is it International Women's Day but also because today I will be joining the Premier to mark the start of construction on the \$3 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane precinct. Today we will turn the first sod—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** Yes, you guys opened stage 1 of light rail too, remember that?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister—

**Ms JONES:** And the Springfield rail line—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, Minister! Minister, direct your comments through the chair, please. I would ask you not be too provocative during ministerial statements.


**Ms JONES:** I will try not to be. Today we will turn the first sod on what is Queensland's largest ever tourism investment project. It will attract an extra 1.4 million visitors to Brisbane each and every year.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** Come on, it is International Women's Day. Demolition is complete, and I can also confirm today that South-East Queensland businesses carried out 98 per cent of that work. It is great to see firms like Bennett + Bennett, TJ's image printing and Nilsen Electrical sharing in nearly \$50 million worth of work in the early stages. It is not just businesses in the south-east making the most of the project. Regional firms like Townsville based Premier Fire will deliver a maintenance contract. Due to its scale, Queen's Wharf is providing thousands of jobs and training opportunities for the next generation of Queensland's construction workforce. As the Premier said, the project will create more than 2,000 construction jobs and 8,000 ongoing jobs when operations begin from 2022. That is on top of a joint six-star international hotel and hospitality industry program run by one of the consortium partners, the Star Entertainment Group and TAFE Queensland.

TAFE and Star announced their Queensland hotel and hospitality school in June last year and it has already turned out its first six-star graduates. We have plenty to look forward to as construction starts on this project which will cement Brisbane's reputation as a global tourism mecca.

### Port of Cairns

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.49 am): The good news for Queensland keeps coming not just for the south-east but for all parts of the state, which is why I am pleased to report to the House that last week I was in Cairns to announce that the \$120 million upgrade of the port of Cairns has received the biggest and best green light in its history, thanks to the finalisation of the state's consideration of the environmental impact statement for the Cairns port improvement project. The project involves infrastructure improvements at the dockside and dredging to Trinity Inlet to enable larger cruise ships into the port. The Ports North project will allow a significant increase in the size and number of cruise ships and other vessels that can berth in the port of Cairns. What does that mean for Cairns and the far north? Up to 100 additional cruise ships per annum each year at the port of Cairns by 2031. That will triple the number of passenger days spent in Cairns each year.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from the member for Glass House. Let me put some history on the record. The member says it has taken three years. When he was the environment minister in Queensland, he was part of a government that wanted to promote putting 4.4 million cubic metres of dredge spoil on the Great Barrier Reef. That was his project. He was not the minister for economic development. He was not the minister for ports. He was not the minister for business.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, there is a time to have these debates. There is a time to probe the government about its initiatives. Ministerial statements is not that time. I ask the minister to remind himself not to be overly provocative. Ministerial statements are for public reference and I ask the minister to rise to his feet.




**Mr DICK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, I look forward to the questions later. What does this mean? It will triple the number of passenger days spent in Cairns each year due to cruise ship tourism, an increase of 225,000 passenger days each year by 2031. Just as important, this project will create jobs. The project will create up to 195 jobs during construction, with up to 2,700 ongoing direct and indirect jobs by 2031. Should federal environmental approvals be granted, construction can commence as early as the second quarter of the 2019 calendar year.

Jobs are something upon which those of us on this side of the House are absolutely focussed. These additional cruise ship arrivals and additional tourist visits to Cairns are a direct result of the hard work of you, Mr Speaker, as the member for Mulgrave, the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services in his capacity as the member for Barron River, and the member for Cairns who was a strong advocate for this project as a leading member of the Cairns business community before election to the parliament.

Those members worked very hard over many years to deliver this project in the far north. It is also a tribute to Ports North and to the Queensland Coordinator-General and his staff. I look forward to the Commonwealth Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act assessment being finalised so that construction and dredging can commence on this important project and, more importantly, jobs can start flowing to Cairns and the far north.

### Women's Week

 **Hon. DI FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (9.53 am): I say 'Happy International Women's Day' to every woman in Queensland. I rise to speak on this special day to highlight the wonderful opportunities in front of this state and particularly its women and girls. As part of Queensland Women's Week I had the chance to meet and talk to so many women and I can say that there is a real atmosphere of optimism about what women can achieve in Queensland.

Last night I hosted a reception where more than 160 women from all walks of life came together to celebrate and share that hope, opportunity and optimism with each other. Of course, for the first time ever in Australia we have a parliament led by a female premier, a female deputy premier and a female leader of the House. We have a cabinet that is made up of 50 per cent women, and 48 per cent of our caucus are women. With diverse voices around the table—


**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms FARMER:** I take that interjection, a female opposition leader. With diverse voices around the table where decisions are being made we are better able to deal with risks and grasp opportunities with both hands and foster innovation. Queensland needs diverse voices to ensure it can succeed, and the Palaszczuk government is delivering in spades. One of the Palaszczuk government's early acts was to reinstate the target for 50 per cent women on government boards by 2020. I am very pleased to say that we are at 45 per cent right now, because our government does not have just a theoretical belief in active representation of women but is actually committed to taking action to ensure that representation happens.

As the Minister for Women and a proud member of this government, I do not mind saying that just having women reach the lofty heights they have in this government is not enough. It is not enough to point to this moment in time and declare that this was women's time in the sun. As female leaders, we have a responsibility to the next generation of women and girls to see women in leadership not only as a great achievement but also as a normal part of representation at the highest levels.

To do this, we need to continue to reach out to women, to knock down barriers, to set targets and to lift them up so that the next generation will see those achievements and know that they are within reach. The theme of this year's Queensland Women's Week is 'Celebrate Wellbeing. Everybody Wins.' If we can help women to be healthy, happy and successful, the entire community will reap the benefits as our state grows stronger and more inclusive.

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Programs

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government is working closely with Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils to deliver better infrastructure in those communities.

The first funding from our \$120 million Indigenous Councils Critical Infrastructure Program is already flowing to nine councils. Almost \$20 million in critical infrastructure funding is being rolled out to kickstart the first projects. The projects funded by this program aim to improve the health and safety

of Indigenous communities by delivering better vital water, wastewater and solid waste facilities. It is about ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in discrete communities have infrastructure to suit their specific needs and the training to support the infrastructure over the long term. The end result will be safer, healthier drinking water and an environment with every community receiving critical infrastructure to provide for a sustainable future.

Projects being funded through the program include: \$3.75 million to upgrade a wastewater treatment plant on Saibai Island for the Torres Strait Island Regional Council; \$862,500 for 10 more Torres Strait communities to share in infrastructure upgrades to improve water quality; more than \$1.8 million for Aurukun Shire Council to refurbish its solid waste facility—all in the member for Cook's electorate—and \$2.76 million for Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council—in the Leader of the Opposition's electorate—to upgrade its water treatment plant, wastewater and solid waste facilities. As Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council Mayor Arnold Murray said—

These projects will directly benefit the community's health and wellbeing. They will build on other projects in Cherbourg to improve the surrounding environment and help make the town a better place to live.

That is what this is all about—improving the health and wellbeing of Indigenous Queenslanders living in discrete communities. I will continue to work with Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils—and indeed all local councils—to make their communities better places to live, which is all part of modernising Queensland.

### Mining Industry



**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.58 am): The Queensland resources sector is on a roll. Our \$1 Bowen Basin coal mine—Stanmore Coal's Isaac Plains—has just gained a seven-year life extension, securing its 210 valuable jobs. Four new mining leases to extend the mine have paved the way for Stanmore to reach its forward production goals for 2019 and beyond.

The reopening of Isaac Plains was welcome news for Moranbah. I had the pleasure of attending the official opening with the Premier some two years ago. This expansion news is another confidence booster for the Moranbah community and the Bowen Basin mining community more broadly. This expansion and Stanmore's further investment in the coal industry will maintain jobs for locals and generate opportunities for local and regional small businesses. It is a real Aussie success story, a home-grown company bringing a mothballed mine back into operation.

At peak production from the newly approved open-cut mining operations, Isaac Plains East can produce 1.6 million tonnes of metallurgical coal annually. Stanmore says that this will help it realise its objective to produce approximately 2.7 million tonnes of product coal per annum. The four new leases covering over 1,200 hectares are next to the existing mine's operation, meaning it will be able to use existing coal processing and railing infrastructure and existing mining equipment.

Stanmore Coal advised the Australian Stock Exchange this week that the grant of the leases would provide \$75 million in state royalties over the life of the mine, and this demonstrates clearly the value of this sector. Not only does it provide jobs and business opportunities in local regional communities; it also provides the funds that pay for the teachers, the schools, the doctors, the nurses, the hospitals, the police and emergency services officers. As a jobs focused government, we are proud to support this important sector. Queensland is a mining state now and into the foreseeable future.

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services



**Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.00 am): With the Commonwealth Games less than four weeks away, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is now on the home straight in terms of preparation. When the Gold Coast games burst out of the blocks, it will bring an end to three years of meticulous planning for QFES. The Palaszczuk government and QFES are committed to providing a memorable and safe experience for athletes, officials, spectators and visitors to the games. Our \$11 million QFES Commonwealth Games program includes the deployment of 850 personnel.

I recently attended a session for some of those personnel—around 400 volunteers—who have undergone specialist training in the lead-up to the games. QFES volunteers will play a significant role during the games performing up to 13 roles. There are about 1,000 shifts, 11 days of competition and a range of roles from waterway operations and aircraft support crews to mountain bike medical crews. Queenslanders should feel very confident that the level of training delivered to volunteers will reflect on

the service provided during the games. QFES volunteers are hugely dedicated, so the induction training is simply another step in providing the support they need to shape an incredible experience for everyone involved.

QFES personnel have also been put through their paces during a series of realistic exercises. Just last week Exercise Home Run was held specifically for staff working in the event coordination centre and event control rooms at games venues. The exercise tested personnel in real time, simulating a normal day of operations during the event. The event coordination centre will play a pivotal role in ensuring public safety during the games. It will be the main base of operations for QFES deployment and will coordinate all functional and operational requirements. Exercise Home Run is yet another example of QFES's commitment to ensuring the agency is ready to respond to any emergency that may arise during the games.

I recently spent some time inspecting games venues and receiving updates from QFES personnel on the Gold Coast. I visited the athletes village, the aquatic centre, the uniform accreditation centre, Robina Stadium and Carrara Stadium. A real highlight was inspecting the Joint Emergency Services Coordination Centre, or JESCC. It is a state-of-the-art, multiagency emergency coordination facility that will become the nerve centre of security operations for the games. The JESCC has been purpose built by the Palaszczuk government and will go on to be a significant legacy on the Gold Coast from the Commonwealth Games.

Another part of our preparations is to ensure all competition venues and other important sites all across the precincts have achieved building fire safety compliance. QFES has been collaborating with New South Wales—Fire & Rescue NSW, New South Wales State Emergency Service and NSW Rural Fire Service—to strengthen cross-border arrangements and put some support arrangements in place for the games given the location in comparison to the state border. In my opinion, QFES has delivered a gold-winning performance and Queenslanders should feel very confident that the level of training being delivered will reflect on the quality of service provided during the games.

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Jobs**




**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of continuing our nation-leading jobs growth. As promised during the election, the Palaszczuk government is providing extra support to mature age jobseekers across Queensland. A new mature age worker boost payment of up to \$20,000 is available for Queensland employers who hire a jobseeker 55 years or over.

I am pleased to announce the first of our new mature age boost payments have started to roll out to help more Queenslanders get that job. They have gone to local businesses like McHugh Steel in Bundaberg. It was able to recently employ Lawrence as a full-time truck driver. As one of the first mature age boost recipients, Lawrence has joined Courtney from Maryborough who was our 10,000th Back to Work regional employee. They are both shining examples of why this program is so valuable. After searching for work for more than 12 months, Courtney now has a job at the Tattersalls Hotel and is a valued staff member. Owner of the Tattersalls Hotel, Kathleen Cameron, said Back to Work has given the hotel the assistance it needed to employ more people.

This program has gone from strength to strength. When our Back to Work program was announced in June 2016 it was projected to help create 8,000 jobs over two years, but already across all elements of the program we have supported over 11,000 people into jobs with more than 5,500 Queensland businesses. Queensland businesses—the vast majority small businesses in regional Queensland—have embraced the opportunity to partner with us to create jobs.

Given the success of this program, many Queenslanders were left scratching their heads as to why those on the other side scrapped more than \$13 million from Back to Work in its election costings. The difference between those opposite and the Palaszczuk government could not be more stark. Because we are listening to small business and working hard to create jobs in regional Queensland, we decided at the election that rather than cut a job-creating program we would expand it. The Palaszczuk government is proudly extending the Back to Work program in regional Queensland until 2021 and extending the eligibility for assistance to include mature age workers. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government's ongoing investment in programs like Back to Work, thousands more Queenslanders are finding it even easier to get a job.


### Health System, Nurse Navigators

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.07 am): Spending time in hospital can be daunting enough without having to navigate the health system, so it is important that we make the patient journey as easy as we possibly can. This government recognises that and has committed to employing 400 nurse navigators across Queensland over a four-year period. Since we invested \$105 million in this new model of care, patient outcomes have already been improving. Our nurse navigators are assisting their patients through the entire health system—from their primary provider through to hospital based care to recovery at home. They have a wealth of clinical skills and experience that enables them to determine the healthcare requirements of high-need patients. They can identify the best course of action and facilitate timely access to appropriate services.

In the past 12 months Queensland Health has introduced 191 nurse navigator positions across all hospital and health services, with a further 49 expected to be introduced by June 2018. Patients who have an appointed nurse navigator are experiencing fewer emergency department presentations, fewer unnecessary hospital admissions and fewer avoidable readmissions than ever before. They have an experienced nurse alongside them at every step of their healthcare journey, asking the questions that need to be asked and helping them understand their conditions.

There are also benefits for the health system. The more efficient use of resources ultimately leads to a reduction in system-wide costs. It has been two years since the first Queensland nurse navigators commenced and the results have been exceptional. This initiative places the focus back on the patient—where it belongs. With this great initiative continuing, our goal of Queenslanders being amongst the healthiest people in the world by 2026 is looking very promising. We have worked hard to help Queensland's hospital and health services rebuild front-line healthcare services and grow the state's nursing workforce. This government appreciates that a highly skilled and well supported nursing workforce is vital to patient safety and the best possible healthcare outcomes.

### International Women's Day; Ipswich, Housing

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.09 am): I, too, want to acknowledge International Women's Day and, in particular, acknowledge the very talented and special women in my life.


The Palaszczuk government is committed to partnering with the private and community sectors to develop innovative housing solutions to increase social and affordable housing across the state. As part of the Queensland Housing Strategy, we are delivering more than 5,500 social and affordable homes through our \$1.6 billion Housing Construction Jobs Program. Importantly, the benefit of a 10-year plan is a pipeline of construction work for Queensland businesses through that program, supporting up to 450 full-time jobs every year over the decade of the program. I can advise the House that the program is on track to meet or exceed its construction targets in its first year.

Ipswich is a vibrant regional city that is flourishing, with its population predicted to increase significantly. Therefore, in terms of housing, it is vital that the state puts in a big effort. As most social housing in Ipswich was constructed more than 30 years ago, this means that it is time to rejuvenate our Housing portfolio. Through the Housing Construction Jobs Program, we will deliver at least 383 new social homes in Ipswich alone over the next five years. That means not only homes for the hundreds of families who need them the most but also it will deliver the equivalent of 59 full-time jobs in that city each year for those five years.

To do this, we are partnering with industry through an expression of interest process where, instead of asking building companies to construct the same old product that we have always asked them to build, we are asking for proposals that offer better value for money, create decent quality jobs for locals and show innovative design where excellence in energy sustainability, durability and qualities are features of the build.

Today, I can inform the House that next week, while the Palaszczuk government governs from Ipswich, in partnership with the Ipswich City Council we will host a briefing for builders and developers to kickstart small, medium and large scale proposals to deliver social and affordable housing for Ipswich and the region. This briefing will be held at the North Ipswich Reserve Corporate Centre 9 am on Wednesday. We are doing that because, unlike those opposite, who would prefer to sell or even give away social housing, it is Labor governments that build. It is this Palaszczuk government that recognises our responsibility to deliver housing for those who are unable to obtain safe, secure and sustainable housing in the private market.

### Toowoomba, National Disability Insurance Scheme


 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (10.12 am): The beginning of 2018 marked one year since the start of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Toowoomba. I have heard the stories of the opportunities that have been realised by people with disability in Toowoomba who have entered the scheme. One family told me that for the first time they were able to take a family holiday together and that that was because of the support that they were able to receive. Another great example was that of a woman who, for the first time, was able to undertake work experience. Throughout the Toowoomba transition I have been closely advised by Sharon Boyce, the chair of the Disability Advisory Council, about what is happening on the ground.

As at 15 February 2018, 3,250 participants in Toowoomba have plans approved, of whom 2,226 were existing clients of state disability services. Also, 163 participants have met access requirements and are awaiting planning or plan approval, 261 are in the access pathway and there are 92 children who are being supported by the Early Childhood Early Intervention pathway.

My department is continuing to support people, providers and the sector workforce across Queensland to get the NDIS ready and transition to the NDIS. Where any issues arise, my department will also help clients link with the NDIS complaints and review process.

Although I am heartened to hear of the success stories, we are at a crucial point of the transition, with a staggering number of 60,000 people in Queensland due to enter the scheme within the next 12 months. There are issues that the NDIA and the federal government need to address, because this scheme is too important to too many people. I will ensure that Queenslanders with disability receive the supports that they deserve and I will continue to keep the House updated.

### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am): I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 20 March 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### REPORT

#### Office of the Leader of the Opposition

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.14 am): Happy International Women's Day. I lay upon the table of the House the report of expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2017 to 12 December 2017 and from 12 December 2017 to 31 December 2017.

*Tabled paper:* Public report of office expenses, Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2017 to 12 December 2017 [285].


*Tabled paper:* Public report of office expenses, Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 12 December 2017 to 31 December 2017 [286].

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 24 January 2018, from the Director of Ministerial Services, Mr Ian Street, to the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, regarding the public report of expenses [287].

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 11.15 am.

#### Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Email

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.15 am): My question is to the Premier. Yesterday, the Premier told the media three times that she would look into the ETU's pick for a taxpayer funded job in the Palaszczuk government and twice promised to report back the facts of the matter. However, it was reported late last night that the Premier reneged on those promises. Will the Premier now honour her promises and tell the House: did this person receive a taxpayer funded job in the Palaszczuk government? If so, who was it and what was the job?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. I gave an undertaking to the media yesterday that I would look at the tabled document that was put forward in this House. I had a look at that tabled document and it was redacted. Let me make it very clear—as I said very clearly—if there are any further issues, people should—

**An honourable member:** The government redacted it.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Because it was done through RTI. Let me make it very clear that the CCC looked at all of these emails at length unredacted and concluded very clearly that it did not identify—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Manager of Opposition Business, you are warned under the standing orders. You know better than that.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The CCC made it very clear that it did not identify any evidence to support allegations that Minister Bailey had used his personal email account to engage in negotiations with the ETU that would amount to corrupt conduct full stop. If the opposition would like any further matter investigated, I ask them to please refer it to the CCC.

The Leader of the Opposition asked a question about jobs. It has come to my attention that someone has been looking for a job. In fact, I received an email addressed to me stating that they wanted to make contact with me for a couple of reasons, firstly, to congratulate me on my re-election and, hopefully, to plant an idea in my mind for future action. What is that future action? The email states—

I know that during this term there will be a number of positions that will come available and they may require the government to appoint from time to time someone from the other side of the political divide.

This email is from the former member for Noosa, Glen Elmes, asking me to consider him for any future appointment.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I rise to a point of order. I should declare that I also received that email from the former member for Noosa asking if there were any jobs going. I am happy to table that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, that is not an appropriate point of order. I caution you in terms of your future points of order. Premier, under standing order 118 and relevance, do you have anything further to add? Thank you very much.

### **Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Email**

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question is also to the Premier. I table an email from Minister Bailey sent to Peter Simpson about a government worker claiming that the minister was owned by the ETU. Peter Simpson said—

Comrades, see below my email to Effeney about this clown, Simmo.

The member for Miller then replies—

Loose lips sink ships.

Will the Premier, as chairperson of the cabinet, tell this House: is the new standard for behaviour of ministers in the Palaszczuk government 'anything goes' short of corrupt, or criminal conduct?

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 24 September 2016, from Mr Mark Bailey to Mr Peter Simpson [288].

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Let me make it very clear: the CCC has thoroughly investigated all of these matters. They have absolutely investigated every single one and they have concluded their investigation.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I refer to standing order 118, relevance. The question was not about corrupt or criminal conduct, it was about anything goes short of corrupt or criminal conduct and the ethical and behavioural standards of ministers.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, do you have anything further to add?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No.

**Mr SPEAKER:** If the Premier was to make a further contribution in answer to the question I would certainly be taking your point of order.

### Back to Work Program

**Mr MADDEN:** My question without notice is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the rollout of the government's Back to Work program in South-East Queensland?

**Ms Jones:** Elmsy wants Back to Work.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take that interjection. There is someone on the other side who wants Back to Work.

**Ms Jones:** I thought it was just to me.

**Mr Dick:** And what about me?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. There are two other emails here.

**Ms GRACE:** And me, Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** He has written to everybody.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I table them.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of emails regarding the former member for Noosa, Mr Glen Elmes [\[289\]](#).

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is the last day of this sitting week, I realise that. Premier, if you have already tabled that document, holding additional copies of that is not helpful.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They are different copies from different ministers. I thank the member for Ipswich West for that very important question about our Back to Work expansion, especially in the south-east of our state. We know how well Back to Work is working in regional Queensland. I was very pleased that during our last budget we announced an extra expansion of \$25 million. I can confirm to the House today that already \$23 million of that \$25 million has been expended to date. That is a great uptake by Queenslanders and businesses wanting to get people back into work.

We extended it in South-East Queensland for young people aged 15 to 24 years and long-term unemployed. The demand for Back to Work in South-East Queensland has exceeded all expectations. I am quite sure that we will consider in the future how we can continue to roll out that program for the south-east. Once again, not only is it helping small business across Queensland but also it is giving people employment. Let me make it very clear to those opposite: employment and job creation matters to Queenslanders. That is exactly what my government is focused on and will continue to focus on for many years to come.

I can report that in the Ipswich region 140 new jobs have been created as a result of this program and 95 of those were for young people. We are tackling the issue of youth unemployment. In the Sunshine Coast 286 jobs have been created, with 235 of those for young people. On the Gold Coast 255 jobs were created, with 218 of those for young people. Do we support our Back to Work program? Absolutely! It is a job generating program that my government proudly backs and one that we will back into the future. That is unlike those opposite. The only record they had when they were in office was to sack 14,000 Queenslanders. We will continue to employ young people and long-term unemployed by continuing our job-creating programs throughout this state.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Standards

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Premier. In November 2012 the Premier called for an LNP government minister to be sacked because he received a resume through a private email account. Will the Premier now keep the standard that was advocated in 2012 when she demanded the then premier to stand up, take control and show some leadership?

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, the question will be heard in silence.

**Mr MANDER:** I will say that second part again if you do not mind, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please.



**Mr MANDER:** Will the Premier now keep the standard that was advocated in 2012 when she demanded the then premier to stand up, take control and show some leadership and now sack the member for Miller?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. If we want to go back in history, there were a number of issues concerning the former minister who was the member for Moggill. One issue involved Barry O'Sullivan who was at the time a treasurer of the LNP who was called in to do an audit of a government office. That is a very serious issue. That was one of the many issues that surrounded that minister at the time.

**Ms Trad:** And Michael Caltabiano.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take that interjection. Who can forget Michael Caltabiano who was employed by the former government. Let me state very clearly once again: all the issues around Minister Mark Bailey have been investigated by the CCC and I am not going to enter into any further discussion or debate about it. It is about time the opposition moved on.

### National Firearms Agreement

**Ms LINARD:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services and I ask: given recent commentary about gun laws after the tragic mass shooting in the United States, will the minister please update the House on the Queensland government's commitment to former prime minister John Howard's National Firearms Agreement?

**Mr RYAN:** I thank the member for Nudgee for raising this very important issue. Let us make one thing very, very clear: the Labor government in Queensland will never support a weakening of our gun laws. John Howard's National Firearms Agreement has made Australia a safer place and Queensland a safer place. We make no apologies for having strong gun laws here in Queensland. We make no apologies for ensuring our police have the resources and the laws they need to ensure that Queensland does remain a safer place.

I am very pleased to report to the House that a recent police operation, Operation Quebec Camouflage, ensured that police were able to remove more than 1,000 illegal firearms from our streets. That operation has made Queensland a safer place. This tough stance is in stark contrast to those opposite. I am sure many Queenslanders would be concerned if those opposite were receiving donations from the pro-gun lobby. They would be terrified. It is dangerous to have the pro-gun lobby influencing political party policy.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** I am sure Queenslanders would be terrified about that and I am sure they would be demanding the member for Nanango take moral leadership on this and stop the LNP receiving any donations. We know they like to keep their donations secret, but I have found the smoking gun: in AEC and ECQ returns, thousands of dollars were handed to the LNP in entities associated with the pro-gun lobby. The people of Queensland would demand moral leadership from those opposite. They would demand them to stand up to vested interests.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth, member for Toowoomba South and member for Burleigh, I have heard continued interjections. You were not interjecting then, but this is a summary, member for Burleigh. If you do not want to be on the list every day, member for Glass House, you should also cease the constant interjections.

**Mr RYAN:** I am happy to table the returns. They are public documents.

*Tabled paper:* Document titled 'Donor to political party disclosure return—Organisations: Financial year 2015-16' [\[290\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Document titled 'ECQ: Disclosed gifts' [\[291\]](#).

One of the entities that has actually made donations to the LNP is an organisation called the Shooting Industry Foundation. Their stated aim is to undermine stable majority government in Queensland by forcing by-elections and defections so that they can get their pro-gun policy up. This is an entity which the LNP has received donations from. Is this any surprise? Just like the conservative politicians in the United States, the LNP is gutless on gun control. We saw them take a policy to the election last year that would weaken handgun laws.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand the member has used unparliamentary language.



**Mr SPEAKER:** My advice previously has been that language is unparliamentary particularly when it is directed at a member personally and not a broad grouping. However, I ask the minister to be very careful with his language.

**Mr RYAN:** They took a policy to the election that would weaken handgun laws and the member for Everton is on the record saying that he would interfere in police operational decisions when it comes to weapons licensing.

*(Time expired)*

### **Vegetation Management Framework, Cattle Feed**

**Mr MILLAR:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier guarantee the Palaszczuk government's proposed new vegetation management framework will not negatively impact drought-affected graziers and hinder them from feeding their cattle in this prolonged and terrible drought?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. Of course, with all farmers out west, we celebrate the rain that they have been receiving in recent days. We celebrate with the farmers. Having been in Longreach and Ilfracombe recently, I know how dry the dams and properties were. Some of our regional members have conveyed to me how much the farmers welcome the relief that the rain is bringing, as I know most Queenslanders are.

When my government honours our election commitment and introduces vegetation management laws, we will do so with discussions with the various stakeholders. I have also given a commitment that the legislation will go through the full parliamentary process, that is, it will go through the committee process for the full six weeks. I do not make any excuses for honouring my election commitment to the people of Queensland. I put on the public record that the majority of farmers are doing the right thing. However, unfortunately, some of our land clearing rates have increased substantially, especially in the Newman government era when reports showed a massive increase in land clearing.

My government will accept the science when it comes to the best way to look after high conservation value land. We will make sure that there is an adequate ability for anyone to present to the committee when the committee undertakes its inquiry process. It will come as absolutely no surprise to Queenslanders that I will honour my election commitment. It is something that my government firmly believes in. This is also about protecting our Great Barrier Reef. We know how important the Great Barrier Reef is. Today we have heard how important tourism is to the state and we know how important it is to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

**Mr MILLAR:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With all due respect, I asked about a specific issue in regard to the vegetation management framework. Will the framework—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, yesterday I made a ruling about not simply standing and restating your question. It is not an opportunity to do that. If you are asking me to rule on relevance, I am happy to give you a ruling.

**Mr MILLAR:** Mr Speaker, could you rule on relevance?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member. I believe that the Premier is being relevant. I have been listening very carefully to her answer and I believe it goes absolutely to the core of your question. You may not like how the question is being answered, but I believe that the Premier is being relevant.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said, we will honour our election commitments. We will ensure that the legislation, when introduced, will go through the full committee process and people will be able to have their say.

### **Health System, Federal Funding**

**Ms BOYD:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the comments the minister made in the House yesterday about the federal funding of Queensland hospitals and I ask: will the minister advise the House on whether there will be any impact to services in my region and whether the minister is aware of any alternative views?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Pine Rivers for her question. There can be no doubt that if Malcolm Turnbull does not pay the billion dollars that the Commonwealth owes our hospitals it will have a devastating impact on health services in the community that we both represent. That is exactly why we have been seeking bipartisan support in our calls for the Turnbull government to deliver the healthcare funds owed to our hospitals. However, sadly, those opposite are so beholden to their bosses

in Canberra that they are unwilling to stand up for our hospitals. Yesterday, we learnt just how beholden they were. We know that the member for Mudgeeraba has a proud record of plagiarism in this place. Who could forget her first speech as arts minister? She delivered the same speech that Rachel Nolan had delivered six months earlier. Word for word, it was the same speech.

**An honourable member:** It was a good speech.

**Dr MILES:** It was a good speech, I will give her that. Yesterday, she topped even that appalling effort. Yesterday, in a debate about whether the LNP would stand up to Canberra on healthcare funding, she outsourced her speech writing to the very people she is meant to be standing up to. In her speech she incorporated, word for word, this exact statement from Greg Hunt.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, Minister! Are you tabling those documents?

**Dr MILES:** I table that for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Document titled 'Ros Bates (Hansard, 7 March 2018)' [292].

*Tabled paper:* Document titled 'Federal Health Minister Greg Hunt' [293].

She could not even be bothered to put it in her own words. She just copied and pasted it. It was not quoted. It was not attributed. She used his words as if they were her own. Not content with covering up for Malcolm Turnbull and the Commonwealth government, they have gone even further. Now they are nothing but a cheap imitation of the federal government. They are just their local spokespeople. They are just their mouthpieces. They are just their puppets here in Queensland. Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition could not be bothered to pick up the phone. Now, we learn that the member for Mudgeeraba could not be bothered to write her own speech. They could not be bothered to vote yes or no on the motion. They could not be bothered to do that. They do not want to make the choice, but they have to: is it Queensland or is it Canberra?

### **Vegetation Management Framework, Housing Affordability**

**Ms LEAHY:** My question without notice is to the Premier. In the last parliament, the Property Council raised significant concerns that Labor's vegetation management framework would make new homes less affordable. Will the Premier guarantee that Labor's proposed vegetation management framework will not increase the cost of new houses in South-East Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. Of course, if the Property Council has any concerns they are free to contribute to the committee process. I do not envisage any increases in property prices because of our vegetation management laws. I will make it very clear and recap for those opposite: we went to the election with a commitment about vegetation management in this state. We are determined to introduce that legislation. We will honour that election commitment. As I said, it will go through a committee process for the full six weeks. The legislation will not be rushed through.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection from those opposite. When they were in government they acted in the early hours of the night to avoid public scrutiny. There will be full consultation. We welcome the Property Council engaging in the committee process and putting forward their views. Once again, we will not put up with the large-scale clearing that has been happening in Queensland. We will put an end to that.

**Mr Powell:** There is no large-scale clearing. You're making it up.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, please resume your seat. Member for Glass House, you are warned under standing orders. I gave you enough of a heads up earlier. Other members, please take note.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We will ensure we protect the Great Barrier Reef. I go back once again to the LNP's record. In the first two years of the LNP government clearing rates doubled in Queensland and continued to climb to 400,000 hectares a year to 2015-16. That is completely unacceptable and unsustainable. Our legislation will be based on science, which is what the Queensland community expects.

### **Queensland Economy**

**Mrs LAUGA:** My question is to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's policies are positively impacting Queensland's economy? Is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative policies?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Keppel for that very important question. We have seen in Queensland a long list of excellent economic data coming through. This goes to demonstrate that the Palaszczuk Labor government's economic plans are actually working. Mr Speaker, I pay tribute to you, as the former treasurer, for putting in place incredibly important architecture around our economic plan.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, I understand that at times there is provocative language used or there is combativeness. When statements are not combative please try to listen to the answer to the question.

**Ms TRAD:** They must have known that I was going to be talking about our jobs growth. We know those opposite have not met a job they did not want to sack.

Since the Palaszczuk Labor government's election it has created more than 154,000 jobs. In the past 12 months more than 110,000 jobs have been created. If we look across Queensland let us see how those jobs have been distributed. There have been 11,000 jobs created in Townsville, 6,600 jobs in Mackay, 7,000 jobs in Cairns, 13,000 jobs on the Gold Coast, almost 9,000 jobs on the Sunshine Coast, 14,000 jobs in Logan-Beenleigh and 6,000 jobs in Ipswich, where we will be governing from next week.

This is all about Labor's plan to attract investment, invest in infrastructure and invest in quality front-line services. We know that all of this is at risk if the federal government follows through on its plans to cut \$1.6 billion annually from the Queensland budget. We have put on the record that that is equivalent to 5,000 teachers, 5,000 nurses, 3,000 police officers and more than 1,100 firefighters.

What did those opposite do yesterday when we debated this? They did not put a position. We do not know what their position is on this. Like we do not know what their position is on remote Indigenous housing, on cuts to trainees and apprentices or cuts to the health system. Maybe they do not have a position because they do not know what to say. Maybe they do not know what to say because they have not filled their manager for stakeholder policy engagement and fundraising position. We know that this very important position is going to need to identify the needs and issues of stakeholders and relate them to LNP policy and align them with fundraising opportunities.

There we have it. They do not know what to say because no-one has been paid them to tell them what to say. They are either plagiarising Canberra or they are paying someone to tell them what to say. I table a copy of that document for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Document titled 'Manager—Stakeholder Policy Engagement and Fundraising' [\[294\]](#).

*(Time expired)*

### **Vegetation Management Framework, Food Security**

**Mr LAST:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Natural Resources. Will the minister guarantee that converting land to high-value agricultural uses will not be more difficult under Labor's proposed vegetation management framework, threatening Queensland's long-term food security and pushing up Queensland families' groceries bills?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for the question regarding our vegetation management laws. It was an election commitment to bring in vegetation management laws because they are a necessity. The Premier talked about 400,000 hectares being cleared. There is one figure that rings more true than that. That is that 138,000 hectares of remnant vegetation was cleared. Vegetation that was never touched before was cleared under their watch. As I have said before, there is one group in our society that recognises climate change more than any other group—that is our agricultural sector. They are with us in addressing climate change. There is no doubt that climate change is the most significant thing affecting our state.

I assure those opposite that agricultural production was at its peak when we had strict vegetation management laws in place. We saw peaks in agricultural production under us. Under the Newman-Nicholls government agricultural production actually fell due to their laissez faire vegetation management laws. We have listened to the agricultural sector representatives—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister is not taking interjections. I appreciate the subject matter is of great interest to those to my left, but the minister is not taking interjections. I ask that the minister be heard.

**Dr LYNHAM:** We have listened to representatives of the agriculture industry—AgForce, the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Growcom et cetera—in developing these laws. These laws are a necessity. We must address climate change in this state. These laws will enable, as they did before, vital agricultural production in this state. As we have said before, we have \$65 billion worth of exports from our agricultural sector. We have proven that there can be a coexistence between climate change management through vegetation management laws and agricultural production in this state. We have proven it in the past and we will prove it in the future.

### Women

**Mrs MULLEN:** My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister please update the House on the contribution women are making to industries covered by the state development portfolio? Is the minister aware of any other approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Jordan for her question. I pay tribute to the long service she has committed to women in this state in various aspects of her career. I also acknowledge on International Women's Day that the electorate that she represents is named after Vi Jordan who was the first woman in the Australian Labor Party ever elected to Queensland parliament.

Last week I had the pleasure of addressing and supporting women in a planning breakfast organised by the Planning Institute of Australia. Earlier this week I addressed a breakfast for women in manufacturing organised by the Australian Industry Group, an initiative supported by the department of state development. What those events highlighted was the extraordinary contribution women are making to the Queensland economy in so many ways. There is scarcely an industry, a profession or an organisation in Queensland that is not benefitting from the increased participation of women, with one notable exception—the Liberal National Party.

The opposition in the last parliament was notable for its underrepresentation of women in this House, but at the election all that changed. It got worse. The good news is that the Leader of the Opposition has tweeted today that she is 'Going to fight the patriarchy'.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, are you tabling that document?

**Mr DICK:** I table a copy of that tweet.

*Tabled paper:* Tweet, dated 8 March 2018, regarding International Women's Day [\[295\]](#).

When you ask the Leader of the Opposition how she has fought the patriarchy in the past, I have two words for her: Verity Barton. Where is that icon of the 54th and 55th Parliaments who was sacrificed to the vaulting ambition of the tyro from Townsville? Do not look so glum, member for Broadwater.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I am assuming you are making reference to a member in the House. If you are, I would ask that you use their correct title.

**Mr DICK:** I say to the member for Broadwater: do not look so glum. We know you are ambitious for the job of another woman in the House. That will come soon enough. To make matters worse, what is the first thing she did as the Leader of the Opposition? She appointed the member for Everton as her deputy whose single most memorable contribution to the parliament in the last term was saying there were too many women on the Parole Board. The Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services remembers that.

Queensland knows that the Leader of the Opposition says one thing and does another. Is she going to stand up for women in remote communities who need housing? Is she going to stand up for female nurses and doctors and allied health professionals who need funding from Canberra? She will not. Will she stand up for a female LNP nominee for the Australian parliament? I doubt she will do any of that. It is about time that she stopped saying one thing and doing another and it is about time that she did say one thing: that she supports Queensland getting its fair share of GST and that she will stand up to Malcolm Turnbull and Canberra.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I want to acknowledge St Laurence's College in the gallery today—I believe it may be the third day in a row that we have had students from St Laurence's here—from the electorate of South Brisbane.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am very pleased to see such interest in the parliament. Order, members!

### Waste Levy

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Mr Speaker, I wish my question could be to the member for Miller but he is due for his protection, isn't he?

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, member for Broadwater.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that is a contravention of standing orders during question time.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order. Member, I caution you. It was clearly not a preamble to a question. If I see that occurring again you will be sat down and you will be warned under the standing orders.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Minister for Environment. Given the member for Ipswich West is on the record keen to introduce a Queensland waste levy—and I table his public call for this new tax on business and households—will the minister rule out any wheelie bin tax or waste levy?

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Queensland Times*, dated 10 January 2018, titled 'Reintroduction of waste levy may be the answer to dumping: MP' [296].

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for Broadwater for the question and even more so on this day, International Women's Day, given that his position here has been on the back of the loss of a woman in that seat. I thank the member for the question.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members to my left.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, please do not wait for me to finish my statement and then immediately interject. That goes for all members of the House.

**Ms ENOCH:** Again, I thank the member for the question. Let us not forget that the many waste issues that we are currently dealing with and experiencing in South-East Queensland began when the LNP recklessly repealed the waste disposal levy in 2012 when the member for Broadwater sat around the cabinet table and made that decision—the result of which has been an increase in the amount of interstate waste reported as being received in Queensland facilities.

Let me be clear that the Palaszczuk government will not tolerate Queensland being turned into a waste dump. Many in this place will also remember that, when the waste disposal levy was repealed, the shadow environment minister's final words in his speech were, '... and I say good riddance to bad rubbish!' He said that. In that one action of repealing the levy they relegated Queensland to being a place where others felt they could come and dump their waste.

That is why this government commissioned a report into the waste industry in this state, and that is being finalised in preparation for cabinet. We will ensure that this state is not a dumping ground for others' waste, unlike those opposite who pretty much opened the floodgate and said, 'Come on in.' They made it the most attractive place to dump waste, including the Gold Coast, and put more pressure on local governments in South-East Queensland. This government will always stand up for Queensland. We will not be a dumping ground for other states.

*(Time expired)*

### Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

**Mr HARPER:** My question is to the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Can the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is backing the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services?

**Mr CRAWFORD:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. In fact, it was just last week that I was in his home patch in Townsville looking at all that rain. The member for Thuringowa accompanied me to the LDMG, with the mayor and the hardworking team up there, and assisted with the briefing of what was happening in Townsville. I want to recognise his time in emergency services working alongside the staff of QFES in his role as a paramedic for some 25 years.

Our government is committed to ensuring that Fire and Emergency Services across this state have the resources they need to do the job they do. That includes a \$70 million Queensland Fire and Emergency Services program to build trucks and renew the fleet. Some of those trucks will be red.

Some of those trucks will be yellow. What I am finding across all areas of Queensland—I am handing out keys everywhere; I am dolling them out all over the place—are a lot of very happy people. I know that a lot of members from this side of the House have been representing me in that process.

There is nothing more thrilling than to see the look on the face of a hardworking volunteer or career firefighter when they get a new appliance—some of them worth up to nearly a million dollars. During the election campaign the Premier announced the \$29.5 million program to boost our firefighters, with 100 new firefighters as well as 12 new fire communications officers. That has created a lot of excitement out there as well.

Five days ago I was in Kingaroy with the Leader of the Opposition. We were handing out 99 awards to firefighters involved in the Swickers abattoir blaze there. It was quite a good process for the people of Kingaroy, recognising what happened in that community where they fought very hard to save the factory.

For the benefit of the Leader of the Opposition, who was the assistant treasurer in the Newman government, I want to remind the House of what the LNP planned to do during their time. They planned to sack 46 Rural Fire Service officers and 10 support staff—56 officers were going to be sent to the scrap heap. Some of those proposed cuts included places such as Cloncurry, Roma, Charters Towers and Barcaldine—the very places that they advocate they represent.

One man stood in the road of the LNP and blocked that, and that was the then member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson. Vaughan stood up to his own party. I want to recognise what Vaughan did as a great advocate for standing up to those cuts and looking after our rural firefighters. The question is: will the member for Nanango do the same thing and stand up for rural firefighters in Queensland?

### Palmerston Highway

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Minister, this week the Palmerston Highway was closed for nearly two days following a semitrailer crash. Considering the high incidence of accidents, serious injuries and deaths on the section between Innisfail and the Atherton Tablelands, will the minister now invest in upgrading this dangerous highway?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member for his question. The Palmerston Highway is a very important B-double freight route from the Bruce Highway to the Atherton Tablelands. I know that the honourable member has made some very strong representations previously on this matter. In fact, he did that before he represented the area, which is now in the new seat of Hill. Consequently, because there was a very strong case from the member for Hill, the Palaszczuk government allocated \$3 million for restoration and resealing work. We are doing about \$450,000 worth of resealing work this financial year and the rest of that will be rolled out to do very important work.

The Atherton Tablelands is a very important part of the Far North Queensland economy. I know that the member for Hill is a passionate advocate up there. He is always in my ribs about road funding and roads. They are vital to his electorate. We are allocating \$3 million that is being rolled out this financial year and next financial year.

### Court System, Federal Funding

**Mr BROWN:** My question is to the Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Leader of the House. Will the Attorney-General please update the House on challenges facing our state courts?

**Mrs D'ATH:** We know in this state that our courts face challenges and will continue to face challenges, as do the federal courts. We know that in recent times one of the challenges that stakeholders have been raising with the federal government is the pressures on the family law courts, asking for further investment. Sadly, the solution from the federal government is not to put more investment into the family law courts federally but to introduce legislation which would see more family law matters being pushed into the state jurisdiction.

The bill currently before the Senate extends family law jurisdiction to state children's courts and increases the property value of contested property law disputes able to be dealt with by our magistrates courts. The explanatory memorandum in the bill does not make provision for training of state judicial officers and staff, and notes that there will be no immediate financial implications from the expanded jurisdiction being thrust upon state courts. However, if you ask every jurisdiction they will disagree with this statement. That statement in the explanatory notes to the Commonwealth bill is simply not accurate. A number of stakeholders have made submissions on the bill telling the federal government that the state courts would need a significant injection of resources for the amendments to have any practical effect.



The Law Council of Australia has been telling the Turnbull coalition for years that the federal and family courts are chronically underfunded, are causing damaging delays for families and are impeding access to justice. The Palaszczuk government has made a significant investment and put resources into our courts, particularly setting up our specialist domestic and family violence courts, bringing back diversionary courts, and bringing back drug and alcohol and Murri courts.

This bill from the Commonwealth is yet another example of the Turnbull government trying to cost-shift their responsibilities onto jurisdictions instead of stepping up and doing their job. At a time when they are looking at ripping funding out of states, particularly Queensland by short-changing Queensland on the GST, when we had to fight them tooth and nail to get our CLC funding cuts reversed, when they want to short-change us on health funding and education funding, they are now trying to push their responsibility of family law on to our state courts with not one cent on offer and no consultation whatsoever.

Legal stakeholders have made it very clear that they have grave concerns about this family law bill before the Commonwealth parliament. The Turnbull government needs to wake up to itself. I ask those on the other side: will they stand up for Queensland and say no to the Turnbull government on this bill?

*(Time expired)*

### **Neighbourhood Watch, Funding**

**Mr WATTS:** My question is to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. Can the minister explain why the Palaszczuk government has slashed funding to Neighbourhood Watch groups which are celebrating their 30th year of keeping the Queensland community safe?

**Mr RYAN:** Their house is already in disorder. I understand the member for Gregory already has a question on notice before the House in respect of this matter. I could ask for your ruling on the same question matter, Mr Speaker, but I am happy to give the answer. When we look at the record on this, it is the LNP which has undermined the resources of our policing service in respect of this commitment.

Back in 2012 the LNP said that it would provide a temporary funding boost to Neighbourhood Watch of \$2 million over four years. When they got into government they said to the Queensland Police Service, 'We are not going to give you a separate appropriation. We are not going to fund that commitment. We are going to ask you, the Queensland Police Service, to divert resources away from what you would normally do,'—law enforcement and community safety—'and transfer that money to Neighbourhood Watch.' That was a very reckless policy which undermines our public safety commitment. What they also did—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. I have warned you already today and I have asked you repeatedly to use members' titles.

**Mr RYAN:** Knowing that their commitment was only a four-year temporary funding boost, they never took it to the last election. They never took any commitment to the last election that they would continue that temporary funding boost. They never said before the election that if they were elected they would ask the Queensland Police Service to continue to divert resources away from law enforcement into this temporary funding commitment that they made.

The Queensland Police Service has a very proud record of supporting Neighbourhood Watch groups because they do an outstanding job in our community, and we are very thankful for the volunteers involved in Neighbourhood Watch for what they do with the Queensland Police Service to support community safety outcomes here in Queensland. The Queensland Police Service will continue to support them by auspicing Neighbourhood Watch Queensland, ensuring that insurance and workers compensation is paid and ensuring that Neighbourhood Watch groups have the resources they need to help facilitate the work their volunteers do.

We value Neighbourhood Watch Queensland. We appreciate what they do, and we thank their volunteers for what they do. At the end of the day, when it comes to the budget that we provide to the Police Commissioner, it is up to him to make the decisions as to how he allocates that budget. When the Police Commissioner says to me that he wants to allocate those resources to our front line to ensure that our police can do the job that they do keeping all of us safe, I support him in that decision.

## Employment

**Mr KING:** My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister please advise the House on recent comments made in response to employment figures?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for the question. Like all MPs on this side of the House, we are very proud of our employment policies that are generating the fastest jobs growth rate in the country. Our programs are working. We have heard this morning about Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work. We have created over 150,000 jobs since we were first elected. This is a government unashamedly all about jobs, jobs, jobs.

Confidence in the jobs market is already being restored. We have more people joining the search for work because they can see the record of this government creating jobs right across our state. These results are also being recognised by stakeholders. Nick Behrens—I say again, Nick Behrens, whom we have already heard about from the Deputy Premier and Treasurer this morning—tweeted recently that Queensland employment continues to surge as do the number of people returning to the labour market to find a job. The Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Queensland pulse survey confirmed the rise in business confidence, stating that for the first time in four years confidence was in positive territory. He called it a 'direct reflection of the certainty provided by a stable government'.

Unfortunately, those on that side of the House, the LNP, cannot see this good news. When faced with this unprecedented growth, the Leader of the Opposition rushed to try to make a political point and instead she got the numbers very wrong. She claimed in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* that it was taking an average of 64 weeks for people to find a job in Toowoomba. Oops, that is not true. Embarrassingly, the Leader of the Opposition had to be corrected publicly by the ABS. She had to be publicly corrected in the *Toowoomba Chronicle* by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Maybe we could lend her a hand and let her know how we read employment data. The ABS, and I am happy to table this, pointed out—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am not one for props, but the minister is flashing around that article as a prop. There have been plenty of rulings on props.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Things do come to mind.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I was going to highlight that the member for Kawana may potentially be misleading the House.

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Local Government. Members, I have issued general warnings about the use of props and I expect that members table those documents as quickly as practicable to ensure the order of the House.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I table that article from the *Toowoomba Chronicle*.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Chronicle*, dated 11 January 2018, titled 'MPs' jobs press release needed closer fact check' [297].

In that article the Australian Bureau of Statistics points out that the average time that the Leader of the Opposition referred to is, in fact, half of what she claimed, it has been steady for around two to three years and it is one of the lowest in Queensland. The LNP members cannot help themselves. In a rush to score political points, they get it wrong again. They will not stand up for Queensland and Queenslanders deserve better from the LNP.

## Neighbourhood Watch, Funding

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. I table this letter from a Sunshine Coast Neighbourhood Watch group.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, undated, from Ms Merryl Berry to the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, regarding Neighbourhood Watch [298].

I ask: will the minister tell the House how the decision to slash their funding was communicated to this group of volunteers, who provide an important community service?

**Mr RYAN:** I thank the member for the question. I am not sure whether the member for Maroochydore was listening to my last answer. The Queensland Police Service will continue to support Neighbourhood Watch groups in the way they have done in the past and that will ensure that Neighbourhood Watch groups can continue to do the great work they do. The temporary funding boost, which was an election commitment of the previous LNP government, has now expired. The LNP made no further commitment at the last election. They are not being honest with the House or the community about how that previous commitment was funded by diverting those resources away from Queensland Police Service work.



**Mrs Frecklington:** Why are you getting rid of Neighbourhood Watch?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr RYAN:** I take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition because again she misleads. She is always flaky on the facts. She cannot get the ABS data right and she cannot get this right, either. I will repeat for the sake of the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite: the Queensland government and the Queensland Police Service will continue to support Neighbourhood Watch groups, as we have done in the past. This funding commitment amounts to almost \$75,000 a year in covering insurance costs.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It relates to the relevance to the question. I ask the minister—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, in future, if you have a point of order can you please rise to a point of order and call my attention? I will not, simply because you have risen to your feet, come to you.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to the fact that the minister is not being relevant to the question that I have asked. The question that I asked—

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, no, no, member.

**Ms SIMPSON:**—was how he communicated to volunteers. He has not answered that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, I am listening to the minister's answer, but I am also noting that the minister has taken an interjection from a member to my left. In doing so, he has enabled an interjection which otherwise should have been called to order. In this instance the minister is responding. I will hear his answer and I will continue to draw on whether he is relevant.

**Mr RYAN:** Those opposite are flaky on the facts, as always. They are also flaky on their support for the Queensland Police Service. How ordinary would it be—and we saw what they did when they were in government—to make the Queensland Police Service fund one of the LNP's election commitments by diverting resources away? What did we do with our commitment around Crime Stoppers? We made a separate appropriation in respect of our funding boost for Crime Stoppers because we value the work that Crime Stoppers do.

We also ensure that the Queensland Police Service has the resources it needs to do its job in law enforcement. We do not force them to divert resources away for election commitments that those opposite may or may not have funded in the past. If this issue were so important to those opposite, they would have made a separate election commitment at the 2017 election to ensure that their temporary boost continued. They are flaky on the facts.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** Let me restate our commitment to Neighbourhood Watch. The Queensland Police Service will continue to support them in the work they do. The commitment amounts to almost \$75,000 a year. It covers insurance costs, it covers workers compensation costs and it provides the resources that our Neighbourhood Watch groups need to get out and about working with the community in supporting community safety outcomes.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth, I find your interjections have been continually disruptive today. I am warning you under the standing orders. I call the member for Gladstone.

**Mr BUTCHER:** My question is to the—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry, the time for question time has expired.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I rise pursuant to standing order 248, which relates to a point of order, and also standing order 267, which is a matter suddenly arising. This morning in the House the Premier tabled various documents from the former member for Noosa. I now table for the benefit of the House copies of responses from ministers to the former member for Noosa, including one from Minister Farmer in which she said—

Glenn, I would be happy to put your name forward. I will certainly pass on the message. I think of you regularly.

Secondly, from Minister Crawford—

Mate, I'd be fully supportive—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members.

**Mr Brown** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Capalaba, do not interject when you are not in your seat. I warn you under standing orders. Member for Kawana, if you have a matter of privilege, I ask you to write to me on that matter. I certainly would appreciate you not tabling during a point of order. You have been given the privilege of making that point of order to me. I will listen to that. I have heard that you are obviously seeking to make a matter of privilege suddenly arising.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It is a matter of privilege pursuant to standing order 267, which deals with the powers and immunities of the House. The Premier used the powers to table various documents. I am now seeking to table documents from the former member for Noosa with respect to—

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, you can make a statement at some other stage to do that. That is not an appropriate use of the standing orders as I see it. Before I call the Clerk for the next order of the day—

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members! I do not wish to continually ask for order. If I do so and it is not adhered to, I will rise to my feet and you will respect the chair. Members leaving quietly would be appreciated. I wish to acknowledge yet again that we have St Laurence's College in the gallery today from the electorate of South Brisbane. I believe this is somehow very well coordinated.

## TOW TRUCK AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 7 March (see p. 343), on motion of Mr Bailey—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (11.18 am), continuing: As I was speaking to this bill yesterday just before the six o'clock debate, it is my pleasure to return to my speech. We see there have been some changes to the government's tow truck bill, which will bring in the following provisions to regulate private property towing: requiring that private property towing may only be performed by drivers and assistants who have the necessary certificates and licences; increasing penalties for operating a tow truck without a driver or assistant certificate; imposing conduct requirements on tow truck drivers including prohibiting intimidating, abusive or insulting behaviour; vehicles may only be taken by the most direct route to the nearest holding yard; setting maximum towing charges for a standard private property tow, \$250, the onsite release of a vehicle, \$150, and storing a vehicle, \$25; prohibiting call-out fees and charges such as administration fees; increasing the maximum penalty that may be imposed under the Tow Truck Regulation 2009 from 20 penalty units to 80 penalty units; and clarifying that a person's entire criminal history may be considered when determining whether to grant a licence.

In other words, it basically covers the same ground as much of the LNP private member's bill which was brought in by the member for Glass House. As I said during this debate yesterday, he can take great succour from the fact that the government has taken on this legislation and brought it in. It is something that he will be able to hold up in his community and around Queensland for some time. I would point out that in section 2.1 of report No. 1 of the 56th Parliament's Transport and Public Works Committee under the heading 'Examination of the Bill' it says 'private property towing'. I am quite perplexed to see that it says—

The amendments to the *Tow Truck Act 1973* and *Tow Truck Regulation 2009* apply only to towing vehicles from crash scenes and off-street regulated parking areas, and only in prescribed regulated areas in South East Queensland and along the east coast.

There is no acknowledgement that the bill is about private property towing. That is in contrast to report No. 49 of the 55th Parliament from the Public Works and Utilities Committee, which made it very clear that it was all about private property towing. I think someone from the committee should look at that particular report because it has been worded rather strangely, given that the report from the 55th Parliament mentioned that the original Tow Truck Act and Tow Truck Regulation did not cover breakdown towing, trade towing, compliance towing and removing vehicles from private property. It is clear that that is exactly what this bill is doing for the first time, so that is something for that committee to at least have a look at in their report.

There is no doubt that it was the LNP who were on the front foot when it comes to dodgy tow truck operators. When we were in government we listened to the community, particularly on the Gold Coast, where we faced significant issues in relation to gangs and extortion. These issues are beginning to rear their ugly heads again under the nose of the Labor government, which has a bad habit of turning a blind eye to any issues that might get them bad press. That is why I will not stop talking about criminal gangs and their association with a number of issues on the Gold Coast that we saw in 2013, whether it is tow trucks, tattoos, massage parlours or locksmiths. I am not saying that every person who is an operator in those particular areas—tow trucks, tattoos, massage parlours and locksmiths—were necessarily stood over or had some sort of association with criminal gangs, but there was definitely a pattern. When we were in government police advised that it was a good way to launder dirty money, sometimes through associations with restaurants as well in the Broadbeach area. We heard from the member for Capalaba yesterday.

We also heard from the member for Bancroft about how he has been towed at the Gold Coast—admittedly with almost deceptive signage—and I can understand his frustration with that, because similar things happened in central Surfers Paradise when we were in government. It was clear there were people with bikie gang associations who had car parks in similar buildings, and they would just call their tow truck mates to come and tow cars outside my wife's dental surgery. They would get \$400 or \$500. I think the member mentioned \$600.

In his contribution yesterday the member for Capalaba mentioned Mark Ready, a Brisbane tow truck operator who has said to me on a number of occasions that his business was unable to get traction at the Gold Coast because of his concern there were a number of nefarious practices being carried out by tow truck operators at the Gold Coast. As we have heard from the member for Bancroft and this tow truck operator—who has a significant operation here as well as being associated with the Brisbane Bandits baseball club—there was more that could and should have been done.

When we were in government we dealt with these issues involving tattoo shops, locksmiths and massage parlours, and it has become necessary to include tow trucks because of the significant media attention this issue has attracted. We did do something about getting Labor to talk about tow truck operators in 2013, when the member for Glass House brought in a private member's bill.

According to the committee report, as at 31 May 2017, 56 per cent of tow truck licensees were in the greater Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast areas. Some 69 per cent of businesses advertise towing services in these areas. The bill before us does not deliver solutions about some things that have been mentioned that would prevent tow truck operators from ripping off—and at worst extorting—motorists.

I heard the explanation from the minister about the problems with holding yards not always being close to where the car is being towed. Obviously that could mean that if there is no limitation on distance and there is no holding yard nearby then the person who has their car towed has to go a significant distance to get it. While it does contain a provision which states that vehicles may only be taken by the most direct route to the nearest holding yard, this could still mean that a car towed from a Fortitude Valley car park could potentially end up in Logan or North Lakes. This puts people who live kilometres away at a disadvantage.


The bill also fails to mandate signage on private property. It instead says that the government would implement guidelines. I note that the member for Bancroft said that when his car was towed there was signage, but it was not particularly adequate. That demonstrates that the government could have done more about signage requirements.

During the public briefing last month my colleague, the member for Hervey Bay, said that he had received a complaint from a lady who parked her car in an area where there was no signage to say that it was a private car park. Her car was subsequently towed away. The committee report states—

The Queensland Law Society ... would like there to be 'an obligation placed on tow truck drivers not to tow a car from a "relevant car park" unless the required signage is present at the time the car is towed'.

That seems perfectly reasonable. This would remove any ambiguity in relation to where a motorist can and cannot be towed. That was the case that I mentioned in Surfers Paradise, where the bikie who owed the tattoo parlour also had a car park. There was a sign that was blu-tacked onto the wall, but if it fell off and you drove into it you did not know. That is when he would call his tow truck mates and they would come and tow the car away.

I acknowledge other aspects of the bill that are similar to the LNP private member's bill which regulate private property towing, in particular: introducing provisions that provide maximum towing charges; prohibiting callout fees; and increasing the maximum penalty that may be imposed under the Tow Truck Regulation. We will not oppose the bill, but as I mentioned we note its shortfall in addressing mandatory signage and limiting towing distances.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (11.26 am): I rise to speak in support of the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I remember as a young chap when my parents owned fish and chip shops down at Southport back in the day—

**Mr Hart:** You had hair.

**Mr BUTCHER:** I did have hair, member for Burleigh, and I still have hair now. It is a little bit like yours. This bill certainly piqued my interest because of some of the things that happened back in the day 20 or 25 years ago. One of the best income earners at my father's fish and chip shops was to race to the phone when there was a major accident on the highway outside his shop. He would get \$80 cash in hand just by ringing up. Competition between businesses who rang up to get that cash turned nasty at times when police who were called out to the accident also had to sort out the big blue going on between tow truck operators. When Minister Bailey introduced this legislation I thought it was well and truly about time we sorted out some of the issues that we have seen here in Queensland in relation to the tow truck industry.

It did surprise me yesterday when the member for Mudgeeraba talked about the number of tow trucks that are stacked up on the M1 and on the exits. I did not understand why she would oppose tow trucks waiting to help clear accidents on these exits to make them flow more quickly. No matter what we do with this legislation, it has absolutely nothing to do with tow truck ramping. They are there providing a service to clear away accidents to keep traffic flowing, so I was a bit baffled by her comment yesterday.

One of the key things that will change in this legislation, should it be passed, is the issue of clarity around signage. I note that the previous speaker spoke a fair bit about signage on private property as well. Everyone agrees that signage is important to the issue of parking on private property. Clearly, highly visible signage ensures that all parties are aware of the conditions of parking and the consequences of not complying on that private property.

This bill seeks to achieve this clarity in a way that does not infringe on the common law rights of a private property owner and of occupiers. Regulating signage for private property parking would affect these common law rights and the legal basis for removing vehicles from private property. In Queensland, there is no general right to park on another person's property. As such, it is not proposed that this bill will deny property owners or occupiers legitimate rights to remove unauthorised vehicles just because a regulated sign has not been installed.

Regulating signs could prevent a business from being able to remove an unauthorised vehicle that causes a genuine problem simply because they have not installed the correct sign. Introducing signage requirements into law could also lead to these businesses installing signs to pre-empt the possibility that they may have to remove a vehicle in the future. This could impose costs and inconvenience that is unnecessary and may unnecessarily restrict parking for motorists when they are allowed.

This investigation considered information provided by many stakeholders, particularly in the committee process, and the competing rights and interests of all parties involved. As a result, it did not recommend regulating signage; instead, it recommended guidelines be developed for signage in Queensland. It is strongly recommended that businesses who intend to have vehicles towed install signs not only to warn motorists but also to protect themselves from potential litigation should they unlawfully remove a vehicle. I am pretty sure that the Law Society of Queensland were strong advocates for that.

This bill regulates towing of vehicles from private property, not the parking of vehicles on private property. The towing of vehicles is regulated by imposing conditions and requirements on who may tow vehicles from private property, how and where the vehicle may be towed and the fees that may be charged. I do believe we have heard a fair bit about where they get towed. I know listening to the previous speaker today and one last night that, if you do get your car towed, you want to make sure that you will be able to get access to that car, get it back and pay those bills if you have done the wrong thing without travelling all over the countryside. This effectively prohibits inappropriate towing related practices while balancing the competing rights of property occupiers and motorists for a fairer outcome for all.

The bill proposes that before a vehicle can be towed from private property without the express direction or request of the vehicle's owner there must be a towing consent between the property occupier and the tow truck licence holder. This towing consent must be carried in the tow truck while the vehicle is being towed away. The purpose of the towing consent is to ensure that the tow truck licence holder acts only at the request and with the approval of the private property occupier—that is, they are not independently monitoring and enforcing parking conditions on their own initiative. I am pretty sure that is where most of this legislation is coming from. It is because of tow truck operators just scoping places where their own enforcement officers take away these cars without the property owner's acknowledgement.

For practical reasons, it is intended that towing consent either covers the towing of a single vehicle for a one-off tow or, where the property occupier has an ongoing problem with unauthorised parking, covers removal of vehicles during a specified period outlined in the towing consent. For practical reasons, a towing consent will not outline all the specific details of the arrangement between the property occupier and the tow truck licence holder. The details of any arrangement may be included in a separate contract; however, it will include information about the tow truck licence holder, the property occupier who is providing that consent, the property and the period of time for which the consent is also valid. This will ensure that the rights of the vehicle owners are upheld whilst also allowing responsible and lawful operators to continue to conduct their legitimate businesses.

As we also heard over the last few days, a lot of tow truck operators in Queensland do the right thing. This legislation and these type of things are designed to stop those rogue operators running roughshod over people in Queensland and removing cars that they should not remove. The tow truck consent does not change the property occupier's or tow truck licence holder's obligation to comply with their obligations under the common law regarding the removal of the vehicle. Importantly, the towing consent must be presented to a vehicle owner or authorised officer if requested on the day.

It is important that any legislation passed in this place seeks to uphold the rights of the stakeholders involved. This bill strikes a balance between the rights of the private property owners, the rights of responsible tow truck operators and the rights of the community in general. I applaud the minister for introducing this legislation and also the committee that did the work to get it to this point where we see bipartisan support for this bill. I commend the bill to the House.



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (11.35 am): I rise today to contribute to the debate on the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. Let us talk about tow trucks, motor vehicles and traffic congestion in the western suburbs of Brisbane. Each and every day as the Palaszczuk Labor government fails to act, traffic congestion worsens on Moggill Road in the electorates of Moggill and Maiwar. The fact that Labor failed to act over its last three years in office—in fact during 17 of the last 20 years—is an indictment and illustrates Labor's lack of commitment to road and public transport infrastructure in the western suburbs of Brisbane.

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. As fascinating as the member for Moggill's contribution is about road funding, this is the tow truck bill and I ask him to come back to the bill.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): The point of order is on relevance. I will take some advice. I will ask the member for Moggill to return to the long title of the bill.

**Dr ROWAN:** Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. I certainly call upon the Labor government to act. In returning to the bill, this legislation will regulate private property towing, amend tolling arrangements and address the exclusion of 17-year-olds, firstly, from mandatory disqualifications for serious offences; secondly, from the SPER regime to cover unpaid fines; and, thirdly, from the demerit point system if they have not paid the fine for a demerit point offence.

The LNP opposition released a policy and introduced a private member's bill in the 55th Parliament in response to increasing community discontent and ongoing media attention surrounding practices involving the removal of parked motor vehicles from private property. At the time, the Palaszczuk Labor government's response was, unsurprisingly, to announce one of its many three-month inquiries, this time into tow truck practices, which was led by former District Court judge Michael Forde. The subsequent Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was to give effect to the inquiry recommendations and was introduced on 22 August 2017. This was two weeks after the member for Glass House, the honourable Andrew Powell MP, introduced a private member's bill on 8 August 2017.

I take a moment to highlight the pattern that is the modus operandi of the Palaszczuk Labor government—that is, copying of LNP policies and associated legislation, in this case handing in the diligent work of the member for Glass House. The LNP's real-time fuel pricing policy as well as the LNP's 'swimming lesson' policy could have potentially become the most recent examples, although not given the outcome of last night's debate.

The LNP is in touch with what the community wants and expects from elected representatives, unlike Labor. The best that the Palaszczuk Labor government can do is blatantly copy. The aforementioned legislation of 2017 lapsed when the 55th Parliament was dissolved. The legislation before us today is very much the same as the previous bill, with only minor administrative differences along with changes about which tow truck offences need to go to court versus those dealt with by an infringement notice and a change to put beyond doubt the ability of toll road operators to issue a single demand notice for multiple unpaid tolls with only one administrative charge.

The 2018 bill introduces several provisions to regulate private property towing, including a requirement that private property towing may only be performed by drivers and assistants who have necessary certificates and licences; increased penalties for operating a tow truck without a driver or assistant certificate; conduct requirements to be imposed on tow truck drivers including the prohibition of intimidating, abusive or insulting behaviour; vehicles to be required to be taken the most direct route to the nearest holding yard including a set maximum towing charge for a standard private property tow of \$250; and the on-site release of a vehicle at \$150 and the storing of a vehicle at \$25. Call-out fees and charges such as administration fees will also be prohibited, with the maximum penalty that may be imposed under the Tow Truck Regulation Act 2009 to be increased from 20 penalty units to 80 penalty units. Finally, the bill contains clarification regarding a person's entire criminal history being taken into consideration when determining whether to grant a licence.

The bill also seeks to amend the Transport Infrastructure Act which governs the tolling arrangements in Queensland to allow multiple demand notices to be included in the one notice. Presently, the current system allows drivers three days to pay for their travel. Should a customer fail to pay, the toll road operator will issue a toll invoice. Should the customer then fail to pay the toll invoice by the due date, under the current legislation the toll road operator must issue a separate demand notice for each trip listed on the unpaid toll invoice and each of the demand notices incurs a separate fee. Some 95 per cent of customers pay within three days of travel and a further two per cent pay on receipt of a toll invoice, leaving only three per cent of motorists who will receive demand notices. This change will aggregate the demand notice, subsequently reducing the doubling of fees. Transurban Queensland, Brisbane City Council, the Tolling Customer Ombudsman and the RACQ supported the proposed amendments for tolling demand notices.

Following the commencement of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016 on 12 November 2017, the age of an adult was raised to 18 years, meaning that 17-year-old children would be excluded from mandatory disqualifications for serious offences and from the SPER regime to recover unpaid fines and the demerit point system if they do not pay a fine for a demerit point offence. To ensure that 17-year-olds with a P1 provisional licence continue to be held accountable for their driving behaviour, the bill proposes to retain the current legislative position. As such, 17-year-old drivers will remain subject to mandatory disqualifications, liable to SPER for unpaid infringement notices and subject to the demerit point scheme.

The following comments were included in the statement of reservation submitted by the LNP as a part of the relevant parliamentary committee's consideration of Labor's bill last year—

It is disappointing that the government decided not to consider the Tow Truck (Towing from Private Property) Amendment Bill 2017, a private members' bill introduced by the Member for Glass House on 8 August 2017, at the same time as the government's bill during the committee's inquiry. The LNP non-government members consider the decision for the house not to consider both bills in a cognate debate to be a matter of petty politics rather than in the interests of public policy.


...

The Palaszczuk Labor Government's bill also does not act on a number of significant concerns raised by the community, namely car park signage and maximum towing distances.

The government's proposal does not seek to limit the distance a car can be towed from private property, meaning a car towed from a Fortitude Valley car park could end up in Logan or North Lakes.

I conclude by saying that whilst this legislation is a step forward in the right direction we are only really here addressing this issue because of the leadership shown by the Liberal National Party and the great work undertaken by the member for Glass House. There is still more work to be done. I know that the new shadow minister, the honourable Steve Minnikin MP, the member for Chatsworth, will continue

to hold this Labor government to account and champion strategies to ease traffic congestion, enhance public transport, ensure accountability with respect to Queensland's tow truck industry and highlight ongoing much needed SPER reforms.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.42 am): When residents of Logan travel into town they are often unfamiliar with the area in which they are perhaps going to a doctor's appointment, a job or some other meeting. They are in a hurry to get to that appointment and they might take the opportunity to grab a park somewhere that seems unoccupied in a business. They might recognise that if they are not using the services of that business they rightfully should not park there and that if the business needs to ensure that customers who are using their business can use their car parks they might exercise their rights. What they will not accept is the abuse of that right with exorbitant fees and tow truck companies not responding to local businesses but instead trawling through, in some cases, businesses that are physically closed. This is why I rise to speak in support of the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.

I note that members on the other side criticised last year's independent investigation. They criticised the process of listening to both sides of this debate. However, we know that there are legitimate small businesses that want to ensure that the car parks they own are used for their business. We also want to ensure that the balance is right for tow truck operators and we want to stop those who abuse this process. It was worthwhile doing that independent investigation in order to listen to all of those sides. Last year's independent investigation into the towing industry identified a number of concerning practices that were taking place. There are two that I want to concentrate on that are of particular concern.

The first is that tow truck operators who were towing from private businesses had no licensing requirement, meaning that if they did behave badly or engaged in practices that were not in accordance with the standards that we have there is no comeback to ensure that their licence is removed. The second is that there were genuine concerns over the distances that vehicles could be towed. People obviously often come back at the end of a long day, especially if they have gone to a doctor's appointment or something, and they need to be able to get information about exactly where their car has been taken.

Currently there is no regulation of private property towing in Queensland, but the amendments in this bill seek to correct that by applying the current licensing and accreditation process that we already know and understand. Persons who tow vehicles from crash scenes or from public areas, those who have the ability to remove vehicles that are seized by the police and at regulated off-street parking areas need to have that licence. The amendments in this bill extend this to tow truck drivers who take from private property.

In order to obtain a tow truck licence, the applicant will have to go through certain checks, especially a criminal history check, to ensure that they are an appropriate person. Fundamentally, they have to balance between respecting the private property of the individual who has the business parking area but also take the private property of another person; namely their car, which is often a huge investment and a vital tool for them getting to their place of work and business. This bill does not seek to punish those in the industry who do the right thing. The new requirements will have little impact on them because often they have been doing the right thing. Rather, it will help weed out those who have not sought to increase public benefit by ensuring that businesses can use parking for their own purposes whilst also not participating in the inappropriate removal of cars.

Operating unlicensed without the relevant accreditation carries significant penalties. Tow truck operators who have not gone through the process of licensing could be subject to penalties of more than \$20,000 and operators caught without the relevant accreditation will be subject to fines of more than \$7,000. These changes reflect the Logan community's expectations that an industry that takes it upon itself to pick up people's cars—admittedly inappropriately parked—and take them away should be fully licensed and accredited in the way that others are. Another aspect of the towing industry bill relates to the maximum distance a vehicle can be towed from the private property in question. I once parked in a clearway and my car was towed to somewhere on the north side, and members know my views on the north side.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** It is a wonderful place. I note that many members on the other side attacked the fact that cars were being towed to Logan whereas I thought it was a wonderful place to have a car towed to. There should be more of it. We know that that can be a stressful experience though, and this can be compounded if the vehicle is towed far away from where the person works and lives—they are

always welcome in Logan though—and causes significant and unnecessary inconvenience. The investigation looked at the percentage of this and found that 90 per cent of vehicles are moved less than 10 kilometres—I would prefer if that was going in the direction I wished to travel, but I understand that—and 97 per cent were moved less than 25 kilometres. However, there is a concern about the remaining three per cent of tows and even the 10 per cent that are moved between 10 and 25 kilometres. This is still of concern to the public and it needs to be addressed.


This bill protects the rights of motorists by limiting where vehicles may be towed, maintaining that they can be taken only to the nearest approved holding yard of the tow truck licensee by the most direct route. Many on the other side have glossed over this point or have not addressed this whatsoever. It is not that they do not know this, but they wish to confuse the issue. The capping of towing fees provides additional protection, because it removes any monetary incentive for vehicles to be towed a longer distance. If tow truck operators tow a vehicle for longer, they make less out of their business. This amendment gives them an incentive to move the vehicle to a tow yard that is as close as possible.

The bill also ensures that a fee cannot be charged for additional distance and time travelled by tow vehicles. I am sure that many people in Fortitude Valley would want their vehicle towed to Logan, but this bill provides disincentives for that to happen. The thinking behind this amendment is that market forces, which the members opposite pay lip-service to but then reject when it is convenient for them, would assist in the compliance of the amendments contained in this bill. The fee that is charged for towing a vehicle to a close tow yard is the same as it is for towing a vehicle to a yard that is further away. If a tow truck operator wanted to tow a vehicle to a yard that is further away, they would have to get their tow vehicle to do more work.

It is that market force that we expect will ensure that that three per cent of tow truck operators who move vehicles quite a long distance do not have any incentive to do so. In that way, although the bill does not implement maximum towing distances, it contains mechanisms that ensure that the public's legitimate concerns in this area are properly recognised. In some cases there might not be any holding yards located within the maximum distance that a vehicle can be towed. That is why making that distance prescriptive is perhaps not the right approach.

This legislation is about striking a balance between those who park in a private area where they are not using a business or service and those who wish to ensure that people can use their business or service by having parking conveniently close by, which they have paid for. This legislation strikes that balance properly by using fee caps and market forces to stop vehicles being towed long distances or arbitrary distances. It provides protection for the motorists from Logan, who I stand up for, and also for the rights of private property owners, who are also valued. We want to see people being able to park close to the services that they want to access.

I have listened to this debate. I believe that we have struck the right balance. I know that the members opposite have consistently attacked us on this, but I commend the minister for listening to people and getting the balance right. This legislation is not about politics; it is about getting the right decision through a deliberative process. That is why I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (11.52 am): I, too, rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. As we have heard in this debate, in many ways this legislation is no reflection on the industry. There will always be rogues in any industry and the tow truck industry is no different. There are rogues in any sector of the economy and in all walks of life. There are probably a few rogues in this House. The tow truck industry is no different.

The objectives of the bill are to provide a legislative framework to address areas of concern about the tow truck industry. Even though I represent an area in North Queensland, which is a long way from the shenanigans that happen in the metropolitan areas of Queensland, the people of my electorate are under no illusions. They see horror stories on current affairs programs and read about them in the newspapers. Although the people of my electorate are very much detached from them, those horror stories are not good for the tow truck industry. This bill provides the legislative framework to address those unregulated aspects of the tow truck industry, particularly, as we have heard in this debate, in relation to the removal of motor vehicles from private property.

Another objective of the bill is to reinstate the penalty and enforcement regime that is applicable to driving offences by 17-year-olds, which existed prior to 12 February 2018 when the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 raised the age of a child within the youth justice system to 17 years old, to ensure that demerit points can continue to be recorded on a 17-year-old's traffic history where an infringement notice is not paid. Another objective of the bill is to provide a clear statutory basis



for demand notice aggregation, thereby putting beyond doubt a toll road operator's ability to issue a single demand notice for multiple unpaid tolls and associated image processing fees with only one administration charge.

As has been said, and most recently by the member for Moggill, the LNP will not be opposing the changes that are contained in this bill. However, we need to note that many changes were, in fact, the inspiration of the LNP in a private member's bill that was introduced by the member for Glass House which has been canvassed quite well. For what it is worth, I join in giving an accolade to my good friend the member for Glass House in an acknowledgement of his contribution. He has probably seen a few tow trucks travelling from his electorate to this place.

As a member of the former Public Works and Utilities Committee in the 55th Parliament, I acknowledge my colleagues for their work in considering this legislation, particularly the member for Southport, who is with us here today, and also my good friend who is no longer with us, the former member for Redlands.

As I said, up north we hear the cries about the shenanigans that occur down south in the tow truck industry, but not everyone in the industry is a rogue and it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge some of the great tow truck operators in my own electorate, because the people of my electorate would be lost without them. I have been caught out and, sure enough, the RACQ patrol men and women—that great service—come out. The Grieshaber family at Calen Motors are a fine example of people who provide such a service. When I was a young bloke travelling up and down the coast of Central and North Queensland there was Cliff Parker at Carmila and Viv Jenkinson at Marlborough. These places are just specks on the map, but those people who I refer to have displayed such professionalism in the industry that they operate in and which they are passionate about, and that is the tow truck industry.

I want to come to the issue of the State Penalties Enforcement Registry and any measure that helps address the growing amount of unpaid fines, as identified in a recent Auditor-General's report as reaching more than \$1 billion. Imagine what we could do with that amount for our roads, hospitals or whatever. I think that both sides of the House would have to agree with that. Would it not be great if we could put that money to good use? There are all of these fines mounting up. As identified by the Auditor-General in his report, any measures that help address those outstanding fines should be considered. We note that the Auditor-General's report mentioned that these outstanding fines continue to escalate. A lot of people in my electorate of Whitsunday know about the State Penalties Enforcement Registry, or SPER as we know it. That is one of the great acronyms of the modern era. Labor has been struggling to recover that large amount of outstanding fines, which is now at a record high. People come to me and complain about that all the time.

It remains to be seen how the Palaszczuk Labor government will enforce this legislation and ensure compliance by these rogue tow truck operators. Some of us have a pretty good idea who they are. They pop up on TV shows, current affairs programs and in the papers. As I said, by and large, there is tremendous professionalism in the tow truck industry.

Earlier this week we saw that professionalism in the Mirani electorate, which adjoins the Whitsunday electorate. A heavy vehicle tow truck operator came to the rescue of a big semitrailer that tipped over in the main street of Walkerston, which raises the issue of getting that Walkerston bypass up and running. That was a dangerous situation and the tow trucks responded. The Peak Downs Highway was brought into question in this place. Those heavy vehicle tow truck operators are so important in my part of the world, the Mackay-Whitsunday region, particularly with those fuel tankers that head out to feed the Bowen Basin. When we think about this industry, it is not just the small tow truck operator; it is also those people who ride those big monsters on the road and who do a great job in responding when they are required.

Again, I acknowledge the member for Glass House for his work. For some time the LNP has agitated for changes to the tow truck legislation to address growing consumer concerns.

**Mr Bailey:** A load of nonsense.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I take that interjection from the minister, who said that is nonsense. I am sure the member for Glass House, I and many others could take the minister on an excursion and show him some evidence of the efforts by the LNP in trying to address these areas of concern in the industry. There is no doubt that the LNP will be keeping a watching brief on this legislation, because under the former LNP government a lot of good work was done. That former government's bill and this bill should have been considered in cognate. That was not the case. As I say, the LNP will not be opposing the changes that are contained in this bill.



**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.00 pm): I am pleased to speak in support of the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. For far too long members of my community, whether they are residents or visitors, have been victimised by rogue or cowboy tow truck operators, particularly in the inner city of Brisbane. People in my electorate have emailed me about their experiences. They have expressed confusion, frustration and irritation about practices of tow truck operators, including excessive fees, exorbitant release fees and, of course, outrageous storage charges. Around the Fortitude Valley area in my electorate is a particular hotspot for complaints. To put it bluntly, the rip-offs have to stop.

Industries often complain about red tape. Self-regulation, in my mind, generally does not work. This industry is completely out of control. I have to confess that one night I got caught myself in Fortitude Valley. I was attending a meeting. I know my area extremely well.

**Mr Minnikin:** What were you doing?

**Ms GRACE:** I will take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth wondering what meeting it was. It was one of my local meetings. It was being held in the Fortitude Valley area. I parked in the car park of a business that was not open. It was late at night. I was rushing, going from one meeting to another. Members know what it is like. There was a sign but it was not clear. When I came back 15 to 20 minutes later the car had been towed. I realised then that the sign next door applied to the premises where I was parked as well. When I called the tow truck operator there was no leniency given whatsoever.

The tow truck operator told me where they were located. I had to get there. I was stranded. They did not accept any credit cards, EFTPOS or electronic funds transfers. It was cash and cash only. They wanted \$650 on the spot to release my car. I cannot tell you what the taste in my mouth was like when I handed over that \$650. My husband, Michael, had to come and pick me up. We had to go to the ATM and draw the money out. We had to go over to Newmarket to the storage facility and pay \$650 in cash to get my car out. I really had only been parked there for about 20 minutes. I am not saying that everyone who parks where they should not does the right thing, but this was ridiculous.

I commend the minister for listening to the community. I echo the contribution of the member for Logan that this is a balanced approach to fixing this problem. There were a number of amendments that could have been included in the bill, but I think this bill takes a balanced approach. It is interesting that when the government started taking about wanting to regulate this industry the practices in my electorate subsided. It is almost like self-regulation in reverse. The tow truck operators know that regulation is coming. They know that the spotlight is on them. This situation has shown how self-regulation can fail in our community and how a bit of regulation, which sometimes we call red tape, helps the community.


One of the important changes in the bill relates to the capping of the towing storage and on-site release fees. I know that members of my community will welcome the certainty this will bring. We were hearing stories such as the one about a group of young women who were enjoying a night out, there was a designated driver who was to take her friends home, and on returning to the car they found it had been towed away. This is a bunch of friends stranded in Fortitude Valley in the early hours of the morning with no way to get home.

Under this bill fees for standard tows are capped at \$250, which includes 72 hours of storage, with subsequent storage capped at a maximum of \$25 a day. That is a balanced figure. It is a lot better than \$650 for 20 minutes! The caps will stop the exploitation. Cars will be taken to their nearest approved holding yard. Many times I saw members of the community arguing with a tow truck driver who had just pulled up to their car, started to put it on the tow truck but would not release it to the driver who just wanted to get home. These were young women, fathers and mothers who were then emailing my electorate office to express their utter frustration at this happening. All of these farcical scenes will stop and we will get order into the way this is done.

There were some dodgy practices. Signs were in grey areas. They would not allow you to pay in any way other than cash. There were clearly arrangements that had been made between the owners of the property and the tow truck operators when their businesses were closed. Because they are in a prime location there are spotters there and as soon as a driver pulls in they are towed away. There were arrangements that once the time was up in a limited parking area they would tow the car away. That was regardless of whether the business being visited kept the driver for more than the time limit. If a customer was visiting a hairdresser or a podiatrist they would be towed away as soon as that period was up. Clearly there were arrangements that were in place. As I said, most of the time the signage was not necessarily all that clear.

I welcome this legislation. I congratulate the minister. I think it is a balanced approach. I think tow truck licensing and driver accreditation requirements for private property towing is a step in the right direction. Although it is unlikely to affect most operators, it means that people, including those in my community, can have peace of mind that they are dealing with operators who are licensed and hold a towing consent. Once these arrangements are in place they will improve the circumstances that I have had to deal with for quite a number of years as a local member, police and transport officers can effectively resolve any matters that arise and it will ensure that rogue operators who want to make a quick buck can be stamped out.

Residents and visitors in the central Brisbane area will benefit from the proposed changes in this bill. I welcome the measures to regulate the towing industry. I would hate to come out of a late-night meeting or a Rotary dinner to find that I was stranded. I can imagine how those young people who were visiting my area felt. The actions taken by the minister in this bill fill me with pride. It is a great Palaszczuk Labor government initiative. I welcome the measures to regulate the towing industry. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (12.08 pm): I rise to speak on the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and reflect that it is a shame that we are not speaking in cognate with the original bill introduced by the member for Glass House, the Tow Truck (Towing from Private Property) Amendment Bill 2017. That said, we support the broad range of proposals that are contained within the legislation and we are pleased—and I am particularly pleased having sat on the committee and sat through some of the submissions and briefings from the department—that we are quite directly dealing with some of the challenges that have emerged in the tow truck industry over many years.

I enjoyed the contribution of the Minister for Education and her frank and candid reflections on her own personal experiences. I must say there but for the grace of God go I. There have been the odd occasions when a park may have been all too convenient and I have tried to run inside to ask someone permission to park, but they have not been there as it was after hours and I have wondered whether I will make it through. I can say that I have never been towed, for which I am thankful.

These changes are important because of the exploitative nature of the towing industry in times past. Before continuing, I should say that there are many great and honest tow truck operators. There have been occasions when friends and family have had breakdowns or been involved in significant incidents and tow trucks have been called. On one occasion, I attended an accident scene where the tow truck drivers were incredibly supportive and very practical and helpful.

This legislation is about closing the gap. In the past the regulatory framework for the tow truck industry has really only dealt with vehicles involved in crashes or significant breakdowns and this legislation is committed to dealing with a whole raft of areas that have been somewhat ambiguous. I am pleased with the caps that are proposed in the legislation, because in the past the punishment certainly has not fitted the crime.

We heard the Minister for Education reflect on the amount that was required for what some would suggest are reasonably minor misdemeanours. Some have had to shell out hundreds of dollars for towing fees, collection fees and after-hours call-out fees. For a lot of average families, mums and dads and young people, those sorts of costs are incredibly prohibitive. I will reflect further on that when we touch on the issue of SPER. There are hundreds of millions of dollars in unpaid fines and subsequent penalties loaded onto the people of Queensland which are impacting on many families and their ability to pay.

I acknowledge the work of the committee under the leadership of the old chair, the member for Kurwongbah, and his new cohorts, the members for Hervey Bay, Callide, Traeger, Aspley and Bundamba. I am pleased that they have seen fit basically to rollover and acknowledge the work done by the previous committee.

**Mr Costigan:** Great turn of phrase, member for Southport.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** The member for Whitsunday, sadly the former member for Redlands and I would like to take a little credit for where we find ourselves, along with the members for Lytton and Murrumba and the chair himself, the member for the electorate previously known as Kallangur.

I want to reflect on the recommendations of the committee. The committee recommended that the bill be passed. Its second recommendation related to the need to aggregate demand notices in respect of tolls. I have had some personal exposure to this issue. One of my sons borrowed an old vehicle that I had which was really just there as a spare and did not have a tolling tag in it. He decided to venture off to the Glasshouse Mountains, across the Gateway and back. He did that for a couple of

weekends in a row. It did not occur to him that there were tolls to be paid. He is a typical teenager and I am sure there are many parents in the House who can relate to my frustration as a father. As a result, we ended up with four penalty notices for unpaid tolls. Because they were not paid on time, we received another four notices on top of that. We did not realise that there were four separate notices.


One of my sons thought that the four notices were for the one offence, so he paid once only to discover that further notices were then issued for the other three offences. In the end, \$16 or \$20 worth of tolls were going to cost several hundreds of dollars in potential penalties. Fortunately, on that occasion we were able to contact the toll company and sort it out. It is confusing. The change proposed in the bill to allow the tolling operator to consolidate missed tolls and to then require them to issue only a single penalty notice and subsequent notices for a number of tolls is a very significant and important initiative.

I am quite passionate about this issue, because about 12 or 18 months ago a tradesman came to my office to tell me his story and I referred the matter to the then treasurer. Following some misfortune, that man had replaced a couple of vehicles with some hire vehicles as he had work out towards Ipswich. Some of his young employees were not aware of the tolls and he had not realised that the vehicles were running through tolled areas. The notices arrived late and he ended up accumulating some \$12,000 worth of penalties simply from staff travelling from the Gold Coast, along the northern growth corridor, in and out of Logan and out to Ipswich for work. Had this particular change been in place, it is highly likely he would have received one notice with an accumulation of unpaid tolls and only one set of penalties relating to it, which would have been far more manageable for that particular business owner and tradesman.

I refer to my statement of reservation to the original committee report. I thank the then member for Kallangur and now member for Kurwongbah for pointing out some minor drafting difficulties or challenges in the statement in that perhaps the election did not turn out as we had hoped. One significant point that I raised in the report is that it was sad that the bills were not considered cognately, because both sides have done some good work on the issue.

There is one matter that still concerns me. I recognise that the legislation seeks to cap the amount of tolling charges, which will go some way towards addressing this issue. However, the bill does not seek to address the issue of the distance that a vehicle can be towed from private property. Basically, a car at Fortitude Valley—and the car of the Minister for Education may well have fallen into this category—could be towed to Logan or North Lakes. I do not believe that happened on that occasion. It is possible that a car could be towed from Southport to Mudgeeraba. Those are significant distances. I wish there had been some provision in the legislation to ensure that vehicles cannot be towed unreasonable distances in the case of local offences. I appreciate that it would be a difficult clause to draft, because there are other parts of Queensland where you probably would need to tow a vehicle a significant distance.

I am happy to support the legislation. I thank the committees and the committee secretariats for their hard work in putting together these reports.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (12.18 pm): Today I rise to make a contribution in support of the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. As members are aware, the substantive issues being addressed within the bill relate to the regulation of the towing industry in Queensland. Previously, the regulation applied to the operation of tow trucks in specified areas when removing vehicles from the scene of a crash or when seized by police from a regulated area controlled by a local government or the relevant department. Yet until now an area of greater concern—that is, the practice of removing vehicles from private property—was not covered by the regulatory framework.

Following revelations and heightened concerns of questionable practices by rogue tow truck drivers, including charging exorbitant fees for vehicle collection and tricking drivers into parking in private spaces, the Palaszczuk government acted decisively by appointing former District Court judge Michael Forde to head an investigation into the industry. In particular, the investigation was tasked with clarifying the legality of towing vehicles from private property and how to regulate fees for towing and storing cars. The terms of reference also included better signage for private parking, restrictions on the distance a car can be towed and how to stop predatory practices such as spotting.

It is pleasing to see that the investigation was assisted by a range of stakeholders, including towing operators, private property occupiers, motorists as well as government and non-government bodies and organisations. The investigation was cognisant of the need to balance the rights of private property occupiers, towing operators and motorists. The recommendations outlined in the report aim to address the issues raised in a manner that was fair and balanced. The rights of property owners to

remove items, including vehicles, left on their property were balanced against providing an increased level of safety and protection for vehicle owners who had reported feeling unsafe when dealing with towing operators.

I believe the Palaszczuk government has the balance right with this bill before the House. In particular, there is recognition that many motorists acknowledge their fault in parking contrary to signage, particularly in inner-city areas where parking is limit and frustrating, but also the belief that having their vehicle towed away was disproportionate to the parking fault. Media reports indicated that many complaints regarding towing practices came from inner-city Brisbane suburbs such as Fortitude Valley, Albion and Newstead where parking is a premium and where additional high-rise development is causing a lack of parking. At the same time, property owners within these areas also find unauthorised parking by motorists frustrating and detrimental to the rightful use of their parking spaces, which I have some sympathy for.


There were two aspects of the final report and the government's subsequent acceptance of it and drafting of legislation that I want to focus on today. The first relates to the imposition of conduct requirements on tow truck licensees, drivers and assistants, including prohibiting intimidating, abusive or insulting behaviour. Some of the complaints that did make it into the public arena included motorists saying they were taunted by operators who refused to give their names or claimed to be untouchable and a motorist who claimed to have been wrestled by four operators when he tried to jump in his car before it was towed. I am particularly mindful of motorists such as the elderly or young women being faced with this kind of intimidation and bullish behaviour, usually in the darkness of the evening. It would be difficult not to feel some fear in this situation, no matter who you are.

There were also questionable practices brought to light through the investigation that indicated some operators were engaging in deceptive conduct, such as leaving bait cars, where unsuspecting motorists believed they were in a safe parking zone, as well as the use of spotters so that within minutes of a motorist parking their car they would be towed. Addressing these types of practices will ensure that whilst those who do park illegally are dealt with appropriately, motorists are not being tricked into creating opportunities for these rogue operators.

The second aspect I will talk about today is the setting of maximum towing charges for a standard private property tow of \$250, the onsite release of a vehicle of \$150 and the storing of a vehicle at \$25. Some of the complaints raised through the government's tow truck hotline included tow truck drivers charging exorbitant fees to release vehicles, with almost 75 per cent of callers reporting fees in excess of \$500. That is simply outrageous.

Again, it is reasonable that if a person has willingly parked illegally on private property they should face the consequences. However, it would seem that without regulation some operators were charging fees that were well beyond the crime and were being inconsistently applied all over the place. By setting maximum towing charges there will now be an expectation and an understanding by the community and motorists of what the absolute maximum penalty is for the towing of vehicles in the event of being illegally parked.

I understand Queensland is the first state to cap the fees for private property towing, which will ensure a stop to the exploitation of motorists by rogue operators. We all have a responsibility to park legally, but what this bill does is make sure motorists will no longer be tricked, intimidated or ripped off when their vehicle gets towed.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.24 pm): I rise to speak briefly in the support of the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Bill 2018. Although there are many important amendments contained in this bill, I wish to speak specifically to the consequential amendments contained in the bill that relate to driving offences for 17-year-olds. On 12 February 2018 the Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016 commenced. That means that all 17-year-olds who commit an offence will be dealt with in the youth justice system.

This historic reform brings Queensland in line with every other state in Australia and aligns us with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. I can tell this House that this was a significant reform for Queensland. I am pleased to be leading this reform agenda in youth justice which is well underway.

The other consequence of the commencement of the act was that it raised the age of an adult within the criminal justice system to 18 years. These changes meant that 17-year-olds are excluded from mandatory disqualifications for serious traffic offences and from the SPER regime to recover unpaid fines and the demerit point system if they do not pay the fine for a demerit point offence.


The youth justice system does not provide an equivalent regime for demerit point accumulation. Also, a child who is found guilty of a driving offence only receives a mandatory disqualification if a conviction is recorded on their criminal history. The magistrate or judge considering the matter has a discretion as to whether to impose a disqualification period if no conviction is recorded.

The SPER regime does not apply to children, other than to allow a child to pay a fine should they choose to. An unpaid penalty infringement notice issued to a child cannot be referred to SPER and enforcement orders, fine collection notices and warrants cannot be issued to enforce the payment of a fine. As a consequence, 17-year-olds who are able to obtain a provisional driving licence and drive on the road would be subject to the same road rules as all the other road users, but would not necessarily be subject to the same consequences if they break those road rules.

The bill will retain the legislative provision which existed before 12 February 2018 for 17-year-old drivers by amending the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 so that 17-year-old drivers will remain subject to mandatory disqualifications and be liable to the SPER regime for unpaid infringement notices for demerit point offences as well as subject to the demerit point system. The bill will also make amendments to the State Penalties Enforcement Act which will enable SPER to continue to enforce any debts owed by 17-year-olds who were registered with SPER prior to 17 February 2015. This means for the purpose of road rules 17-year-old drivers will be treated the same as adult drivers.

During consideration of this bill by the former Public Works and Utilities Committee, the Queensland Law Society submitted that children should not be treated as adults before the law and cautioned against applying an adult regime to children. I welcome the Law Society's comments during these types of debates and want to acknowledge their support while we were transitioning 17-year-olds into the youth justice system. I agree with their position in relation to criminal offences, but cannot support this position in relation to traffic offences, and this is for a very good reason.

As we tragically know, young drivers are at high risk of being killed on our roads. The statistics show that 17-year-old P-plate drivers are at a much higher risk of being killed on our roads than adults. In fact, these 17-year-olds are six times more likely to be killed driving than learner drivers and twice as likely to be killed as other drivers. The risks are significant and the consequences are tragic, not just for the drivers but for their families and friends, passengers and other road users. Therefore, we must approach this issue with road safety in mind. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.27 pm), in reply: First of all, I would like to thank all members for their contributions to the debate on the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. It is good to see this bill makes important amendments for towing industry reform, particularly relating to the towing of vehicles from private property. The bill also makes straightforward, necessary amendments relating to 17-year-olds transferring into the youth justice system. The bill makes changes relating to a single demand notice being used for multiple unpaid tolls.

I thank all stakeholders for their engagement in bringing these reforms to the House. I certainly acknowledge all of those people who took the time and effort to call the hotline and give us their experience and intelligence of what was going on on the ground. They helped us get this bill right. To all of those people out there who gave us their time, I sincerely thank them very much for all of their efforts.

The bill will ensure that 17-year-old drivers will continue to be held accountable for their driving behaviour. Despite 17-year-olds being transferred to the youth justice system, the bill will ensure that automatic driver's licence disqualifications will continue to apply to them. It will also ensure that SPER can continue to take enforcement action against these young drivers for any demerit point offences.

The bill also makes some important changes to provide a clear statutory basis for aggregating unpaid tolls and associated image processing fees on demand notices. Demand notice aggregation provides toll road customers with a simpler approach to paying outstanding tolls while lowering the value of fees applied, which I am sure will be welcomed by motorists.

The Department of Transport and Main Roads allows customers to provide email addresses and mobile phone numbers. This allows the department to provide reminders about issues such as vehicle registration renewals, driver's licence renewals, driving test bookings and infringement notice payments. Where customers have provided those details, they are made available to toll road entities for enforcement of unpaid fines. The toll road entities do not retain those details indefinitely, however,

and are only entitled to use them for the purpose of toll enforcement. I have asked my department to liaise further with toll operators to ensure that they are able to make use of this information where required.

In relation to the enforcement of unpaid tolls by SPER, I know the member for Hervey Bay asked whether SPER checks mailing addresses against the registration and licensing database. I can confirm that, before enforcement action such as a driver's licence suspension is taken by SPER, SPER does check the latest address for that person that is recorded in the database. The bill reflects the commitment of the Palaszczuk government to reducing the fee burden on Queensland motorists and providing a fairer tolling system.

I will now turn my attention to the towing reforms themselves. I would like to remind the chamber of the thorough investigation that forms the basis of these towing reforms before parliament today. This is a case of proper policy, not posturing, by the Palaszczuk government on a very difficult issue that no other government has dealt with before. That needs to be noted. The changes included in this bill are first and foremost about balancing the competing rights and interests of property occupiers and motorists. This bill provides protections to ensure motorists are not exploited without denying private property occupiers their legitimate rights to remove unauthorised vehicles.

The bill will apply licensing and accreditation requirements to private property towing in regulated areas, as well as outlining requirements for driver and operator conduct and protections for motorists' privacy. The bill regulates private property towing charging, ensuring Queenslanders are no longer subject to outrageous costs and charges. Those who do not comply with the new requirements will be subject to significant penalties, effectively ensuring there is no incentive for noncompliance.

The member for Chatsworth queried the compliance and enforcement efforts that will be applied to implement the reforms in this bill. The government accepted Mr Forde's recommendations about compliance and enforcement activities including maintaining the tow truck hotline, reporting outcomes from complaints made to the hotline and the outcome of industry audits. Transport inspectors and police are already experienced in dealing with the towing industry, with other areas of the industry having been regulated for some time. Importantly, this bill provides officers with further investigatory powers to assist them as well as significantly increasing penalties.

The member for Glass House attempted to tell the House that the private member's bill that he introduced last year comprehensively dealt with the issues of signage and maximum towing distances. I can assure the House that he was absolutely wrong. However, his bill, the LNP bill, did not include an actual distance as a maximum towing distance, instead leaving that unclear as a matter for regulation. That bill also did not take into account the impact on private property occupiers of regulated signage requirements.

It is important to note that in the bill before the House today we are regulating private property towing, not parking. It is not intended that we alter a property occupier's common law rights to remove vehicles from their property by regulating signage requirements. Signage guidelines have been developed in consultation with stakeholders and will be published from today. Those comprehensive guidelines outline recommendations for signage regarding size, positioning and illumination, design, content and includes samples to assist property occupiers.

Maximum towing distances are simply impractical to apply. Holding yards must currently meet particular requirements, and applying a maximum towing distance could leave a property occupier no option for removal of unauthorised vehicles if there is no holding yard nearby. The independent investigation into the removal of vehicles from private property found the majority of vehicles—that is, 90 per cent of them—are moved less than 10 kilometres and 97 per cent are moved less than 25 kilometres. This bill imposes a requirement to tow the vehicle to the nearest holding yard of the tow truck licensee to minimise inconvenience for motorists recovering their vehicle. With capped charges and the requirement to tow to the nearest yard using the most direct route, there is no profit or incentive for an operator to tow a vehicle further than necessary. Even those opposite should understand that no profit equals bad for private companies, therefore putting a stop to this practice.

As I mentioned previously, the approach outlined in this bill is based on the findings of Michael Forde's independent investigation into the removal of vehicles from private properties—a very substantial 86-page report on a complex issue. By following the recommendations in Mr Forde's report, I am confident this bill is based on the evidence and will successfully address unscrupulous practices in the towing industry. This government acted swiftly, appropriately and thoroughly to get this right. Let me outline the timetable.

We announced the Forde investigation very quickly after the initial reports by Channel Nine and the *Sunday Mail* on 15 May. The investigation was handed down less than three months later. Cabinet considered it the very next day. Legislation was originally introduced into the chamber two weeks later on 22 August. It went through a parliamentary committee process which was appropriate so that it could be thoroughly scrutinised. This government absolutely believes in a proper parliamentary process. Here we are now, because there was an election. The legislation is now being reintroduced into the first full week of parliament in this term. We have acted very, very quickly to make sure that this occurs.

We have also made sure that the process has been thorough. This is a complex matter but it is a classic case of us committing to proper policy, as opposed to the LNP *modus operandi* on this bill and other bills where they come in here and whinge and moan and nitpick and are negative and then they vote for the legislation. That is what we see. We saw that on personalised transport reforms. They whinged for 18 months and then like little lambs they came in and they voted for the reforms. Here we are again: they are having a good whinge but they are voting for the government's reforms. Why are they voting for the government's reforms? They are voting for them because nothing was done for three years when they were in power—absolutely nothing. In fact, nothing was done because they did not know what was going on.

One of the hotspots of this issue was Racecourse Road in the electorate of Clayfield. There was an interview by Ben Davis on 4BC with the member for Clayfield where he was asked about the matter. The member for Clayfield said—

Well I think the question of this is it's been going on for a long time. As I say, it's been happening in my electorate.

Ben Davis said—

It was happening when you were in government too.

The member for Clayfield, who had just said that it had been happening for a long time, said—

I don't think it was happening when we were in government.

He was nailed. He contradicted himself within two sentences. He was clueless and contradictory. It was happening under his nose. That is why nothing happened under the LNP because he was absolutely clueless that it was happening under his nose in the seat of Clayfield. That is perhaps why he is not speaking. I note that the opposition have put up many speakers but I do not see the member for Clayfield here. It is an embarrassment for him in terms of his local representation in his area. That is probably why he got a 4.3 per cent swing against him. One of the biggest swings of any LNP seat was actually in Clayfield because they saw through his lack of representation.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Minister, I would ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr BAILEY:** Indeed. I take your direction, Mr Deputy Speaker. A lot of the LNP speeches were remarkably similar. They were all trying to claim their bill was the real McCoy. Other than the couple of features I have just outlined, there are two other key features where the LNP were incredibly deficient. I say this in the context that we have an 86-page report by a former counsel on the Fitzgerald inquiry, a legal expert, with 22 recommendations which we are committed to rolling out lock, stock and barrel.

The LNP put up a nine-page bill. When we look at it, four of the pages include the introduction and the title so there are only five pages to it. The LNP bill did not license operators. It failed to license operators. The LNP allowed the sharks to get away because they did not license them in their bill. The second thing they failed to do in their bill—a really key matter—is cap fees.

**Mr HART:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think we are debating the government bill not—

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is no point of order here. What is your point of order?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Order! I am taking one point of order, member for Logan. Resume your seat.

**Mr HART:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. This is about the government bill, not a private member's bill that was before the last parliament.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask the minister to come back to the long title of the bill.



**Mr BAILEY:** The LNP bill was thoroughly canvassed by virtually every LNP speaker. I am just responding to matters that have been raised by them in the debate. I know they do not want to hear the truth. The other deficiency of the LNP bill was that it did not cap fees. The whole issue was that people were being ripped off and their bill did not cap fees. They initially suggested a \$330 cap. When our bill was introduced which caps fees at \$250—nearly \$100 cheaper—they deleted it from their bill and there was absolutely no cap—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, I ask you to come back to the bill before the House.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I take your direction. We have a situation where some people were getting charged \$920. That is some of the evidence we received. This bill deals with that. The LNP bill certainly did not. You could drive a convoy of tow trucks through the LNP bill because it was absolutely useless in terms of regulating the sharks in the industry. It was reminiscent of the LNP's amendment on buses and limousines which banned them in 2016 and we had to come back 24 hours later and fix that up.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order in regard to relevance. The minister cannot even talk about his own bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, come back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr BAILEY:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I am closing, but I thought it very important to respond to the issues raised by opposition members in this debate and I know that they are not keen to hear the truth.

I would particularly like to thank Mr Michael Forde for his work and the extensive consultation process that he undertook in preparing his very thorough independent report to deal with this issue in a way that no previous government has done. Mr Forde was supported by a dedicated Transport and Main Roads team whom I would like to thank. I know that every member of that dedicated team worked very hard on this bill as a priority.

I would like to also thank all the TMR officers who prepared the legislation and enabled implementation of these important reforms. I again thank the chair of the parliamentary committee, the member for Kurwongbah, for his work. I thank committee members for their commitment and their diligence in considering this legislation. I would also like to thank members of my ministerial staff, both current and past, and that includes Mr Alex McLaren, Steven Patch and my chief of staff, Tam Van Alphen, for all their work on this.

I would like to place on record my thanks to the journalists from Channel 9 and *Sunday Mail* who did this investigative report. Politicians and the media do not always agree and get on, but this was an important piece of work that helped change an area that needed changing. I thank them for their work and their contribution. It is not just politicians who are involved in this process: it is the public and their work as well. I thank all the submitters who gave us their experiences and their intelligence which helped us come up with this very important bill. I commend this bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 69, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading



**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.44 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. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (12.45 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.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 15 February (see p. 114).



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (12.45 pm): Let me begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered today, the Jagera and Turrbal people. I also acknowledge the many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who, for more than 3,000 generations, have been the traditional custodians of the lands and waters of this great state. I pay my respects to their elders past, their elders of the present day and those elders emerging who will lead us into the future.

Today is also International Women's Day and I want to pay tribute to the women of Queensland. I am proud to be part of a government which takes equality seriously and which is led by some of the most accomplished and fearless women I have had the privilege of working with. Most of all, I want to pay tribute to my wife, Kristie de Brenni, the most incredible woman that I know. Just yesterday Kristie was appointed permanently as Principal of Queensland Pathways State College, which I believe—and many share this view—is the most innovative state school program in the state. She educates and supports young Queenslanders who have been written off by the rest of the system, and I could not be prouder of Kristie and all that she has achieved. I could not do what I do without her unfailing support and advice.

His Excellency the Governor said in his opening address—

It is from this House that Members of Parliament make laws and decisions on behalf of the people of Queensland that impact on them in their homes, their workplaces and their communities.

This is a profound responsibility that we all share, and it is a great privilege to have the trust of my community as the member for Springwood. I pledge to consult with my community, to listen carefully and to continue the work that I began in 2015 to deliver on key projects in the electorate of Springwood—to deliver jobs, in particular, like the 130 construction jobs that will be supported by the \$10.5 million housing project at Springwood delivered through the Brisbane Housing Company; to deliver better education, with \$10 million for Springwood State High School to upgrade classrooms and \$13 million for safety upgrades on roads around Mount Cotton State School.

To deliver better health, we will employ 510 new nurses, 156 extra health practitioners and 188 doctors across the metro south health region. We will deliver a \$281 million upgrade to Logan Hospital and a water birthing suite for Redland mums—a great achievement—a \$9 million sports facility at Underwood Park so that every kid in the community I am privileged to represent can have a go at sport and active recreation; and a \$3.3 million upgrade to Daisy Hill state forest completed just in time for the Commonwealth Games.

I would like to acknowledge the leadership of our Premier in delivering not only for the community I represent but also for the entire state of Queensland. I would also like to acknowledge the leadership of our Deputy Premier and offer my congratulations to her on her appointment as Treasurer. I look forward to working as part of a great Labor team to deliver on our election commitments to put Queenslanders first.

**Ms Jones:** And we love working with you, Mick.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I take the interjection. Across my portfolios, that means: completing the implementation of our Buy Queensland policy; delivering security of payment for our building and construction industry; delivering safe, secure and affordable housing and growing Queensland jobs through our Housing Construction Jobs Program; developing a sports and recreation strategy for Queensland; and becoming a truly digitally capable and responsive government.

In 2015, we came to government committed to building confidence, security, prosperity and fairness in Queensland. In our first term, this Labor government introduced significant reforms to this House to deliver on those commitments. His Excellency the Governor said in his opening address to parliament—

The availability of secure, fairly paid jobs is central to the wellbeing and future of every Queenslanders.

He went on to say—

Business confidence in Queensland is the highest in Australia and consumer confidence is now the second highest.

I believe that decent, secure, quality jobs are the foundation of a prosperous society. That is why I have always been a member of a union and I will always stand up for the unions of workers in our community.

I want to take a moment to reflect on our jobs record which sees Queensland industry operating in the right climate, delivering 152,400 jobs since January 2015. It is the fastest jobs growth of any state in this nation. This Labor government is building a society, not just an economy. We believe that government plays an important role in providing the economic framework, infrastructure and services our society needs to build a prosperous future and help create those jobs. This is at the heart of our Buy Queensland procurement policy. Sadly, those opposite do not hold the same view. In September last year the member for Burnett said of our Buy Queensland policy—

This policy is a fake policy providing false hope in trying to re-engineer our society and trying to use government procurement to cure social issues along the way.

When a government puts local businesses at the heart of its procurement practices, Queenslanders have every reason to feel hopeful. Despite what the opposition might say, we can tackle social ills through properly directed government spending. In fact, I believe we have a collective responsibility to do exactly that. With every single dollar the government spends on behalf of Queenslanders, we have an opportunity to build local jobs, reduce inequality and create better and fairer communities.

Last month, I was in Maryborough to reopen the refurbished Queensland government offices—now named the Moira Hansen Queensland Government Offices. That building was constructed in 1940 under a government policy that fostered a pipeline of construction work to counter the effects of the Great Depression. Now, almost 80 years later, it is still a sound policy. This Palaszczuk Labor government will be sophisticated in extracting value from the use of taxpayers' money for the benefit of all Queenslanders. We will continue to prioritise Queensland jobs and Queensland small businesses.

While those opposite stand by the Turnbull government's \$65 billion in tax cuts to big businesses, I can assure the House that the money those businesses will be saving under that regime will not be spent on Queenslanders. Those opposite are silent. They say nothing to object to our share of GST being shovelled off to Western Australia. That money should be spent on Queensland schools. That money should be spent here in Queensland on Queensland hospitals. That money should be spent here on Queensland roads. It is money that belongs to Queenslanders.

Last term we gave a commitment to Queensland subcontractors that we would deliver security of payment to the building and construction industry in this state. We stared down the big end of town. It is a fundamental policy principle for the Labor Party and this Labor government that Queenslanders receive a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. At this point, I want to reflect on an important construct—that project bank accounts on their own cannot deliver on my ambition to ensure fairness in the industry. These reforms will succeed only as part of a suite of measures. I will not rest until the remainder of the building industry fairness act reforms are implemented in full.

I realised soon after becoming Minister for Housing and Public Works that buildings are fundamentally about people. The building industry fairness act was developed with this in mind, as was the rest of the Queensland Building Plan. We believe that full participation in public life is a fundamental human right, but for adults who have a profound physical disability, it is a right that is too often denied. Unfortunately, it is often our public buildings—the spaces that are ironically designed for people to meet and gather in—that deny people with a disability that right.

One reform that I am determined to see through is the provision of accessible public toilet facilities with a hoist or swing rails and continence bins. I raised this issue last year at the national Building Ministers Forum, and I won the agreement of the ministers to consider reforms to the National Construction Code that would make accessible change facilities mandatory in new public buildings. Without access to facilities like public toilets with a hoist or swing rails, or larger change rooms for carers and people with a disability, too often carers have to resort to changing their loved ones on toilet floors. The result is worse than that. Often those Queenslanders and their families and carers simply stay at home. They do not go out and gather in those public spaces.

It is completely unacceptable in 2018 that there are Queenslanders who are afraid to leave their homes because they cannot find an accessible toilet or change facility. I think we would all agree that we can do better and we should do better. That is why today I am announcing that my department will concurrently progress the development of a Queensland development code that fully meets the standards that Queenslanders with disabilities deserve. I know that these reforms will improve the amenity and quality of life for people with a profound disability.

Meeting and exceeding the standards that Queenslanders deserve—more than bricks and walls and doors—is my responsibility as a minister. It is my role to use all available levers within my various portfolio areas and within my involvement in my own community to do everything possible to address the inequality that has crept in to our community—because government can, and government should, address inequality of all kinds.

Cherbourg is a unique town with much to offer. I have seen firsthand how local residents, supported by the Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council, have worked hard to develop their local economy. I visited a workshop where most fittings are made for house construction in the town—cabinets, benches and work tops. I also visited the recycling plant where again local workers have developed a thriving business, offering jobs, resilience and, most importantly, independence to the people of Cherbourg.

I was impressed by what I saw in that community, but it is critical to understand that everything the people of Cherbourg have achieved has been achieved in spite of having lived through a dark and shameful period in Queensland's history. There are people of Cherbourg who still remember being taken from their families by force or being thrown in jail for weeks on end for not saluting the flag. This community is one that was denied education and opportunity, forcibly holding back the advancement of a strong and resilient people.

While the story of Cherbourg is in many ways unique to that community, the stories of all our remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Queensland are similar. These communities have had to fight to build themselves up from a starting point that White Australia created that is far behind the rest of us.

There still remains a significant gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous outcomes across a range of measures, whether that be health, education, child safety, social outcomes or employment. It is housing which underpins all of these outcomes. That is why the Commonwealth government has, for the past half a century, contributed funding towards housing in remote Indigenous communities.

I am shocked now—as are many Queenslanders—that the Prime Minister is turning his back on those communities. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is cutting \$1.1 billion in remote housing funding across Queensland—funding to address the issue of people living in overcrowded conditions, funding to support people who are homeless and funding to support people who are perhaps fleeing domestic and family violence. These cuts will affect Queenslanders right across the state—from Cape York to Coolangatta and out to Cloncurry—who will see less housing and more homelessness in their communities.


A safe, secure and affordable home is a fundamental right of every Queenslander. It was with this in mind that the Palaszczuk government developed the \$1.8 billion Queensland Housing Strategy that will build more than 5,000 social and affordable homes over the next 10 years. As part of this strategy and in this term, I will begin consultation to improve the security of tenure and living conditions for renters here in Queensland. Soon I will release a discussion paper to examine amendments to the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act that can better protect both tenants and landlords and improve housing stability in the private market. I will also consult with renters, landlords and industry on the detailed content of a regulation prescribing minimum standards for rental properties.

Debate, on motion of Mr de Brenni, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.00 pm): Last night during the adjournment debate I said I had written to the minister requesting the donation of some temporary seating for a couple of my schools and sporting clubs as a legacy post the Commonwealth Games. I would like to thank the minister's office for a prompt reply which stated, 'Through our sports asset legacy program a number of schools and sporting clubs will receive sporting equipment—including sports benches—following the games.' I hope that Currumbin will benefit from this program as we are facing considerable disruption to a large area of our electorate. I have asked to be advised of facilities in my electorate that will be receiving these items.

Again today my office dealt with more distressed residents. One resident who catches the train to Brisbane for work has just been informed he will not be able to park at Varsity Lakes train station for the duration of the games and was told to travel to Robina. However, some days even that is closed. The resident said—

This has to be one of the most short-sighted and ill-conceived ideas. The solution to get more cars off the road is to use public transport but you can't park your car at the location of the public transport.

'Instead now I need to drive further north adding to the cars on the road to fight it out with others in the same situation with reduced availability and reduced days.


It is only 27 days to go and we have got to get this right. Honourable members should spare a thought for families. There are 14 childcare centres in total across the electorate. Six centres are impacted directly by the cycling route, affecting 425 families. No vacation care is being offered during the school holidays by Camp Australia, which means their Currumbin and Tallebudgera sites will be shut for the duration of the games.

Centres have also been told by the department that in relation to those children who are anaphylactic or pose a potential emergency situation, such as epilepsy or similar, they should encourage those families to stay home, based on the unknown reliability of emergency closures and road closures. The department has reminded operators that they must remain compliant at all times with regard to staff-to-child ratios so they are to be mindful that if a staff member cannot get to work due to road closures families will need to be turned away if staff numbers are not adequate.

One centre was advised by a Get Set for the Games team member that maybe they should look to meet families at 5 am at entrance points and walk the children to the centre. This would involve massive amounts of paperwork including risk assessments, excursion permission forms and increased staff numbers. Of course, children would then have to remain at the centre until 7 pm, which is over 14 hours—not best practice.

As I have said previously, we want the games to be brilliant, but we deserve to receive some tangible legacy items once the games are finished because we are facing significant challenges and are having to make changes that are causing considerable angst and effort for the good people of Currumbin.

### Indigenous Housing, Federal Funding


 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.03 pm): I rise today to speak about the Commonwealth government's recently announced funding cuts to remote Indigenous housing in Queensland. Last month we found out that the Turnbull government is withdrawing funding from the long-running National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. In the 10 years it has been running, the Commonwealth government has invested \$1.1 billion into housing in Queensland's remote Indigenous communities and has delivered for Queensland over 1,100 new homes and 1,500 housing refurbishments. The national partnership has been a boon to Indigenous employment and local business. Each year in Queensland around 800 apprentices and trainees are employed by the building program, and local business involvement has increased from 10 per cent in 2011 to 70 per cent in 2017.

Since the national partnership commenced in 2008, chronic overcrowding in Queensland's remote Indigenous communities has almost halved, from 47 per cent down to 25 per cent in 2016. This result clearly demonstrates that the national partnership is working. With continued Commonwealth funding we can reduce that rate even further. The Turnbull government's funding cuts will be a devastating blow to Indigenous Queenslanders who desperately need solutions to endemic problems such as chronic overcrowding, homelessness and substandard housing maintenance. Neglecting these problems will just result in worse physical and mental health for Indigenous people, higher rates of infectious diseases and higher rates of domestic violence and emotional stress. Poor housing conditions in remote Indigenous communities exacerbates inequality and makes it difficult for Indigenous Queenslanders to move forward.

As ministerial champion for Mornington Island, I acknowledge the mayor, Bradley Wilson; deputy mayor, Sarah Isaacs; CEO, Frank Mills, and their team. They know that the national partnership agreement has delivered great outcomes for the Mornington Island community, resulting in 36 new houses being built between 2009 and 2016, with 11 more houses currently under construction. Around 20 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been employed each year on Mornington Island thanks to the national partnership's building program, and that includes four apprentices currently completing certificate qualifications. Unfortunately, once Commonwealth funding runs out in June these workers face unemployment and the apprentices will have fewer opportunities to complete their apprenticeships.

The Palaszczuk government is serious about Closing the Gap, and we stand behind the thousands of Queenslanders in remote communities who will be impacted by the Turnbull government's cruel funding cuts. Curiously, the opposition leader, Deb Frecklington, has been silent on this subject. Where does she stand—with Queensland, or with the Turnbull government? I implore the Leader of the Opposition to stand with Queensland and support fair Commonwealth funding for remote Indigenous communities.

### Toowoomba, High Schools

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.06 pm): I would like to speak today about the growing need for a new high school in the south-western region of Toowoomba. Recently I launched an e-petition to highlight the need for further secondary education infrastructure in this rapidly expanding area. Areas to the south-west of Toowoomba are experiencing significant population growth and high schools in the catchment area of Harristown and Centenary Heights are nearing capacity.


Census data shows that the Westbrook-Drayton area had an enumerated population of 3,861 in the 2011 census and a dwelling count of 1,331. In 2016 the population had grown to 4,505 with an increase in dwellings of 1,605. The average household size in the Westbrook-Drayton area is 3.04, which would indicate households with young families.

The Queensland education website states that Centenary Heights State High School has an enrolment capacity of 1,560 while Harristown State High School has an enrolment capacity of 1,703. In 2016 there was an increase in enrolments to 1,569 students at Centenary Heights and 1,652 at Harristown, meaning both schools have experienced significant growth.

The Queensland Treasury Office of Economic and Statistical Research population projections from 2011 state that in the Toowoomba district there was a population of 121,861 with a projected figure of 199,247 by 2031. A development proposal currently before council for final approval at Westbrook would see the addition of 1,500 dwellings plus a shopping complex. This would double the size of the town of Westbrook.

I would urge the state government to investigate a business model for a high school in the south-west area of Toowoomba that will accommodate these growth areas and reduce the pressure on Harristown and Centenary Heights high schools, which are reaching capacity. Families in the region deserve access to high-quality facilities, and sensible travel requirements and student-teacher ratios. A planned high school in this growth corridor would bring some certainty and, indeed, help to attract further residential and business growth. The intention of the petition is to forward plan. We are looking to identify a location and purchase the land so that we are prepared for this growth. We know that in the boom area of Highfields it took 10 years to get that high school in place. We are trying to get ahead of the game and not be caught behind it.

### Duncan Chapman Memorial

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.09 pm): I rise today to wish all women happy International Women's Day. I am so proud to be a member of this side of the House. We value the input of women and we greatly appreciate what women bring to the caucus and to parliament, so thank you very much.


If I mention the name Duncan Chapman, not many people in the House would know who he is. Duncan Chapman was the first man to step ashore at Gallipoli. In conjunction with the government and the Fraser Coast Regional Council, we are building a memorial in Maryborough to Duncan Chapman. At the moment Duncan stands there by himself. I would like to take this opportunity on International Women's Day—and it is very poignant—to pay tribute to two very strong women who drove this project. The first is Nancy Bates in Maryborough. Nancy was the editor of the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*. She was the first female editor of a newspaper in Australia and she is very good. Knowing Nancy and the affection that we have for her, there is no doubt that she not only broke the glass ceiling but punched her way through it.

Nancy started this project to push for the recognition of Duncan Chapman in Maryborough. She has a great committee behind her with Greig Bolderow, the former of manager Sea FM and Mix FM. I worked with Greig when I did my breakfast show at the radio station. Greig was my boss. We called him the 'maestro'. He is very good man. Also on the committee is Jason Scanes, the manager of the RSL. Jason is a returned veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. What he has done to the RSL in Maryborough is nothing but magic. It is a very good committee which is led by a strong and determined woman who is putting things forward for Maryborough and it is great to see.

The other strong woman is the Premier. The Premier came up to Maryborough and had great discussions with the committee. The Premier and I walked through Queen's Park and had a look at where the Duncan Chapman memorial is going to be. The Premier has backed this project from day one—no ifs, buts or maybes. She knew how good this project would be for the people of Maryborough not only to recognise one of their own as the first person to set foot on Gallipoli but also to recognise its economic value. We expect to get up to 500 visitors a day to come and look at the memorial.

I would also like to thank Peter Killeen, who is the AMWU delegate, and all the workers at Downer Rail, because they are donating their time to do a lot of the manufacturing work for this project. I would like to thank Pete and the boys down there because they are very community based. Once again I would like to congratulate Nancy Bates, the chair of the Duncan Chapman Memorial Committee, and the Premier for getting behind this project and showing what can be done in regional Queensland.

### **Tinaroo Dam**


 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (2.12 pm): Over the last 12 months the management of the Tinaroo Dam by government department SunWater has created significant division in the community, particularly in relation to tree clearing and the threat that limited recreational use of this valuable asset is currently having on the economy. Closures and restrictions have already had a significant impact on the tourist industry, with accommodation outlets recording lower than usual numbers as uncertainty forces regular lake users to consider other options for holidays and weekends away.

The tourist industry is one of the top five employers in the Tablelands, and the flow-on effects from the Tinaroo Dam currently being unavailable to recreational users is a huge blow to the region's economy. SunWater, Maritime Safety, DNRm and lake users form the current Tinaroo stakeholders group which advises SunWater on how to manage the lake. However, recent decisions regarding tree clearing and recreational use have left some users concerned that SunWater's priority for income derived from water storage does not place equal value on the income generated for the region through recreation and tourism. The decision-making progress has become bogged down, which has resulted in missed opportunities to provide more recognised safety areas for water sports while ensuring that fish habitats and cultural values are preserved.

Last year I was able to secure \$150,000 for the removal of trees from the lake, and I thank the minister for that funding. These funds have been used on an underwater survey of the whole lake. While I recognise the need for SunWater to have accurate data to inform decision-making, this has now further delayed the opening of the lake at a time when the level is increasing to permit skiing and other recreational use. User groups are concerned that the decisions being made are not in the interests of the local economy or local user groups, but towards SunWater's main goal: to generate income from the water storage asset. Unfortunately, this issue does not just affect user groups but the entire Tablelands, as the income generated by recreational activity has a flow-on effect for small businesses, restaurants, accommodation outlets, retailers and employment in the region.

Over the past decade the use of the dam has been successfully managed and businesses around the area have thrived. The intervention of a government department has created division and uncertainty not only on the Tablelands but also for many thousands of users across the far north. I want to make it very clear that local people and local groups must determine the recreational use of the lake and that an advisory committee which represents the local community be recognised and supported by the minister.

### **Illaweena Street**

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (2.15 pm): As I have said before in this House: don't mess with the Stretton mums. That is a very important message—

**Ms Grace:** Hear, hear!

**Mr PEGG:** I take that interjection from the minister. It is a particularly important message today on International Women's Day. I want to provide an update in relation to Illaweena Street in my electorate. It is an issue that I have spoken about in the past. I have some good news and I have some bad news. The good news is that thanks to Louise Nann; Donna Longworth; Esther Stuart; the entire Stretton State College community; all community members from affected suburbs; Jim Chalmers, the federal member; Minister Bailey, who visited; Councillor Peter Cumming; and also former councillor Shayne Sutton, Illaweena Street is now open on school days from semester 1, which is an outstanding result.

It was a magnificent effort from our community as a result of everyone working together and coming together. I know that the Minister for Education talked to some of the Stretton State College P&C representatives last night and congratulated them on what was a really fantastic result for our community. It was an outstanding campaign in the face of huge resistance from the LNP administration in City Hall.

I did say that I have some bad news in relation to Illaweena Street. An article entitled 'Chiming of Brisbane City Hall's bells sparks fiery council debate,' published in the *Brisbane Times* on 6 March 2018, states—

At Tuesday's scheduled 9am Infrastructure Committee, chairman Amanda Cooper re-ordered the set agenda of the meeting and passed a contentious residents' petition—

this was a petition in relation to Illaweena Street—

before all members were in the room and before City Hall's bells stopped ringing to mark the hour.

I would say that this is rather dubious conduct. Councillor Griffiths, who does a lot of great work in his community, stated—

The bells were ringing, we were just entering the room and you did the first petition. What have you got to hide?

I think that is a good question from Councillor Griffiths. Lest anyone think this is the normal argy-bargy of partisan politics, the article goes on to state—

A Fairfax Media reporter was in attendance and witnessed Cr Cooper note the opposition councillors were in the hallway, re-order the agenda and quickly passed the Illaweena Street petition before the City Hall bells had finished ringing.

When Fairfax Media asked the council after the meeting the reason why the agenda was changed, a council spokeswoman said the chairman had the authority to set and alter agendas but did not give a reason for Cr Cooper's decision.

I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Brisbane Times* online, dated 6 March 2018, titled 'Chiming of Brisbane City Hall's bells spark fiery council debate' [301].

My message to the LNP administration at City Hall is: don't mess with the Stretton mums. You clearly have not learned from your mistakes. Stop the cover-ups. Come clean and give our community a guarantee that Illaweena Street will continue to stay open.

### Toowoomba South Electorate



**Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.18 pm): This afternoon I rise to continue the fight for our fair share of services in the southern and western suburbs of Toowoomba. I have spent much of the last two years fighting hard to make sure that Glenvale State School is granted funding towards a drop-off zone. We have 2,200 vehicles going up a very busy road right outside the school, 10 per cent of which are heavy vehicles. We have a situation where the community's safety is at risk. It is appropriate that I speak just after the member for Condamine, who is now pushing for a new high school to the south-west of Toowoomba, which is perhaps to be called the south-west Toowoomba high school or south-west Toowoomba college.

What the southern and western suburbs of Toowoomba deserve is their fair share, and I will always fight on their behalf. Prior to the election I was able to secure a funding commitment of \$500,000 towards a drop-off and pick-up zone, and I pay tribute to the strong work and efforts of Melissa Greensill and Jess Errington at Glenvale State School who have advocated fiercely, as have many of the parents and broader community at Glenvale.

The member for Condamine reflected that we have a range of congestion and community security issues to the south and west of Toowoomba, communities that need a new high school, that need more infrastructure, that need footpaths and drop-off and pick-up zones at schools. It is no longer good enough for the local government and the state government simply to say nothing and forget about these southern and western suburbs of Toowoomba. I promise Melissa Greensill and other concerned parents at Glenvale State School to keep working with them and keep fighting.


I call on the education minister to provide funding, to direct the education department to do something. We cannot have children walking across the busy Glenvale Road with one drop-off and one pick-up zone to Glenvale State School. It is not good enough and we need to do something about it.



I also support the member for Condamine's call for this new high school. I have two high schools in my electorate, both at capacity—Harristown State High and Centenary State High. We need a new high school to the south-west of Toowoomba. I encourage the minister to consider that as some matter of urgency.

Just this week at Glenvale State School parking inspectors from the Toowoomba Regional Council were booking parents trying to get their children to and from school—in the teeming rain no less! That is not good enough. We need to do something about it. At the moment it is just the LNP talking about delivering for the southern and western suburbs of Toowoomba.

### Schools, Federal Funding

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.21 pm): I have a simple question: does the Leader of the Opposition back our local schools or does the member back Malcolm Turnbull's GST cuts that will strip teachers, support staff and resources out of schools in the electorate of Greenslopes? It was a huge honour to be re-elected to represent the seat of Greenslopes.


One of the key issues we talked about was backing our local schools. People in my electorate understand the transformative power of education and the role it plays in building our community. I am proud to back our local schools. I am proud to back them on big and small issues—getting a new oval at Nursery Road Special School so that children and students with disabilities have the same sporting opportunities as every other student was a huge outcome. Getting a school crossing guard at Holland Park State School keeps the kids safe but also goes to another commitment I made—to create local jobs. When I think about the coding and robotics happening at every school around Queensland, I am exceptionally proud of the government that has this vision.

Over the next four years our government has committed to putting 3,700 teachers into schools. This is a great commitment. We understand how important early childhood education is, and that is why there will be a teacher aide in every prep classroom in the state. I am extremely proud to be part of that. We are also investing \$221 million over four years for STEM specialists and IT support staff. These are great outcomes that this government should rightly be proud of.

Compare that to what is coming our way from the federal government's GST cuts. We face up to \$1.6 billion in cuts. That could pay for more than 14,000 teachers or about 30,000 teacher aides. We know with the growing population that that \$1.6 billion could fund more than 30 new schools or new infrastructure such as 250 halls in existing schools.

I return to my original question: does the Leader of the Opposition back our local schools or does the Leader of the Opposition back Malcolm Turnbull's GST funding cuts? I know exactly what the answer is on this side of the House. I am proud to be part of the Labor Party because I back education. I support the Premier and I support the minister as they stand up for Queensland and say no to Malcolm Turnbull's GST cuts. I will never back Malcolm Turnbull's GST cuts. I will always back our local schools. I am proud to be part of a government that backs our local schools, whether through preparing our schools for the future or maintaining or building new schools. This is a government that backs our local schools. We do not accept GST cuts and never will. We back our schools.

### Gold Coast, Traffic

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.25 pm): I have risen in this House on numerous occasions to plead with the government on behalf of Gold Coast residents to at least take initial steps to address the rapidly growing problem that is the elephant in the room for Gold Coast to Brisbane commuters—the increasingly traffic-jammed M1, the major connector road between Australia's third and sixth largest cities. Yet the government's ham-fisted, half-smart response to the burgeoning problem is to cut the road speed limit by 10 kilometres per hour to 100 kilometres per hour in the forlorn hope this measure will reduce accidents and traffic snarls. What a joke!

The police department even installed sneaky new 100 kilometres per hour speed detection cameras to immediately bolster the government's revenue by circumventing clear legislative guidelines by the use of tricky lawyer language. That does respect for the Police Service no good will at all. Will it address the horrendous embarrassment for the government that is the M1, particularly as we showcase the Gold Coast through the Commonwealth Games, in terms of its accessibility and livability? 'No way Palaszczuk' will be the slogan we will see all across the highway. With no plan from the Palaszczuk Labor government to alleviate this problem, it will only get worse as the populations of Brisbane and the Gold Coast grow rapidly. The current M1 was designed for an effective lifespan which expires this year, 20 years after it was built by the Borbidge LNP government in 1998. Recent population projections

for the Gold Coast estimate the Gold Coast will grow to over 1.2 million people over the next 35 years, so the time to start fixing the M1 problem is now. Do not wait until the M1 becomes a parking lot as the previous Goss government did with the old highway in 1995.

I remember big Billy Ludwig of AWU infamy telling me how ridiculous it was for the Goss government to spend \$2 million on a transport study about the highway when any mum with two kids in the back of a car stuck in traffic on the old highway could tell you that we needed a new road. The Goss government lost that election, some saying it was due to the so-called 'Koala Highway'.

The Palaszczuk Labor government should heed the lessons of the past and start doing something about the most important piece of infrastructure for the future of the Gold Coast. The inter-regional transport corridor is the answer as an alternative to the M1. Even if there were a tollway, it needs to start now. If something is not done, tourism and business on the Gold Coast will die.

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Public Transport



**Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.27 pm): I will talk about something positive about the Commonwealth Games, something we need to hear. I am preparing the residents of Bancroft to embrace the Commonwealth Games and help them on the way to the Gold Coast. I am telling them that the best way to get to the games is on our public transport system and on the Redcliffe railway line. The games journey planner is their go-to tool to get them to the games without fuss or worry. The games journey planner app has all the information they need on tram, train, bus and shuttle services. All they need do in my area is enter where they are leaving—Rothwell or Mango Hill station, for example—put in the event and session they are attending and they are told exactly how to get there. It will be quick. There will be 24/7 light rail with six-minute frequency during peak event periods; 24/7 rail with on average trains every 10 minutes or better; 24/7 high-frequency shuttle bus services linking major venues and precincts; and an extra 4,000 daily bus services.

I not only want to tell local residents about ways to get to the games, I want to tell them about the achievement of our state—that is, the transport system to the games. I want to tell them about the Palaszczuk government's billion dollar investment in transport infrastructure on the Gold Coast, including \$420 million for light rail, \$163 million for duplication of heavy rail and over \$350 million on Gold Coast road upgrades. Queenslanders need to hear more from LNP members opposite about how to get to the games and about the great games' achievements in terms of transport infrastructure. Members opposite are not saying much because the LNP did little in government to prepare the coast for games transport.

As we heard here on Tuesday, the Commonwealth Games legacy from the previous LNP government was meagre, nonexistent—ignored the M1, did nothing to build stage 2 of Gold Coast Light Rail, did nothing on the duplication of heavy rail from Helensvale to Coomera. But it is not too late for those opposite to get on board. They can still show that they support the games—the biggest event in Queensland. They can still get the word out about how people can use public transport to get to the games.

I am told that the member for Surfers Paradise is the only one on the coast who has posted about the journey planner. I invite them to go and perhaps do the same.

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** Good.


**Mr MOLHOEK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is misleading the House. Many of us have posted about the journey planner.

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Currumbin, you have had several warnings now. The next time I have to speak to you, you will be formally warned under the standing orders. Member for Southport, if you have issues or problems with what the member is saying, then I suggest you write to the Speaker and address it through that means.

**Mr WHITING:** I welcome the update and I acknowledge that they have got on board and are finally doing something to let people know how to get to the games. I want to hear them urging Queenslanders to support this wonderful opportunity. I want to hear them talking up the games. I want them to encourage Queenslanders to get the last of the tickets available to these events and I urge them to join with us and prompt people to come along to the baton relay to cheer on our great Queensland baton holders.

### Former Member for Noosa

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.30 pm): This morning in the chamber we saw a shameful attack on the former member for Noosa, Mr Glen Elmes, by the Labor government. Those opposite might have thought it was cheap party politics when one loses their seat and then attempts to have a job. Mr Elmes has set up a consultancy company, just like many former Labor members have got government gigs on boards on both sides of politics—Paul Lucas, John Mickel and others. It was a shameful attack, but there was a lack of leadership by the Premier in not realising that half of her ministers have responded positively to Mr Elmes.

As I raised this morning, the former member for Noosa received an email from Minister Farmer which states, and I will table this—

Glen I would be so happy to put your name forward. I think you know the regard in which I hold you ...

I will certainly pass on this message.

How are things going? I think of you regularly ...

Not only that, Glen Elmes got a letter back from Minister Craig Crawford that states—

Hi Glen.

Mate I would be fully supportive of you going into such a role if you get a chance.

...

If you have any leads or opportunities feel free to contact me and I will attempt to chat to the right minister etc.

Then of course we have another one from Minister Mark Furner that states—

Hi Glen,

Good to hear from you I do hope you are well.

I have always respected you and agree with the manner in which you conducted yourself ... I will keep you in mind and see if any of my colleagues know of anything.

I table copies of those.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of emails from the member for Ferny Grove, Hon. Mark Furner, member for Bulimba, Hon. Di Farmer, and the member for Barron River, Hon. Craig Crawford, to the former member for Noosa, Mr Glen Elmes [302].


The point is that the Premier made a shameful attack on a former member of this House when ministers have been engaging positively with the former member for Noosa. I do not expect anything less from this Premier given the way the Premier talked about the member for Miller, the former energy minister, Mark Bailey. Who got the secret government job? Peter Simpson from the ETU emailed to a mangocube account—a private email account of the minister—a CV, yet this morning the Premier stood up in parliament and said—after telling the journalists yesterday, ‘I’ll find out who it was. Sure. Get back to you’—‘It was redacted from the RTI.’ Ask the member for Miller who he employed. Who got the gig? The CV was put forward. Who got the gig? In fact, I understand that the chief of staff to former Minister Bailey is now the deputy chief of staff in the Premier’s office. How about she talks to the person sitting next to her giving her advice every day and asks, ‘Who got the government contract? Who did the ETU recommend through the secret mangocube account?’ The Premier did a press conference this morning, and I table a copy of a photo of the Premier’s press conference.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting the Premier, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, on a building site with a CFMEU flag and Indigenous flag in the background [303].

Guess which flag is in the back? The CFMEU! The Premier has failed to answer the questions: who got the government job? Whose resume—secret resume—was forwarded on a private email account? The member for Bundamba was forced to resign for far less offences than the member for Miller. He should do the honourable thing and resign. If not, the Premier should sack him.

(Time expired)

### International Women’s Day

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.33 pm): As we all know, today is International Women’s Day and I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all of the women in my life and across my community for the contributions they make each and every day in their homes, workplaces and across our community. Today should be a day of celebration. We have come far. We have women at the highest levels of politics, business, public and community service in this state and across this country.

I am very proud to be a member of a government and political party that lays claim to strong and dynamic female leadership at the very top—Premier, Deputy Premier, Leader of the House and state secretary alike—and it was an absolute atmosphere of celebration last night at the reception hosted by our passionate Minister for Women, Di Farmer, when more than 160 women came together from all walks of life to share friendship and optimism about what women can achieve in this state.

Perhaps it is because of those gains that invariably each year on International Women's Day criticisms are raised about why we still need an International Women's Day. After all, if women have apparently achieved everything, why do we need to keep talking about women's rights? As female leaders we have a responsibility to the next generation of women and girls—just as those did before us—to shine a light on the journey still to be traversed, and we still have a long way to go.

In the 2017 *Global gender gap report* of the World Economic Forum Australia was ranked 35th overall out of 144 countries. Our rank overall has improved in large part because of progress towards gender parity in the country's share of female parliamentarians, particularly in the number who hold ministerial positions—an example of Queensland doing the heavy lifting nationally again.

The same report also identifies that on current estimates it will take 217 years for the global economic gender gap to be closed, mostly because the gap has actually widened. Women globally are far more likely to live in poverty; more likely to face violence, in particular domestic and sexual violence; they are paid less; they are less likely to be on boards, though our government has made real inroads into government boards at least; and they are less likely to be influencers in politics.

I continue to hear statements of women in leadership and work like, 'She was just the weaker candidate', 'She has family responsibilities that will distract', 'She is too aggressive, too shrill, too emotional, too ruthless, too much like a man'. On every measure—every measure—women are just as passionate, just as powerful, just as visionary and they should be credited as such. The embarrassing underrepresentation of women opposite—six out of 39 opposition MPs, which is 15 per cent—is another very embarrassing visual example in 2018 of why we need to keep talking about this. Iraq has 25 per cent, Afghanistan has 28 per cent, we have 50 per cent but the Queensland LNP has just six female representatives.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Sport



**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.36 pm): It is no secret that here in Queensland we take our sport very seriously—everyone, it seems, except the Palaszczuk Labor government and its sport minister, who only seem to like the photo opportunities and spruiking in this place about the successes of our sporting stars.

Within the first two months of this year Labor has proven that, whether it is club performance or attracting sporting events, it does not have a clue when it comes to the Sport portfolio. In fact, in January the Gabba was completely overlooked for the 2020 women's T20 World Cup whilst it will host just four matches in the men's cup. The Labor government failed so badly at attracting T20 World Cup games that Manuka Oval in Canberra is getting five games, Kardinia Park in Geelong six games, Bellerive in Hobart eight games and Sydney 14 games—all favoured over Brisbane. The fact is Brisbane will host the fewest tournament games in the country. It is an embarrassment, and even this week Queensland Cricket talked about moving some of its shield games to the Allan Border Field where it needs some help with funding to improve drainage.

The minister is quoted as saying, 'We don't fund private infrastructure.' I am interested in finding out whether any of those other ovals in other places have been funded by state governments. We have heard a lot of talk but we do not see a lot of action from those opposite when it comes to supporting women in sport. In fact, the minister did not even bother to front up to the media to talk about the fact that the Gabba was snubbed for the women's T20 World Cup. This is great on International Women's Day, isn't it? He left it to the member for Gaven, and her response was just ridiculous. I quote from a *Courier-Mail* article of 30 January 2018 written by Robert Craddock, and I table a copy of it.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 30 January 2018, titled '2020 World T20: Geelong, Canberra and Hobart all rate higher than the Gabba as venues' [304].

The article states—

Assistant Minister for Tourism Industry Development, Meaghan Scanlon, tried to dress mutton up as lamb at a shallow, unconvincing press conference on Tuesday by urging Queensland fans to support the women's trial games because 'it is really important to know we are supporting women in sport.'


When you are reduced to spruiking trial matches you really have hit the bottom of the barrel.

The article goes on to describe the bidding process as 'timid', and I think that is putting it nicely. Then the minister fronted up for an interview on 8 February on 4BC to talk about stadiums and infrastructure in Queensland. I was keen to hear from the minister about how he plans to promote, support and enhance our sports teams and venues, but the minister started a bizarre rant about how he would not consider a boutique stadium for women's football in Queensland because he thought the Brisbane Roar men's team is underperforming.

The women's team has won three premierships. Either the minister is being sexist on International Women's Day by disregarding the hard work of the championship winning women's team, or the men's team is not performing to his standards, or he is not across his portfolio. It is a sad reality for sports fans and players alike when this important portfolio is crumbling under this Labor minister. Kate Jones said that the Gabba was the best place in the world to watch cricket. James Sutherland, the CEO of Cricket Australia, said that it was fifth best in Australia.

*(Time expired)*

### Glencore, Oaky North

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.39 pm): It is absolutely ludicrous that a multibillion-dollar foreign mining company that pays no tax can lock 180 Australian workers out of their workplace for over 220 days—not over a pay dispute but because the workers simply want to maintain their workplace representation rights. That is what mining giant Glencore has done. It is ludicrous. This is Australia's longest running industrial lockout.

**Mr Harper:** Un-Australian.

**Mrs LAUGA:** I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. I believe that it is just un-Australian. No doubt, it was bittersweet for the 180 workers when the Fair Work Commission ordered Glencore to temporarily end the lockout, allowing the men back to work for a period of three weeks commencing yesterday. I seriously hope that this decision results in a permanent end to the lockout and a fair workplace agreement for the sake of these workers and their families.

In Australia we believe that everyone deserves a fair day's pay for a fair day's work, security in their job, and to be treated with dignity and respect. The system is clearly broken when corporations such as Glencore, which pay not one cent of tax, are legally able to lock out workers like this.

The LNP's federal Fair Work Act allows big corporations to get away with treating workers unfairly. The LNP's laws allow multibillion dollar foreign corporations such as Glencore to lock out their Oaky North workforce for over 220 days. While these corporations are making billions in profits from our country's resources, Australian workers are being treated poorly and secure jobs are getting harder and harder to find.

These workers have told me personally about the impact the lockout is having on their finances, their marriages and their mental health. Workers across Central Queensland tell me about the impact that insecure work is having on their lives. The only thing that will stop these cuts and raise wages, protect people's rights and ensure that we have good steady jobs is workers such as the men at Oaky North banding together and calling for change.

The member for Capricornia, Senator Matthew Canavan and the LNP do not give two hoots about local secure jobs. When the Fair Work Commission temporarily ended the lockout, Ms Landry was quick to claim victory. This is the same woman who disparaged the reputation of the Oaky North workers and criticised them in federal parliament. If the federal member for Capricornia were genuine about stopping casualisation and ending this lockout, she would have agreed to meet with the workers on site, but she did not. She flat out refused to meet with these workers.

In fact, when she recently toured CQ mines, the member for Capricornia was too busy getting selfies with the mine bosses to visit the locked out workers down the road. Let us not forget that it was only last year that Ms Landry voted in the federal parliament to cut penalty rates to the take-home pay of tens of thousands of Central Queensland workers.

If Michelle Landry, Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP were genuine about helping local workers, they would be standing up and demanding that companies pay their fair share in tax, put an end to casualisation and reinstate penalty rates. Capricornia workers deserve better representation.

## Vegetation Management



**Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.42 pm): There is great concern in rural and regional Queensland and the housing sector in South-East Queensland about the Palaszczuk Labor government's election commitments to place further restrictions in relation to vegetation management. This morning, the Premier would not guarantee that her government's proposed laws would not increase the costs of new homes in South-East Queensland. Effectively, the Premier has made an election promise to increase the cost of new homes in her own members' electorates.

We know that the Property Council said in 2016 that it was not even consulted on the unintended consequences of the amendments to urban development. Chris Mountford of the Property Council said—

... the reality is that it will directly affect the cost of housing in urban areas, like South East Queensland ... These proposed laws actually go well beyond reversing the changes made to the Vegetation Management Act by the previous government.

They introduce significant new environmental offset requirements that will add thousands of dollars to the cost of new housing across Queensland.

There we have it: a Labor government making the Australian dream of owning a home more expensive owing to its vegetation management laws. Why does the Labor government want to increase the cost of living for battlers, for the mums and dads, in South-East Queensland?

No wonder the e-petition against further vegetation management restrictions is gaining 200 signatures per day. It is not just the farmers who are concerned; it is those who want to get into the housing market in South-East Queensland. I thank Scott and Adma Sargood of my electorate for this petition and for getting the message out about the importance of being able to fodder harvest in the mulga lands. Mulga regenerates quickly. It grows back. It thickens quickly and it does not grow along the Great Barrier Reef. Landholders manage their mulga because it is like a living haystack. Scott and Adma have put up a massive sign on their property at Halton to tell the facts of how mulga is being used as fodder. I table a photograph of Scott with that sign.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Western Times*, dated 15 February 2018, titled 'Grazers take a stand' [\[305\]](#).

Today, I need to give those opposite a little lesson in geography. Not all the catchments in Queensland run to the Great Barrier Reef. In fact, 75 per cent of the land mass of Queensland does not go within a bull's roar of the Great Barrier Reef—a geographical fact that many members opposite had a lot of trouble with in 2016. The members opposite should get out a map of the Queensland catchments before they start talking about vegetation management and the Great Barrier Reef.

## Mackay Electorate, Apprenticeships



**Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.45 pm): As it is International Women's Day, I would like to report on some of the trailblazing young women in my electorate and the surrounding region starting their apprenticeships this year. It is important that we keep breaking down barriers in the workforce for both males and females. It is important to have true diversity and have both strong men and women in our workplaces.

Last week, I met the new intake of Ergon apprentices at the Mackay depot. For a number of years females have been included in the yearly intake and they emerge from their training as world-class electricians. This year, in Mackay, Ergon Energy's intake of apprentices has set a new benchmark of diversity. Three of the five successful applicants are female.

For the first time women have outnumbered men in an annual intake at one of Ergon's major regional depots. Three of the five apprentices, including two of the women, identify as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, also marking the first time people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent made up the majority of an intake at a major depot. Dean Werthenbach, Ergon's area manager, told me that, regardless of gender, these apprentices are the cream of the crop of all the candidates.


The new apprentices, Leah Deveraux, Kristen Predebon, Ashley Maes, Travis Mansfield and Sean Dalton, are beginning their careers knowing that they are the top of their field. Leah told me that in year 10 she decided to become an electrician after Ergon visited to discuss career paths.

Simone Suradi is featured in today's *Daily Mercury*. Simone is breaking new ground as a first-year mechanical fitter with Hastings Deering. At the BMA apprentice intake, I met 41 keen apprentices who were on their first day. The Queensland Resources Council has a Women in

Resources Action Plan to increase the proportion of women in the sector to at least 20 per cent in non-traditional roles by 2020. Seven of the 41 BMA apprentices are female. Two of the four apprentices who were working at Hay Point are female. I congratulate Ergon and BMA for the work that they have done in our schools to recruit apprentices and to encourage both males and females to apply.

The Palaszczuk government is supporting apprentices with its payroll deductions and other incentives for employers. In my area, because of the Palaszczuk government's incentives for businesses to take on young people as apprentices and trainees, the unemployment rate has dropped to 4.4 per cent.

### Bundaberg-Burnett Region

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.48 pm): I have always believed that the Bundaberg Coral Coast and the wider Burnett region is the jewel in the crown of our great state. From our ideal position as the gateway to the southern Great Barrier Reef, our unique and world-class turtle encounters, award-winning rum, beautiful beaches, unrivalled climate and impressive Hinkler Hall of Aviation—a terrific tribute to Bert Hinkler—nothing beats the Bundaberg-Burnett region.

I am delighted that my region now has the recognition to prove it. Six of Bundaberg's iconic tourism hotspots have been voted among the state's top 100 bucket list experiences by Experience Oz's annual Queensland Bucket List, including our southern Great Barrier Reef sitting at the No. 1 spot. It is no secret that I am proud of the region and what it has to offer. I hold a particularly soft spot for the iconic Lady Elliot Island and Lady Musgrave Island and the one-of-a-kind ecotourism experiences they provide.


Lady Elliot and Lady Musgrave islands offer tourists the opportunity to swim with majestic manta rays, turtles and over 1,200 other species of marine life. Over the years I have made a habit of taking international guests and media over to the islands so they can experience our little slice of paradise and spread the word. We again congratulate the team at Lady Elliot Island for their recent success at the Australian Tourism Awards.

No one who visits our famous Mon Repos turtle rookery will forget the magic of the nesting sea turtles, the hatchlings or the important marine conservation message they will take away. This latest recognition from Experience Oz can only help us build on the more than 70,000 people we welcome to the region every year, providing an economic boost that the community deserves. I cannot mention the Bundaberg region's impressive track record for delivering world-class experiences without acknowledging those who work tirelessly behind the scenes.

Our region is fortunate to have a number of highly capable, influential people working within our peak tourism bodies to cement our position as a desirable destination. I congratulate Katherine Reid, general manager of Bundaberg North Burnett Tourism, and her dedicated team who continue to ensure our region thrives. I would also like to take this opportunity to commend Duncan Littler, senior brand manager of Bundaberg Rum and chair of Bundaberg North Burnett Tourism. Under Duncan's guidance, the Bundaberg brand has been splashed around the world, helping to attract international and national visitors to the region.

A visit to the region would not be complete without experiencing historic Childers and Mammino Gourmet Ice Cream. Further north, Baffle Creek, Agnes Water, 1770 and surrounds add another dimension to what is great in tourism in the region. My message today to all considering their next holiday destination is that there is good reason that visitors continue to flock to our region. Make sure you put the Bundaberg Coral Coast and greater Burnett region on your bucket list. You will not be disappointed.

### International Women's Day

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.51 pm): Labor has a proud track record of promoting women, women's rights and equality through our governments. I am proud to be a woman serving in the Palaszczuk Labor government committed to furthering women's issues. I commenced my working life as an early childhood educator, motivated into this career to make a difference. I found it enormously rewarding and fulfilling. There continues to be a crisis in the sector, which is blatantly undervalued but an essential service relied upon every day.



The longer I was working in the sector the more committed I became to doing something about it. So many of us want careers that make a difference in this world and too many of us face the difficult choice of walking away from the careers and the work that we love simply because it is not sustainable to stay. The value of a fair day's pay for a fair day's work just simply does not exist in so many female dominated industries. This is something that I was then and still am now committed to changing.

Working in female dominated workforces must never be an impediment to being able to make a living or not. It is a stain on our society that it is. The more time I spent campaigning in different female dominated industries with my union, United Voice, the more I realised that my story and my struggle was not mine alone, it was a shared story with thousands of others just like me, be it an early childhood educator struggling to make ends meet, a small businesswoman trying to make her dream a reality, a woman in a corporate world who has to work harder to balance work and home life or those who have been left out or left behind by our economy entirely.

We live in a society where gradually opportunity is being realised and equalised, but there is still a lot more to do. I stood as a Labor candidate because even now there remains entrenched and subliminal discrimination in our society. For me, maximising opportunities for women in our community is a step towards creating a healthier, more cohesive society. There is an economic imperative in all of this. We should not exclude through any rule or practice half of our community from full participation in our workforces, businesses or parliaments. To me, International Women's Day serves as a reminder of an ongoing mission and an urgent need. I have experienced firsthand the arbitrary inequality of earning less than my male counterparts with comparable qualifications to myself.

I am pleased to inform the House that our educators are still committed to ensuring that women are taking up the fight because Turnbull and the LNP will not act and seemly will not listen to what is happening in the sector right now. To secure professional wages that value the importance of the work, the Big Steps campaign—which is happening right now in our centres—will see workers walk off the job. On this day a year ago educators in four centres walked off, and this year on 27 March educators in over 80 centres and growing will be walking off the job to ensure that a future generation will get the best quality care that they need. I hope that Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP in Canberra listen to them. I implore people to jump online and support the Big Steps campaign to support our educators. Happy International Women's Day.

### Theodore Electorate



**Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (2.54 pm): I rise to speak about a number of concerns that residents in my electorate have expressed to me. The first concern is the lack of a traffic crossing guard at the rear of Highland Reserve State School. This is a saga that started in 2016, not long after the road was first opened. The issue is exacerbated as more houses are built in the local area thus placing more vehicles on this road. As residents are only allowed to park on the opposite side of the road to the school and the main population of the school is on the opposite side of Highland Way, it forces parents with students and sometimes students by themselves to make a quick dash across Highland Way. As many parents have said to me, 'What is the price of a child's life?' I ask the new Minister for Transport to look into this matter and give us a safe area for our children to cross.

The traffic situation on the M1 motorway continues to worsen as more and more vehicles use this roadway every day. Every time we have an accident on the M1 the road network in the northern Gold Coast goes into meltdown. Therefore, an alternative roadway has to be built to remove local traffic away from the motorway.


Recently the government changed the name of the Intra-Regional Transport Corridor to the Coomera Connector. Any design works for this new road corridor must include substantial sound barriers to reduce the impact on local residents. Furthermore, these sound barriers should be capped along sections of the new proposed roadway and current railway line, especially where these transport links traverse closely to residential houses.

This issue has been highlighted with residents complaining about the inadequate sound walls recently installed by Queensland Rail on the new second line. Residents feel that these sound barriers are too low and do not absorb anywhere near the sound that the previous sound barriers absorbed. As one resident stated, with the old sound barriers he could not see the trains pass by, yet with the new sound barriers he can see the top of the carriages.



This week I placed a question on notice to the minister about this matter. I ask the minister to instruct his department to properly review the new rail line sound barriers to see what alterations can be made to reduce this impact. Any design works on the new Coomera Connector must include suitable sound barriers to ensure residents are not adversely impacted by this future road which has to be built to relieve the massive traffic congestion we have in the northern Gold Coast.

### Land Restoration Fund

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (2.57 pm): During the 2017 state election the Palaszczuk government took to the people of Queensland a visionary commitment to establish a \$500 million Land Restoration Fund. This fund is the government's flagship environmental commitment to directly support land sector carbon projects in Queensland while creating new jobs in a growing industry. This initiative is about leveraging emerging carbon markets to supply high-quality offsets and delivering important environmental, economic and social benefits. These co-benefits could include greater agricultural productivity, koala habitats, protection of threatened species, as well as rehabilitating and restoring wetlands and waterways.

As well as facilitating a pipeline of qualifying Queensland based carbon offset projects and pursuing co-benefits, this \$500 million commitment will support research and development into areas where Queensland has a comparative advantage for generating carbon credits.

I am pleased to update the House that, in collaboration with my colleague the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, work has now commenced to implement the Land Restoration Fund. A time limited project management office is being established in my department, the Department of Environment and Science, with expertise drawn from across government. The immediate priorities of the project management office are to establish an expert advisory panel which will develop options for the fund's design, engage with our land conservation and science sectors on priorities for research and development and work with all sectors, including the investment and finance community, to develop and draft the investment strategy for the fund.

The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of delivering this important election commitment and protecting our state's unique environment for generations of Queenslanders to come. This investment in the Land Restoration Fund is another example of how the Palaszczuk government is tackling climate change through science.


In contrast, we note the federal coalition government's appalling neglect of climate science. In fact, in the Turnbull government we have seen the science portfolio cast off to an assistant minister who does not have a voice at the cabinet table. I wonder if those opposite have spoken to their federal LNP colleagues about this blatant disregard of climate science. Have they picked up the phone to discuss the vital importance of robust science to help combat climate change? Will those opposite stand up for Queensland climate scientists and the valuable work they do to help protect our natural assets, such as the Great Barrier Reef? Are they comfortable with the Prime Minister and their colleagues in Canberra continuing to ignore the science of climate change?

Whilst I am on my feet, I acknowledge that last night many members from my electorate of Algeria joined Minister Di Farmer and many other ministers to celebrate at the Queensland Women's Week reception.

*(Time expired)*

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY


### Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 136(3) that the Economics and Governance Committee report on the Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 23 April 2018; and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill by 23 April 2018.

The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 194B that the Auditor-General's reports to parliament of 2017-18 No. 6 titled *Fraud risk management*, No. 8 titled *Confidentiality and disclosure of government contracts*, No. 10 titled *Finalising unpaid fines* and No. 11 titled *Queensland state government: 2016-17 results of financial audits* be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee; that the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 7 of 2017-18 titled *Health: 2016-17 results of financial audits* be referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee; and that the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 9 of 2017-18 titled *Energy: 2016-17 results of financial audits* be referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (3.02 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Planning Act 2016, the Planning Regulation 2017, the Vegetation Management Act 1999 and the Water Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [\[299\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[300\]](#).

Today I introduce the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This amendment bill will deliver on Labor's commitments dating back to 2015. The amendments that I bring into the parliament are necessary to protect Queensland's remnant and high-value regrowth vegetation. It is all about restoring a sustainable vegetation management framework for managing a valuable resource on behalf of the people of Queensland. I would like to thank my cabinet colleagues the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Environment and Great Barrier Reef for their contributions to developing this bill. They are both passionate advocates for environmental causes.

The Labor government has a long and proud history of delivering nation-leading reforms in vegetation management, dating back to the introduction of the original vegetation management laws in 1999. It was a Labor government that 14 years ago put an end to broadscale clearing of remnant vegetation here in Queensland. Those reforms delivered the largest single reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in Australia's history and allowed the Howard government to tell the Australian people that we had met our international commitments under the Kyoto protocol. These nation-leading reforms came to an end in 2013 when the LNP set about removing the protections that the Labor Party had built over 13 years.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! The member for Gregory will cease interjecting.

**Dr LYNHAM:** The results should surprise no-one. Within three years in Queensland clearing rates of remnant native vegetation increased from 59,800 hectares in 2012-13 to 138,000 in 2015-16. This amendment bill seeks to end the levels of broadscale clearing that the LNP legislation created.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Those on my left will cease interjecting. The minister is introducing and speaking to the bill. He has not said anything provocative.

**Dr LYNHAM:** I would like to draw the attention of the House specifically to the removal of provisions that allowed for clearing of high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture. The Newman government introduced this clearing purpose into legislation which led to broadscale clearing of our irreplaceable remnant vegetation. From today, there will be no more of those approvals. However, to give certainty to industry we will honour existing approvals.

The bill will reinstate the protection of high-value regrowth vegetation on freehold and Indigenous land. The bill will change the definition of 'high-value regrowth' to ensure that additional vegetation that has significant environmental value is protected. This aligns with scientific advice provided by the Queensland Herbarium.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, please take your seat. I warn the member for Gregory under standing order 253A.

**Dr LYNHAM:** As a result, it is proposed to change the 'high-value regrowth' definition that currently exists from woody vegetation that has not been cleared since 31 December 1989 and forms an endangered, of concern or least concern regional ecosystem vegetation to high-value regrowth vegetation that has not been cleared for 15 years. This regulatory change will be supported by mapping updates to the regulated vegetation maps. This approach is well supported by ecological science.

Under the new definition, high-value regrowth will continue to be mapped as category C on freehold and Indigenous land, as well as on leasehold land—that is, agriculture and grazing leases. Restoring the pre-2013 mapping of high-value regrowth on freehold and Indigenous land protects approximately 630,000 hectares on freehold and Indigenous land.

With the changes I am proposing to the definition of 'high-value regrowth', our government will protect an additional 232,275 hectares. These two measures will protect an additional 862,506 hectares of high-value regrowth. Importantly for the environment, approximately 405,000 hectares or 47 per cent of this is within the Great Barrier Reef catchments.

Importantly, our government will be providing better protections under the vegetation management framework for near-threatened species. These are species that are listed under the Nature Conservation Act 1994, where our scientists have evidence that the population size or distribution of the wildlife is small, may become smaller or has declined and there is concern for their survival. Our near-threatened plants and animals were dismissed by the LNP government as not worthy of protection. On the other hand, the Labor party is of the firm belief that these species need our protection, otherwise we face the regretful prospect of their decline.

Near-threatened species were removed from the essential habitat mapping layer in 2013. When we compared the high conservation values' methodology to the existing statutory framework, it showed that near-threatened species have limited regulatory protection. The essential habitat mapping layer used in the Vegetation Management Act will be updated, protecting endangered, vulnerable and near-threatened species. The essential habitat of our valued animals and plants will be protected in both remnant and high-value regrowth vegetation. Offsets will apply to approvals for any significant residual impact on near-threatened species where the clearing of remnant vegetation cannot be reasonably avoided and minimised.

This bill will also extend protection to regrowth vegetation in watercourse areas for the Burnett-Mary, eastern Cape York and Fitzroy catchments, providing consistent protection to regrowth vegetation in all Great Barrier Reef catchments. This builds on the measures introduced in 2009 which regulate the clearing of vegetation within 50 meters of a watercourse in the Burdekin, Mackay-Whitsunday and Wet Tropics. The bill will also amend the Water Act to re-regulate the removal of vegetation in a watercourse under a riverine protection permit.

After listening to stakeholder feedback, the bill will not include a reverse onus of proof provision nor will it remove the application of the mistake of fact defence for vegetation clearing offences. To minimise pre-emptive clearing and impacts to the environment, certain provisions in this bill will apply from the date of its introduction to this parliament.

I want to stress that the Labor government will honour the long-held security provided to category X areas on a property map of assessable vegetation. Since 2004 all governments have provided certainty to landholders that areas shown as category X on a property map of assessable vegetation are, and continue to be, exempt from the vegetation management framework.

In conjunction with this bill, a major update to the vegetation management maps based upon the Queensland Herbarium's regional ecosystem mapping will be released including updates to the wetland and essential habitat mapping. An update of this scale has not been undertaken since 2013 and will ensure the vegetation management framework is using the best available science.

These maps are currently going live online. Landholders wishing to find out how their property is affected can request a property report and vegetation maps from my department's website. These maps are based on the latest advice from the independent Queensland Herbarium and we are confident they are accurate. However, if landholders are still unsure or believe they have identified an error, I would encourage them to call the vegetation management hotline on 135VEG, 135834, or go into their local department office.

The government is committed to retaining accepted development codes for low-risk activities, while ensuring they deliver appropriate protections. As outlined through our election commitment, we will continue to provide flexibility to landholders through codes as long as they are providing appropriate protections based on advice from the Queensland Herbarium.

Following a review by the Queensland Herbarium, and subsequent review by the CSIRO, a decision was reached that thinning is not a low-risk activity. Therefore I intend to withdraw this accepted development code from the regulation once this bill commences. In the interim, I am remaking the code to include the best scientific advice on how to minimise the risks until the code can be withdrawn. I will retain an assessment pathway in the legislation for those landholders who need to manage thickened vegetation. It will remain a relevant purpose in the Vegetation Management Act for which development applications can be made.

In conjunction with this bill, I asked my department to progress the review of the revised fodder code on which we consulted in 2016 and commence a rolling program to revise and implement the other acceptable development codes throughout 2018. The revised managing fodder harvesting code has been developed by my department based on scientific input from the Queensland Herbarium and the CSIRO. The immediate remake of the managing fodder harvesting and the managing thickened vegetation codes will invalidate all previous clearing notifications and introduce for the first time size and time limits on the areas able to be notified for clearing under an accepted development code. My department will be consulting throughout 2018 with stakeholders to finalise the remaining codes.

To give further effect to our commitment to reflect the best science available, I have asked that the remade codes are supported by relevant scientific advice from the Queensland Herbarium and the CSIRO. My department, in conjunction with the Herbarium, will also be improving the statewide land cover and trees study report to establish a comprehensive monitoring program for the vegetation management framework to better support evidence based policy.

We are responding to stakeholder input and future SLATS reports will include any increase in woody vegetation as well as clearing rates. Those with a stake in our vegetation management laws will all benefit from an online report that is delivered in a timely manner that shows vegetation trends throughout Queensland, including the extent and the condition of our native vegetation and how much is being cleared and for what purpose.

I believe this bill and the complementary measures that I have outlined will deliver on the election commitment to deliver a more sustainable vegetation management framework for Queensland. This government will continue to work with our vital agricultural sector so that together we can care for the environment and ensure that their farms can pass, in good condition and in safe hands, from generation to generation. I commend the bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (3.15 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### **Referral to State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

### **Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date**

**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (3.15 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report to the House on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 23 April 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 399.



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (3.16 pm), continuing: The shadow minister for housing just last week made what can only be described as shameful comments that demonise our social housing tenants and expressed his support for the LNP's backwards three strikes and you are out policy. It is the same old LNP pandering to the rich and kicking the poor while they are down.

In contrast, the Palaszczuk government will reinstate a tenancy engagement program for people living in social housing that promotes their participation and inclusion in the community. When we provide people with opportunities to engage with their community and to undertake meaningful activities like volunteering, people have every reason to want to contribute positively to the society in which they live.

Last year the Premier asked me to take on the Sport portfolio. We as a government cannot afford to underestimate the value of sport. We all know that regular physical activity leads to better health outcomes, whether that activity is a leisurely walk or bike ride through Daisy Hill state forest or a game of cricket down at the Springwood Suns Cricket Club. It is also a catalyst for people to join together and create positive, supportive and connected communities.

I think sport does more, especially for kids. Sport teaches young people to show up, to be reliable and to not let their team down. Kids who learn to show up to training and show up prepared for games also learn how to show up to school and show up to work. These are critical life skills that can mean the difference between a life of success and a life of regrets.

It breaks my heart to see that some of the kids in this state who could most benefit from what sport has to offer them are the kids for whom sport is most out of reach. That is why I am committed to developing a comprehensive sport and recreation strategy to better align our policies and our investment to supporting those areas that need it most in order to create a bright future for Queensland kids and healthy Queensland communities.

With this new term of government I have been given the responsibility of an additional portfolio—that of digital technology. I am excited by the possibilities in this space. I would like to recognise the achievements of my predecessor, Minister Leeanne Enoch, for the great work the minister did to implement the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland strategy. Thanks to the minister's vision and dedication, and the Palaszczuk government's \$420 million Advance Queensland fund, Queensland, I am told, has overtaken Victoria for the number of digital start-ups which is a significant achievement. We are now second only to New South Wales. I am confident that, as we continue to develop Queensland as a fertile ground for digital innovation, that No. 2 position is just a short stepping stone to pole position.

In conclusion, we came to office this term on a promise—our promise to put Queenslanders first and to grow jobs, which we will. They will be decent, secure jobs with good wages and fair working conditions. That is what I commit to doing with all of the portfolio levers available to me as Minister for Housing and Public Works, as Minister for Digital Technology, as Minister for Sport and most of all as the member for Springwood.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Before I call the honourable member for Ninderry, I remind all honourable members that this is the member's first speech and should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions. I call the member for Ninderry.



**Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.20 pm): I deliver this speech today under no illusion as to the weight of history that has been created in this chamber across the previous 55 parliaments and 158 years. I will, so long as I am here, respect and uphold this institution and what it represents—both the right of a government duly elected to govern and an opposition to hold them to account. I will be loyal to our party, to our leader, to the Governor of the state and to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

As the inaugural member for the new electorate of Ninderry, I appreciate the enormity of the role and the great privilege that has been bestowed upon me. While there are no former members to acknowledge, the area has been well served by numerous members. Representatives like Fiona Simpson, Glen Elmes and Peter Wellington have left their mark in this House and on our local area.

The electorate truly encompasses the golden beaches and green hinterland that make the Sunshine Coast special—from Eumundi, with its famous markets, to the once sleepy surfing village of Coolumb, to the rapidly expanding Bli Bli and Peregian Springs, each town having its own vibrant charm and appeal while sharing the climate, culture and character of the Sunshine Coast.

In many ways Ninderry is a reflection of everything we hold dear in this great state—our wide open spaces, our beaches, our climate and of course good hardworking people who appreciate that they are fortunate enough to live in an amazing part of our country. It is certainly not difficult to be passionate about representing this electorate.

Like all members who have stood where I stand now, I can look back to the path that led me here. I grew up in Zillmere on Brisbane's north side. My father, Rick, was a cabinet-maker but walked away from his career to follow his passion for music. It was a bold decision to say the least for a father with a young family—a decision that he would not have been able to make without the support of his wife, my mum, Margaret Joan, who gave up her job to stay home and care for my brother and me while Dad worked seven days a week to put food on the table and send us to a good school.

Although we did not have much in the way of material things, we were surrounded by love, loyalty and strong family values. One of the greatest blessings I ever received was loving, selfless parents committed to providing us with the opportunity to have a better life than they had for themselves. My brother, David, and I could not help but profit from that. David went on to be the dux of the school and become an associate professor of epidemiology, while all I ever wanted to be was a policeman.

I do not know what it was that nurtured the vocation of policing, but I have never doubted that youthful career choice. Over more than 20 years I have sought to serve and protect our community, working as a detective in areas like the Drug Squad, the Covert Unit, the Australian Crime Commission and the Homicide Squad. For almost a decade I worked across the Sunshine Coast in the Child Protection and Investigation Unit, where my role was predominantly dealing with children, families and vulnerable people in our community.

I worked with these people not just to investigate child abuse matters but to address surrounding issues like domestic and family violence, ice and other insidious drugs, unemployment, household debt and other social issues that have a direct impact on crime and the lives of all people in our community, particularly the vulnerable. This accumulated experience has exposed me to measures of despair and hope, devastation and rehabilitation, frailty and cowardice, as well as resilience and courage. I have seen both happy and horrible endings. Some of them stay with me.

In North Buderim in my new electorate I saw a mother, bashed to death by her partner in front of their two-year-old girl, her degradation compounded by having her body thrown in the boot of a car that was set alight. In Beerburrum a baby died in putrid squalor from acute neglect. In the Noosa Hinterland I arrested a person for the prolonged torture and murder of a defenceless toddler. I bring all of those experiences with me into this place. I bring them here not because I cannot let go but because it is important that I do not let go. Their stories, those experiences, will drive me to rattle the cage for issues that many see as too hard or too remote.

Infinite circumstances collide to have us all arrive where we are. Some of it is luck, some of it is circumstance and a decent amount of it is personal decision-making and responsibility which, when neglected, can compound and create a downward spiral. My experience assisting and protecting vulnerable Queenslanders is an asset in this place. It is an asset because I have a full appreciation of how the work that is done here can both help and hinder their plight, how politics serves little purpose in their lives and how we must always remember those we are trying to help. We all think that victims should be our priority over criminals. We all think that where children are not being afforded love and protection from their own families they should be protected by the state, but we need to think harder, do better at developing and implementing policies that achieve those undisputed ideals.

As I kissed my family goodbye each morning there was the potential that somewhere something horrible was happening, something horrible that I would attend to later that day. When I came home from attending it, just how good I have it was put into perspective. Sadly, collectively, we are losing that perspective. On the nightly news we see debates over Christmas carols, gender pronouns or people seeking and finding offence, yet there are far greater priorities than these trivialities—trivialities that mean nothing once you have seen the devastated lives that exist right now in our community. For example, fighting over changing the date of Australia Day does nothing for the over 15,000 Indigenous children currently living in out-of-home care in this country.

So I have made the decision to move from catching law-breakers to join the lawmakers, not because of a lifelong dream to be a politician but as a further step in service to my community—to remember what really matters and to devote my time and energy to defending and protecting that. In that endeavour I will surely be educated about the art of politics and legislating, and in return I hope to influence members about the meaningful ways we can improve the lives of Queenslanders who are struggling.

My wife, Andrea, is a schoolteacher and together we have two beautiful young girls—Emelia, who just turned seven, and Chloe, who is five. They are a strong motivating force and are part of the reason why I am standing here today. I want my girls to grow up in a society where they do not live in fear of being a victim of crime. I want them to be able to enjoy our pristine environment, to surf at our stunning beaches. Most importantly, I want to see my girls live the entirety of their lives in our beautiful regions—get a world-class education, gain meaningful employment, pursue a career and to start a family of their own, should they choose to do so.

To achieve that, there are some priorities I will fight for as long as I am here. I joined and ran for the LNP because the upbringing I had and the beliefs that I hold most closely accord with this party. It is the party that is custodian and defenders of the philosophical traditions of liberalism and conservatism. It is the party that has its highest priorities as the security and prosperity of society. I am obviously passionate about the security side of that equation, establishing law and order and ensuring we have safe and livable communities.

It was then prime minister John Howard who championed the notion that a government's highest priority should be the security of its citizens. I am a firm believer that crime should be punished and when governments are perceived as, or actually are, too soft on crime an inch given leads to a mile taken. There are probably thousands of separate crime indicators, but there are some that stand out to me. Unlike popular culture would have us believe, organised crime is not some seedy underbelly with wars confined to areas that ordinary, law-abiding folk do not go. This construction recklessly minimises the impact of organised crime on the whole community. When organised crime increases, the flow-on impacts are devastating. Other crimes become more prevalent and the social impact of drugs rises too.

A good indicator of organised crime activity, unsurprisingly, is the number of drive-by shootings. Drive-by shootings have jumped by almost 20 per cent in Queensland in the last 12 months, an offence in this state that attracts a maximum penalty of four years imprisonment compared to 14 years in other states like New South Wales. I believe, and I will continue to argue, that we must not give criminal organisations an inch as we constantly seek to provide Queenslanders with a safe and secure community.

One of the most devastating links between organised crime and ordinary Queenslanders is the drug ice. Criminals, particularly criminal motorcycle gangs, generate their profits from this and other evil substances, and their customers are often Queenslanders who may have grown up in or been raising loving, law-abiding families. In my duties as a detective I have taken kids out of the harm, filth and neglect of a house where the parents are addicted to ice. Through no fault of their own, that child has been given an almost insurmountable handicap in life. I have also comforted parents who have lost a child to ice—parents who nurtured their children like any other family and who had them ripped away by this evil drug. As families are torn apart by ice, the community begins to tear apart, and regional communities are bearing the brunt of this epidemic. We have to do more. We have to do better.

We are, however, not just the party of security; we are also the party of prosperity. There are over 4½ thousand small businesses in Ninderry, the large majority of which are family owned and operated. I talked of my mum and dad before, their selflessness and the values they instilled in me. Queensland is largely made up of stories like these. It is made up of tens of thousands of small businesses working hard, making sacrifices to improve their lot, to employ people and to give back to the community. We need to do more for them.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. If we can support small business, sometimes just by getting out of the way, they will do the heavy lifting by driving employment and economic growth. On coming into this place I was given the role of shadow assistant minister for Treasury, and it is my intention, along with my LNP team, to do what we can to ensure that this government is fostering the economic conditions in which small business can thrive. This means dealing with debt. This means building vital infrastructure. This means responsibly reducing fees, levies and charges. This means slashing red tape and refining legislation. This means making responsible decisions in the interests of the long-term economic conditions of the state, not populist decisions in the short-term interests of the government.

Of this list of economic imperatives, infrastructure is an absolute priority for the Sunshine Coast. The Sunshine Coast has outgrown its infrastructure and did so a long time ago. From the major arterial clot en route to Brisbane to local logjams like the Coolum roundabout, residents rightly demand better. We need to look at the economic benefit of particular projects and spend our infrastructure dollars wisely. Instead of multibillion dollar projects for the inner city, let us lift our eyes to growing regions and the economic benefit that can be unlocked by prudent, timely investment.

For the Sunshine Coast the wish list is long and well rehearsed: upgrading the Bruce Highway for those who drive to Brisbane while encouraging people not to drive by increasing capacity on the Sunshine Coast rail line. We must also leverage the Sunshine Coast Airport expansion and improve intracity connectivity so business, visitors and locals can move around safely and with ease. I am sure all members could make a case for better infrastructure and the available dollars are not infinite. I do believe the case for Sunshine Coast members is very strong and deserves closer attention and action.

The opportunity to use this platform as best I can to improve our community is one I cherish and will not waste. This opportunity would not be possible without a long list of people who deserve my thanks placed on the record. I would like to acknowledge our LNP senior leadership team and my colleagues. In my view, we have the right team to write the next chapter for the LNP, to hold this government to account and to provide Queenslanders with a better alternative in 2020.

There is also a long list of people back home whom I need to thank, too many to mention all by name, and I acknowledge a number of them have travelled down and are here this afternoon in the gallery. I was overwhelmed by the support I received from the hardworking local LNP members, from friends, family, police colleagues and the wider community. I particularly thank my campaign team—my campaign chairman and former member for Mansfield Frank Carroll and my campaign manager, Michael Negerevich—my good friend, former work colleague and trusted lieutenant Anthony Green, along with Tony Philbrick, Denis Moore, Jenny Somalyay, Fran Matlock, Lance Barrett and Karin Mogg. I would like to thank our party's inaugural president, Bruce McIver, for his friendship, support and counsel.

There is one person who planted the seed of this possibly long before I appreciated it—someone who encouraged me to back myself; a lifelong friend who first sparked my interest in politics as I watched him make a successful transition from policing to parliament; someone whom I respected and admired when we worked together as junior police officers; and someone I respect and admire now in his role as federal Minister for Home Affairs, the Hon. Peter Dutton. I have absolutely no doubt that I would not be standing here today if not for his belief, encouragement and loyal friendship.

As I said earlier, my mum devoted her life and made many personal sacrifices so my brother and I did not go without. She dedicated her entire being to loving and supporting her family. She has always been very proud of me until the day I told her I wanted to become a politician. She initially threatened to disown me but, like she always has in the past, got fully behind me once she realised I was passionate about my decision and that I was doing it for the right reasons. Now I am sure she is proud of me looking down from the gallery today, and I am sure dad is too, although he is looking down from higher up.


Just like my mum backed my dad when he walked away from his career to pursue his dream, Andrea has backed me to pursue this higher calling for service, and I love her and my two girls more deeply than words can explain. Of all the people who have got me here and of all the people who will sustain me on the journey, these three girls are the most important.

In closing, I believe that the words that are said here matter. The deeds that are done here matter. All of us must never forget that. Though the hours may be long and the work sometimes thankless, few get the opportunity to improve our community like we do. I believe that, when you are elected, you represent all those who could have voted for you, not just those who did. That is what I will do to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Interruption.

## DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

**Lyttle, Mr T**


 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): With the indulgence of the House and while the congratulations to the previous speaker are occurring, I want to honour the life of Timothy Lyttle, who passed away a few days ago at the age of 26. Tim, you graced our home with your presence. You were a beautiful soul. We are assured that you are in a better place. The condolences of my family and the Queensland parliament go to Annabel, John, Grace and family. Tim, may you rest in peace.



## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 419.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the honourable member for Cairns, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (3.42 pm): I would like to begin by offering my congratulations to all honourable members of this House on their election and re-election into this chamber, and to you, Mr Speaker, on your appointment to high office, which was so well deserved. Today I stand in this chamber humbled by the faith the majority of voters in Cairns have shown in me and the Labor Party. I stand here with great pride as the 17th elected member for Cairns. I am conscious of the legacy I have inherited from the one woman and 15 men who have come before me and I intend to contribute to their legacy, ensuring strong representation for the people of Cairns in this chamber with their best interests as my compass, whilst pledging my loyalty to the institutions of government.

I would like to acknowledge all those who have contributed to my being here today—my wonderful and strong socially minded parents, John and Virginia, my brothers, John and Paul, and my sister, Jane, who have all made indelible but positive impacts on my life. My parents came from working-class backgrounds in the inner Sydney suburbs of Erskineville and Darlington. They made us acutely aware that giving back to our community, along with a healthy respect of others and a love of hard work, were important qualities to maintain. We were taught that we will be judged as a society on the manner in which we look after our most needy, and we were also taught the difference between need and want.

Living on Sydney's North Shore, we were very active in a number of social areas—the Catholic Church, St Vincent de Paul and the Matthew Talbot Hostel, where we all contributed in different ways. I enjoyed a number of years in the surf lifesaving movement and I also contributed as a volunteer in the bushfire brigade.

My father's contribution to youth and sport was fundamental in our lives—apart from his commercial interests—and he was acknowledged some years ago by being appointed the Order of Australia for his contribution to the community. My mother, very appropriate on this day, was a driving force in my life, making us aware of the importance of sacrifice and respect. She also understood the power that comes from compassion and understanding, which are too often qualities mistaken for weakness in this day and age. We were provided with excellent educational opportunities and, fortunately, just as good sporting ones. My appreciation of self-respect, commitment and hard work all developed for me from the sporting field. That is why I am so passionate about sport and the ability it has to positively impact on young people.

To my extraordinary wife, Trudi, you are my best friend, my greatest source of strength and my anchor. None of this would have been possible without you. To our exquisite children, Zoe, 13, and Jack, 10, my love for you is incalculable and boundless. Whilst our bike rides and trips to the reef may be a little less these days, I look forward to instilling in you both the strong social conscience which my parents implanted in me. To my tolerant in-laws, Bobbie and Angelo, and our extended families, I give my thanks and my huge appreciation. The same applies to my close personal friends. You have all contributed in many different ways to me standing here today, and for that I am enormously thankful.

I want to thank those local branch members who did so much, as well as the many others who are not politically aligned but who recognised the need for change. I want to thank my colleagues from the tourism industry who made significant contributions to our campaign in a number of different ways. I thank those who volunteered at stalls and booths in the months prior to the election and those who contributed to our phone banking and doorknocking. I want to thank those particularly who made financial contributions.

To the scrutineers and my family and good friends who worked on election day, to my colleagues from the union movement who stood out in that hot Cairns sun and made such a wonderful contribution, my success was their success. To my campaign director, Richie Bates, and treasurer, Toni Fulton, my debt is endless, as it is to Judy Marshall. Thank you.

In recognising those contributions, I am also very aware that other factors contributed to our positive outcome—and that was, through any analysis, the impact of the Palaszczuk government on our campaign. Over the first term of this government, we in Cairns saw strong investment in our schools, essential infrastructure and job-creating activities. This government's policies provided the people of Cairns with real investment and growth, and the people of Cairns responded. I thank the Premier, her ministers and the government for their investment in our city and our future, more importantly.

I would also naturally like to thank the people of Cairns. Understandably, as many of you told me, your faith in the parliamentary process was rattled in the last parliament. As I have said many times, I am beholden to you, the people of Cairns. My commitment to you and to the Labor Party and its values is sound and unbreakable. I make that pledge to you here today.

Whilst I will refrain from providing the members of this chamber with a full history lesson about the city of Cairns, I do feel impelled to touch on its past, and I stipulate in broad terms, as I believe it provides some lessons into where our future lies. Founded in 1876, Cairns was fundamentally a frontier town supporting the gold rush and providing grounds for a tax and excise collection point. During the gold rush period, a railway was built that serviced the Atherton Tablelands. Inevitably, as things happened, the gold rush died out and the people of Far North Queensland were forced to look at other ways to make a living. The need to embrace change was identified.

The already established rail link provided the essential infrastructure which enabled mining, agriculture and timber industries to be established and, as a result, it enabled these products to be shipped to southern markets through the port of Cairns. Around this same period, it became very clear that our flat coastal plains, rich in alluvial soil, would be suitable for growing sugar cane, which was a growing industry across Queensland at that time. The rich, life-filled waters of the Coral Sea and the Great Barrier Reef provided the grounds for the establishment of a thriving fishing industry, along with significant beche-de-mer and pearl shell industries, which became the largest industries in Far North Queensland in the 1890s.

With the federal government's 1901 legislation outlawing the kidnapping of the South Pacific islanders, employment opportunities for new Australians increased and our region saw an influx of Italian, Spanish and other European migrants all prepared to work hard and build a future in this harsh but unique tropical paradise. Their presence is very much alive today and well represented in our communities, my own children being an example.

The transition from the early gold rush period with a patchwork economy to an agricultural/fishing based economy proved successful and profitable for the people of the north. From the 1920s onwards locals like the Hayles family, who commenced a regular ferry service from Cairns to Green Island in 1924, began to provide the foundation stones of an early tourism industry.

Prior to, during and after the Second World War, international tourism began to grow. There is little doubt that the marlin fishing industry, supported by a number of locals and, strangely enough, an ex-US marine who had been based in Cairns during the war, George Bransford, helped put Cairns on the map. Vince Vlasoff and Lloyd Grigg, amongst others from the 1940s and 1950s, all contributed to the foundations of what we have today with the establishment of the world's first ever underwater observatory. Crocodile farms and museums highlighting the rich and ancient cultures of our region in addition to high profile visits to the Great Barrier Reef from the 1970s onwards all contributed to our growth. Our economic future was shifting slowly towards this new industry called tourism, as it had been since the 1920s.

As technology and aviation grew and the world became a smaller place, more people became aware of the amazing wonders of the Great Barrier Reef and as a result demand for Cairns and the surrounds grew. Visionaries like Paul Kamsler Senior, who built the first international hotel in Cairns in 1982, was amongst a small group to recognise the opportunities which lay ahead. Mr Kamsler, amongst others, recognised the importance of aviation and its connection to tourism and its essential role in our city's future. Over the last three decades a wide range of commercial interests have invested in Cairns and our region, building a world-class, natural international tourism destination. The importance of this industry to the citizens of our city should never be underestimated.

I often wonder what legendary Cairns aviator Tom McDonald would think of our airport today, compared to his days back in 1928 when, flying his Gypsy Moth, he could only take off and land between high tides at Machans Beach. Last year our international and domestic airport transacted over 5.2 million people through its doors. Tourism is now the biggest industry in Cairns and our region, generating over \$3.4 billion annually. We receive 2.1 million domestic visitors annually, along with 859,000 international visitors. Of those visitors, 87 per cent arrive by aircraft.

The importance of our airport to the economy of our city and region is fundamental. That has been well and truly acknowledged by the Palaszczuk government through its increased investment in the attracting Asia aviation fund. Whilst Cairns continues to do well from the tourism perspective, we need to ensure that we continue to provide world-class experiences in addition to fertile grounds for sound economic investment. We can look at the tens of millions invested by offshore companies like

Daikyo, who in the 1980s and 1990s employed many locals. Over decades they were able to put their children through school and paid off mortgages. We only need to look at their infrastructure which dominates our landscape today to recognise their tangible contribution to our city.

We have seen many multinationals invest in our city and region. I for one was employed for 17 years by an offshore multinational who was one of the largest private employers in our region and whose contribution to our regional economy over the last 29 years could best be described as 'significant'. Only recently we have had another offshore investor ploughing hundreds of millions into our city and region. This, in addition to the expansion and upgrade of our convention centre, a key economic driver in our region, along with the \$120 million expansion of our port and the ongoing process of engagement for our global tourism hub, proves our strong position and presents a bright future for Cairns.

We should never take our enviable position in the tourism industry for granted. We have inherited this strong position from hardworking men and women who have gone before for us. We need to ensure that we continue to build on their legacy, ensuring jobs and opportunities for our children and our city's growth. In doing this, we need to contribute to new developing tourism trends by identifying new products, like the Wangetti Track, a multifunctional product attracting an ever-growing range of new-style adventure tourists.

As the world becomes a more crowded place, what we have will be in greater demand. The two oldest cultures on earth—the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures—our unique Great Barrier Reef and our ancient and timeless rainforests will continue to provide the foundation stones for our city's future opportunities. Bearing in mind that our city's and our region's greatest assets are our natural assets, we also need to ensure that we retain and do everything in our power to protect them.

As the first member for Cairns who comes from the tourism industry, I look forward to working with the industry and its elected bodies, ensuring a strong and profitable tourism industry which will benefit all in our city and region. Whilst investment in the tourism industry continues to provide thousands of jobs and many great opportunities, it is my belief and that of many others that we need to liberate our economy from the reliance on one sector by growing other industries in our city. As has been acknowledged by political, social and economic commentators around the world, this century will be dominated by the Asia-Pacific region. As that region continues to grow, Cairns is geographically strategically better placed than any other city on the east coast of Australia to capitalize on the opportunities emanating from that growth.

The growing demand for university education from a rapidly developing middle class in the Asia-Pacific region presents Cairns with very real opportunities. Cairns is within eight hours flying time to over 60 million students who are looking for a safe, affordable and quality university education. Currently, Cairns has 16 English language colleges and two satellite campuses: James Cook University and Central Queensland University. According to Study Cairns, our city was visited by 32,000 students last year. The foundations of this growing industry are well and truly established.

The growing cost of a university education in Sydney, Melbourne or, dare I say, Brisbane presents a huge opportunity for Cairns. An increase in our university student population will ensure growth in our services sector, a positive impact on our real estate sector—in particular, the sale price of units—and growth in the visiting friends and relatives market, which will provide our tourism industry with an ever-increasing source of new business, not to mention the benefits of strong personal connections which will be built by those students and our city and citizens. My intention is to work with our education industry and explore the opportunities which lie ahead in this exciting new chapter of our city's development.

Cairns is truly a global city, as I said, with two Indigenous cultures, but we also have over 70 active multicultures in the region. This is evident in the variety of cultural practitioners we have working such as filmmakers, musicians, performing arts, theatre and visual artists. Of our population 25 per cent were born overseas and 18 per cent do not speak English in their own home. That is testimony to the unique and creative qualities of the city of Cairns. This is reflected in our culturally rich events like the Cairns Tropical Writers Festival, Cairns Ukulele Festival, the world famous Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair and the Pacific Island community events, just to name a few.

It is professional arts companies like JUTE Theatre, KickArts, Centre for Australasian Theatre and the Cairns Art Gallery that ensure our local practitioners have access to incredible opportunities. Vital to the ecology of a strong arts sector is the capacity-building agency, Arts Nexus. It is a national forerunner that has been leading the way in supporting our micro creative businesses in the region for

over 20 years. It is considered a model for regional service delivery and is strongly supported by Arts Queensland. Our cultural and arts sector is an essential part of our community and, apart from enhancing our visitors' stay, it provides real career opportunities for many across our community.

While I have had the wonderful privilege of working in the tourism industry for over 25 years, travelling the world extensively, selling and marketing Cairns, Port Douglas and the Great Barrier Reef to wholesale and inbound operators, working with passionate people, contributing to the success of our region, and winning state and national marketing awards, my parents' direction of giving back to our community has never been lost on me. As a result, I have been a director and chairman of the largest community housing not-for-profit organisation in North Queensland in a voluntary capacity for nearly a decade. I am therefore acutely aware of the complex challenges faced by many in our community and the impact that that has on our community. I recognise the challenges we face owing to the collapse of the traditional family unit due to substance abuse, illicit drugs and domestic violence.

I make this commitment to you today: my contribution in these areas will be evidence based and not populist. I will work with the government, the private sector and non-government agencies to find innovative and effective solutions to these challenges. However, this must be done as a collective, as the solutions to many of our challenges lie within our communities.

I understand the importance of recreational and sporting activities, especially for our young people, and I will make this a priority. I know the benefits these opportunities bring to kids and the positive life changes these opportunities provide. The same applies to our local schools. We have hardworking, passionate teachers, teacher aides and principals, and we need to ensure that all members of our community are aware of the vast benefits associated with regular school attendance. Education is a vital component to a successful and socially cohesive community, and it will remain a strong priority for me to ensure that we have the best for our schools. I will also ensure that I will do everything I can to help those teachers and principals in growing the attendance rate.


I do not intend to allow politics to get in the way of working with my federal counterpart or my interesting regional councillors. I hope that our passion and vision for Cairns and our region will overcome any petty political point-scoring. This will apply to a vast range of matters like the expansion of Cairns port; growing our marine services industry; our agribusinesses; water security; importantly, our social services; and a range of other issues and industries.

As I heard somebody say in the chamber recently—and I think we are all very aware—I am also very aware that we cannot tax ourselves into prosperity and that the benefits of economic, social and cultural growth need to benefit all in our community. Those benefits need to be jobs, for it is a well-known fact that when you have a job or a career you have self-respect, dignity and self-worth. You are creating a solid foundation that you can build on to have a successful future; you are contributing to a better community. Taking into account the fact that 80 per cent of Cairns businesses are small businesses, this must—and will—remain a strong focus for me. This is a foundation principle for me personally. I am so proud to be a member of a government which believes in this and has reflected this in their policies.

Over the last several months since my election I have had the opportunity to meet with so many hardworking members of the Cairns community who are involved in such a wide range of careers and industries. This includes the vast number of volunteers from our sporting and social clubs. The list is endless, as is their passion for our city.

It would be fair to say that most Far North Queenslanders have a very healthy scepticism of what comes out of this particular chamber and the southern parts of Queensland. They are hardworking and pioneering because they have had to be, as our past shows. I do not expect an easy ride from the people I represent, but to the people of Cairns I pledge strong representation regardless of political affiliations. I will work hard; I will be active in community life; and I will be accessible to them. Above all, I will always have your best interests at the forefront of my thinking, and I will never lose sight of the great privilege you have bestowed upon me. Thank you.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the honourable member for Callide, I remind all honourable members that this is the member's first speech and should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions. I have spoken with the member for Callide about certain aspects of his first speech in the House. I look forward to hearing his speech. I call the member for Callide.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (4.06 pm): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to deliver my first speech and acknowledge International Women's Day.

My first memory was sitting on my father's knee at the kitchen table beside a wood stove. It was early in the morning and it was cold. On the table was a radio covered in a brown leather case. The man on the radio who was delivering the news said, 'The President of the United States of America, John F Kennedy, is dead.' So profound was the news that I remember it to this day.

I grew up on my parent's brigalow ballot block and I remember the big tractors pulling the scrub—a government requirement of the day. The wheel has turned, and now we have proposed government regulation which will inhibit agricultural development in Queensland. It is time that people understand that our graziers and our farmers are the true practical environmentalists—the custodians of the land who look after it, nurture it and make it productive and sustainable. Australia was born on the back of agriculture and it remains at the forefront of our economy, including the local economy of Callide. I will be constantly challenging concerns and advocating for growth for agriculture in our electorate.

It is with great humility and respect that I stand before the 56th Parliament to deliver my first speech as the newly elected member for Callide. I pledge my allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her representative the Governor of Queensland, His Excellency the Hon. Paul de Jersey AC. I am an Australian and I pledge my allegiance to the flag and to the Commonwealth of Australia.

I offer my congratulations to the member for Mulgrave, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, on his appointment as Speaker of the House. I congratulate the Premier, the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, and her ministers and members of parliament on their election as the government of Queensland. I acknowledge and congratulate Deb Frecklington as the Leader of the Opposition and her shadow ministers and members of parliament on their election. I also offer my congratulations to the MPs on the crossbench on their election to the 56th Parliament.

It is truly an honour to be elected by the people of Callide and to join the ranks of parliamentarians who have come before me. It is no small feat and I do not take it lightly. I pledge my loyalty to the people of Callide and sincerely thank them for putting their trust in me. I also take this time to acknowledge the many groups of traditional owners past and present from our electorate.

There are many to thank who have helped and assisted me on my journey here. The biggest thankyou goes to my wife of 31 years, Terri. Without her contribution as campaign manager, secretary, treasurer, speech editor, photographer, media consultant, wardrobe manager, cook and friend, I would not be here. I also thank my daughter, Sarah. As the software enabling specialist it was her efforts that dragged me, the dinosaur, into the computer age. Sarah took leave from her job in London to help me get over the line—a big effort. To my sons, Tom and Scott, thank you for taking up the management of our family business. Your selfless action has afforded me the time to campaign and now represent the people of Callide, and I am proud of you.

A special acknowledgement for my fellow LNP member candidates who stood for preselection for the seat of Callide—Melinda Hashimoto, Ross Stiller, Bronwyn Christensen and Ashley Jensen. It takes a lot to stand up and have a go, and most people have got no idea what it takes to do that. I commend their efforts. To the LNP executive, thank you for your wisdom in having a postal plebiscite among financial members of the LNP so that members could pick their candidate. That is the way it should be.

There are many who have helped manning polling booths and handing out how-to-vote cards. To all the people who assisted me in any way, I thank you. I acknowledge my CLO, Rebecca Docherty. Rebecca was the only shining light in the sea of darkness at the beginning. I thank her for her words of encouragement and wisdom. To my fellow LNP members who took the time to ring me and offer their advice, counsel and encouragement, it was most appreciated and I will not forget it. You know who you are, the people who keep the chains tight, the mainstays with the big vision, I thank you so much.

To Rodney Smith, Julie Goring and Philip Spann, the Callide SEC executive, I thank you for your persistence and resolve in taking up the challenge to win the seat of Callide. It would be remiss of me not to mention those who did not support me and to those people I say this—I am here for you also and I will do my best to try to address your issues. There are some who have denounced me. My father told me once 'a man will always reveal himself' and I realise now just how significant those words were.

Today I acknowledge my great uncle, Lesley Boyce. He is a never-ending source of inspiration for me, and I acknowledge the latitude the Speaker of the House has extended to me and indeed the Boyce family. The year is 2018 and as a nation we remember and celebrate the Great War, the war to

end wars, 1914-1918, 100 years ago. I take the opportunity on this auspicious occasion, the beginning of the 56th Parliament of Queensland and the delivery of my first speech, to remember and honour him. Leslie Boyce fought at Passchendaele in Belgium. This is where the Australian boys turned the tide of war. He was awarded the Military Cross. I will read his official citation—

819 Lieutenant Leslie Atherton Gerard Boyce, C.M.G M.C. 41st Battalion Australian Imperial Force. Awarded Military Cross, 18th December 1917 for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of his platoon during an attack and of the company after reaching the objective, all other officers being killed or wounded. He remained in command for two days, consolidating position and repelling counterattacks.

I will pause for a moment to honour him. Lest we forget.

**Honourable members:** Lest we forget.

**Mr BOYCE:** Leslie Boyce was gunned down twice on separate occasions, going over the top. He returned to Australia severely wounded. He carried with him his entire life the curse of war. He fathered no children as a result of his war injuries. Later in his life he was awarded the CMG, Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George, by the Queen. He also became a Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Queensland. He was a proud Australian and an outstanding citizen. I table a photo of Leslie Boyce's Portfolio of Declarations for the record.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph of military tribute compendium regarding Leslie Atherton Gerard Boyce, CMG, MC [\[306\]](#).

I consider myself a humble man from humble beginnings. As a small business success story, I know intimately the challenges and rewards which come from running your own business. I am self-made and that has come from hard work, sound investments and good business strategy and the ability to seize the moment and have a go. I run a 5,000-hectare cattle and farming enterprise at Taroom with my family. I am a qualified boilermaker, as are my sons. We have a small engineering business and a fully functional workshop. We are heavy plate welding specialists and build and repair implements for earthmoving machinery and farm equipment.

I worked for several years as a high pressure pipe welder in the gas industry, building the gas pipelines to Curtis Island, the pyramids job of our time. I have a small earthmoving business which serves the local district. I was principal earth moving contractor to Xstrata Coal at Wandoan where we dug the first test pit to recover a coal sample. I have travelled extensively around the world. I have paid my respects at Tyne Cot and Menin Gate. I have boarded the Shinkansen and seen the Colosseum and the Grand Canyon. I have worked as a ringer and a shearer on the big stations out west, and I worked as a timber cutter in state forests. I have a wealth of life experience from which to draw.

The electorate of Callide is approximately 75,000 square kilometres, straddling the Great Dividing Range in Central Queensland. We cover some of the catchment head waters of the Burnett, Fitzroy and Condamine River systems, the roof of Queensland so to speak. We have 37 towns, the largest being Chinchilla followed by Biloela and Calliope, and five local government areas—Banana, Gladstone, Bundaberg, North Burnett and the Western Downs Regional Council.

There are 60 schools, seven major coalmines, numerous other mines and mining proposals including bauxite, gold, bentonite, sand, gravel and quarry materials. There are six major dams including Paradise, Wuruma, Monduran, Awoonga, Callide and Cania dams respectively which serve the industrial, domestic and agricultural needs of places like Gladstone and Bundaberg as well as the electorate of Callide. There are numerous other weirs throughout the electorate which serve the local communities. They are major tourist and recreation destinations. There is the Nathan Gorge Dam proposal at Taroom, a storage facility approximately three times the volume of Sydney Harbour, a project talked about since the 1920s.

The federal government has a \$2.5 billion water infrastructure fund available for projects such as this. I urge the government to take up some of these moneys, start building and give water security to agriculture and industry. The last dam built in Queensland was Paradise Dam on the Burnett River in the electorate of Callide, commissioned 16 years ago.

Callide is the energy hub of Queensland with two base load coal-fired power stations, gas-fired power stations and proposals to build at least a dozen solar power plants and wind farms, some of them as large as any in Australia. The electorate has a large proportion of the CSG gas industry, with all the major gas lines to Curtis Island traversing the electorate. This is underpinned by a huge agricultural industry including dry land and irrigation of fibre, cereal, pulse, herbs, fodder, sugar and fruit crops—again some of them among the largest operations in Australia. We have dairies, feedlots, piggeries and abattoirs which support a huge grazing livestock industry. We are a major food supplier to Queensland. Callide has a large sawmilling industry which sources its product from both native and plantation forests. This supplies the building industry throughout Queensland.

The electorate of Callide is the economic engine room of Queensland. There are thousands of people who gain direct employment in and from the Callide electorate who do not live there. Their contribution to the social wellbeing and the economies of our small communities is very little. This must change if we are to see these communities prosper into the future. It is my job to lobby the government to invest in the electorate of Callide. We provide the basic necessities of life—food, clothing, shelter and energy. We deserve better strategic infrastructure, we deserve better digital communications and we deserve better connectivity to metro and global markets.

If we do not invest heavily in primary and secondary industries—the generator of our wealth—then the tertiary service industry is doomed to fail. We are tired of being vilified as environmental vandals by the urban environmentalist who has an ascetic disconnection from the natural world arising from a modern urban consumer lifestyle where the necessities of life come from a shop. Urban life shields consumers from the effects of their lifestyle, rendering them blameless, whilst they enjoy the fruits of an affluent consumer life while producing little or nothing. All too often decisions are made based on popular opinion rather than fact. This comes about because people do not have all the story and only some of the facts. There is often another side to the story which is dismissed or unrepresented. As an example, we are all familiar with Paterson's icon of Australian verse—

And he ran them single handed till their sides were white with foam  
He followed like a bloodhound on their track  
Till they halted cowed and beaten, then he turned their heads for home  
And alone and unassisted brought them back.

That is part of a wonderful story of a magnificent ride, but there is another explanation from the pen of Frank Daniel—

I found them in a dead-ender in a gully walled with stone,  
And that's how I came to turn them back, how I did it on my own.

That does not sound as glorious as Paterson's version, but if the story were true it may very well be the truth. The point is that we as representatives of the people must operate with all the story and all the facts.

The state owned roads and highways in Callide and rural Queensland are more than just ways of getting from point A to point B. They are the essential arterial routes of major industry. They are crucial to the economic growth of Queensland. They are deteriorating rapidly and many are in need of urgent upgrade and repair. There are major access roads that are single-lane pavement and sections that remain unsealed. Interstate truck drivers tell me the Leichhardt Highway between Wandoan and Taroom is the worst section of road between Cairns and Melbourne. I urge the government: abandon your \$15 billion Cross River Rail project and invest in rural and regional Queensland where our wealth is generated.

Callide is not a suburban seat. Having said that, we have ongoing issues with health care and aged care, education and transport and how these services are provided and maintained—the same issues as our suburban cousins. If we are to have a 50 per cent renewable energy target, will this bring the closure of coal-fired power stations like Callide? Our power stations inject much into the local economic development and I will be demanding that they remain relevant to our energy supplies.

Will the local coalmine lose its contract to supply coal under renewable energy policies? How will this affect the economy of a large rural town like Biloela? Why would a person who is working in the energy and mining industry support a political party that will oversee the demise of their job? These are questions that directly affect everyone in the Callide electorate. They are topical, controversial and real. We must give airtime to such issues and debate, consider and act in a measured way to ensure that these communities thrive.

Renewable energy is an issue which needs and deserves proper debate. Many will tell you it is not as clean and green as it portrays itself to be. It takes approximately 120 tonnes of coal to produce the steel required to build a wind tower. I also ask this House to consider the life cycle of our renewables—solar panels, electric cars and turbines. What happens at their life's end? Will regional Queensland be a dumping ground for such city-centric driven ideologies? Energy needs to be reliable. Energy needs to be affordable, and that is one thing we all agree on. How we create this affordable energy is something that all levels of government need to work together to address.

There is a proposal to inject carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub>, into the precipice sandstone water aquifer of the Great Artesian Basin at Wandoan in the Callide electorate. This is a highly controversial issue with serious environmental and social ramifications should it be allowed to proceed and should it fail. The

Great Artesian Basin covers approximately 70 per cent of Queensland. It is the largest underground water storage system in the world. When you mix carbon dioxide with water it becomes carbonic acid, lowering the pH of the water, potentially rendering the water source useless.

The environmentalists will argue that carbon dioxide is the toxic pollutant that is driving climate change. If that is so, why would we allow the Great Artesian Basin to be used as a toxic waste dump? On the earth's driest habitable continent, why would we compromise a precious water source?


What troubles me is that this issue may not make the floor of parliament for debate. The company involved will take its submissions to the EPA and to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and seek their approvals. The people of Callide do not want another Linc Energy fiasco. Where do the urban environmentalists stand on this issue? It seems to me they have painted themselves into a corner and it will be interesting to hear what hypocrisy they come up with.

I also note that the honourable Minister for Environment has told the House this morning that she will not tolerate Queensland becoming a waste dump. On behalf of the people of rural Queensland and the Callide electorate, I will hold the honourable minister to that statement.

I have made a mound and I stand upon it and I will be on good terms with all persons as far as possible without surrender. I will close and leave the House with one final thought: de omnibus dubitandum—doubt everything. I commend this speech to the House.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the honourable member for Rockhampton, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (4.29 pm): I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. I would also like to acknowledge today, being International Women's Day, the women of this parliament and the women of Queensland.

There are many people who have assisted me in this journey to this point in my life and to this place. I would like to thank the people of Rockhampton. I am humbled by the support that they have given me and I thank them for electing me to this parliament. I will strive to represent the interests of all Rockhampton residents.

I would also like to thank those who assisted me in my campaign: first and foremost, my beautiful wife, Sue-Ann; my sons James, and his partner Kelsey, and Harry; my brothers and sisters Brian, Tony and Lyndall, Cecily and Murray McLeod; and the other members of the O'Rourke clan. I thank the great Australian Labor Party in Rockhampton, among them the former minister and member for Rockhampton, Robert Schwarten and his wife, Judy; also Peter and Stephen Schwarten; Paul Hoolihan; and the member for Keppel, Brittany Lauga. I appreciate their support, wisdom and friendship. I would also like to thank my campaign team: Craig Marshall, Barry Thompson, Ann McDougall, Karen Horstman and, again, my brother Brian, who all provided great support. I am not sure that I would be here today without them.

I would also like to say a special thanks to Kez for being the amazing lady she is. I would also like to thank Deb, Vince, Tom and Marree, Alan, Amanda, Leisa and Mick, Paul, Wayne, Annette, Damien and Michelle, and all the other dedicated volunteers for their assistance. From handing out how-to-vote cards to putting corflutes on fences, or one of the many other jobs involved in campaigns, my support team was amazing.

The journey to this point in my life begins at the home of my parents, John and Enid. I am the second youngest of 13 children. My dad was raised on a dairy farm and was a young man during the 1930s depression years when he jumped trains and hitched lifts to travel around Queensland looking for work. He worked for Hornibrooks on the Mackay wharves and, after a stint in the Defence Force, was pleased to get a government job where he worked his way up to the position of adviser in horticulture in the department of primary industries. He met my mum, Enid Hardy, in Mackay at the local church dance. She gave up work when they married and, as dad would often joke, she never worked again—just staying at home raising my seven brothers and five sisters.

Members could imagine how much work was involved in feeding, clothing and caring for all the individuals in a household such as ours. We all learned to set the table, mash the potatoes, do the dishes and get the kitchen swept and mopped. Some of us would help with washing clothes or getting



wood for the wood stove. As we grew up, we got age-appropriate jobs to help mum and dad around the house. We had plenty of spirited discussions about fairness and degrees of effort but also recognised that you can achieve a lot more if you work together. I thank my brothers and sisters for the love and support they have freely given me over the years.

My father was a working man who believed absolutely that family was the centre of and central to our lives. He instilled a sense of community in us and the need to work hard to achieve life's goals. He believed that education was the key to a better future. My mother was the most gentle person you could ever meet. I recall on many occasions coming into our kitchen after school to find a young mum in the neighbourhood who would be seeking her quiet guidance about the challenges facing her family. I never knew the details of these discussions as I was dispatched to the backyard immediately.

Unfortunately, both of my parents have now passed away, but I know that they would be extremely proud of me and I miss them dearly. Everyone's family upbringing teaches them life lessons, even though they do not know it at the time. We were taught to share, to listen, to stand up for what we believe in and to look after each another. My wife, Sue-Ann, and I have two children and raising them has been hard work. I would not be here today without that upbringing from my parents and the support of Sue-Ann and our sons James and Harry. They have helped mould me to be the best person I can be. They have kept my feet firmly on the ground and reminded me where I have come from and the reason I am here today. I thank Sue-Ann, James and Harry.

It has taken over 100 years for a family member to be elected to parliament. My great-grandfather, Florence O'Rourke, came from Ireland via New Zealand, arriving in Sydney in 1881. He travelled to the Traveston district in 1895 and started a sugarcane farm, before changing over to dairy farming a few years later. As well as being a successful farmer, he was involved in many facets of community life as a shareholder in the Murarrie bacon factory and the Caboolture butter factory. He was also on the local show committee, a member of the shire valuation board and chairman of the local schools committee. My father was very active in the community and was president of the local branch of the workers' political association, the political party that grew out of the emerging trade union movement and the precursor to the Australian Labor Party.

Prior to farming, Florence tried his hand at goldmining in the Gympie area and at one time shared a two-man mining shift with Andrew Fisher who, as we know, went on to become Prime Minister of Australia for three terms between 1908 and 1915. Andrew and Florence became good mates and they regularly worked underground shifts together. After Andrew Fisher became Prime Minister, Florence, who was a bit of a storyteller, shared a few yarns with his neighbours, who were a little bit sceptical about his friendship. However, an incident occurred that gave Florence great joy and added credibility.

In those days, the Prime Minister had a special train in which he travelled around the country. This train was heading north from Brisbane and, as customary with steam trains, had to stop at Cooran to replenish its water. Florence was standing on the railway platform waiting for the next passenger train to go north to Tandur where he had a property. He had his lunch in a sugar bag slung across his shoulders and was in rough working clothes. When the Prime Minister's train came into view, those standing around Florence discussing the visit chucked him and queried if his old shift mate, Andrew, would know him now. When the train stopped not only did the Prime Minister acknowledge Florence but also he left the train and came over for a yarn. When the Prime Minister learned that Florence was waiting for the next train following his, much to the delight of Florence's mates on the platform, he asked Florence to join him in the carriage. Fisher then made arrangements for the train to stop at a spot where it was close enough for him to get to his farm. Roll on 100 years and here I am humbly making my first speech in this House.

My family's experience has seen the decline of small farming and the continual drift of rural populations to regional cities in the south-east of the state. New knowledge and skills are required as primary industry has given way to other job opportunities in our increasingly diverse economy. One thing that remains a priority throughout is education. Several of my aunts and uncles were teachers and a dozen or more of my siblings and cousins have worked or are working in that profession. Over the past 100 years or so, education has seen my family, like so many others, transition from having farming and rural occupations to being white-collar workers and having other professional careers.

My personal passion is helping people. I have spent all of my working life assisting in the provision of government services to the less fortunate in our society, moving from file boy to direct customer service delivery in Southport, Rockhampton, Mount Isa, Stones Corner and, finally, as regional director of housing and homelessness services in Rockhampton. Over many years I have seen some very sad situations that have impacted on my values and beliefs and led me to the various policy positions that I hold today.

I have dealt with many, many individuals and families who find themselves without housing for all sorts of reasons. I recall a young lady who would take drugs to stay alert through the night to reduce her risk of being attacked. Can you imagine her fear that while she slept in an unsafe location she would be bashed awake as she was robbed or assaulted.

I have dealt with the chronically homeless who are vastly overrepresented in mental health, crime and assault figures. To these people sometimes jail is a safer place than a footpath, a doorway or under a bridge. I have worked with people who have tried to commit suicide or who have sadly become a suicide statistic. I share the despair of their families and their friends, but there are good stories too, such as the man who had been homeless for many, many years before acquiring housing. One day I dropped in to see how he was going. He was so thankful for the housing assistance but was sleeping on the floor because he could not get used to a soft bed.

Sometimes homelessness can be the result of being involved in an accident, something as simple as tripping up a set of stairs, hitting your head causing a brain injury. Job loss, relationship breakdown, Centrelink issues, no money, no support and you could easily be facing homelessness. Without the support of the many community organisations our most vulnerable residents would be further disadvantaged.

I would also like to acknowledge the great work of our health workers, police and emergency services staff in Rockhampton for the support that they provide. This is what being a politician means to me. It is not only about jobs and the economy but also about people. Our nation is wealthy enough to ensure that we have a society where people are able to access services to improve their lives and the lives of their children. There is also a role for community organisations like Anglicare, Girls Time Out and Roseberry Community Services in Rockhampton that do a brilliant job helping some of our most vulnerable residents. It is where governments can and should play a role. Good governments work to help those most in need. Education, health and housing are a way out of poverty.

I have always voted Labor and supported the party while honouring the Public Service code of conduct to impartially serve the government of the day. I refrained from joining the Labor Party 20 years ago because of the obvious conflict of interest that may have arisen from having my local member as my minister. I believe that was the ethical thing to do. When I saw my mates in the Public Service thrown on the scrap heap by then premier Newman, when I saw the return of a vindictive government in the form of the LNP and I saw that Rockhampton was being punished for daring to return one of seven Labor MPs, I decided it was time to make a stand and exercise my citizen's right to actively pursue a political response to the excesses of that government.

I joined the Labor Party and became active in my own free time and of my own free will because I knew only Labor has delivered for the city where I choose to live and raise our family. Time does not permit me to list all the projects delivered, but suffice to say from the hospital hill to the top of Mount Archer more than a billion dollars has been spent by successive Labor governments on capital works projects and I intend to keep that tradition going.

In the first term of this Palaszczuk government in excess of a dozen projects have already been delivered via the Rockhampton Regional Council. On occasions this government has not received due credit for these projects as most people would think they were financed by the council, but the truth is that without this Labor government projects like the Rockhampton riverbank, Kershaw Gardens, Cedric Archer Park water play area and the flood mitigation projects that have benefited hundreds of residents would not have been delivered.

I want to assure the House that I will not be a politician who takes credit for projects funded by other levels of government and I expect the assurance to be reciprocated so that the electors who have put me here know exactly what I have tried to do and what I have delivered. On that point I want to reinforce my commitments and those of the government to the people of Rockhampton. The \$10 million commitment to the development of a new manufacturing hub is something I am eager to get my teeth into. Then there is \$4 million to ensure that JBS meatworks can access rail transport for its cattle. This is a win for the workers whether on the rail or at the abattoir. It also means there is less road traffic so I will win there too. While I acknowledge that as a new member I had little to do with these welcome announcements, I nevertheless guarantee I will work 24/7 on their delivery.

There are three projects that I do claim as my own initiatives. These are as a result of local discussions in the short time I had—a matter of only weeks given the shock retirement of my predecessor Bill Byrne—to listen, learn and persuade those in the top levels of this government to get these projects off the ground. The first of these is the much needed revamp of the home of Rugby League in Rockhampton, Browne Park. If ever there was an asset whose turn has come it is Browne

Park. Now that the NRL has declared that there will be no NRL club in Central Queensland the path is clear for making Rockhampton Rugby League grounds come of age. Given my late entry into this job, this is my first tilt at getting such a worthwhile project off the ground. The \$75,000 commitment I will obtain from this government will get the ball rolling.


There is a lot to do beyond initial planning, including an enormous public consultation process. I have made it very clear that I will work with all stakeholders. What I expect is transparency, respect and meaningful consultation from all proponents on every project that attracts my support. I see huge benefits in the walk-to stadium entertainment venue that is being proposed and I am eager to get this money spent and deliver a proposal that can be properly assessed by government.

The second project relates to junior sports. One of my great loves is sport. I am fortunate to have two sons who have been not only interested but also reasonably talented in this area. At the outset let me say that thanks to Labor we have some of the best sporting facilities in the state. Local facilities for tennis and swimming spring to mind, but hockey, where we boast three Olympic stars, Knowles, Dwyer and Gohdes, is no slouch. Consider also other well-known sports stars who have links to Rockhampton: the Meares cycling sisters and golf legend Jason Day. Primary school cricket and Rugby League are standouts in the state. I have always thought Rockhampton had a natural geographic advantage when it came to hosting junior sports, and I am grateful to the Premier for her support to put \$100,000 into making a case for Rockhampton to be the junior sports capital of the state.

In relation to the third project, I confess I know nothing about motor sports, but Craig Jervis is an expert. They say he was born with a spanner in his hand and drinks diesel for breakfast. He certainly made a case for me to fight for another \$100,000 for the business case so that Central Queensland Motor Sporting Club can rev up the Rockhampton Regional Council Supercar bid.

I am humbled yet happy to be here. My background, as I said, is in helping people. I see that as very much a solid foundation for this job. I am here with a mission, and that is to well and truly serve the people of the Rockhampton electorate who have put their faith and trust me. Again I thank them for this most unique opportunity.

Above all, I want to restore the faith of those traditional Labor voters who have become disillusioned. I want to not only regain their trust but also prove that Labor has always been as loyal to Rockhampton as Rocky has been to us. Having said that, I will be a member for all people regardless of how they voted. I have spent what seems like a lifetime implementing government policy, making suggestions for improvements, which at times have been well accepted and acted upon, and consequently I have an abiding respect for the parliament and its members. Thank you.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.48 pm): I begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging. Mr Speaker, I also congratulate you on your appointment to high office. I acknowledge the re-election of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

It is indeed a great privilege and honour to rise again as the state member for Moggill in the 56th Queensland parliament. I formally place on record my thanks and appreciation to the residents and constituents of the electorate of Moggill for their trust and support in re-electing me to this place.

At the outset, I also acknowledge and thank my wife, Jane, and Nicholas, Charley, Angus and Lucie for their support, as well as their ongoing words of advice and wisdom. I know all representatives here today join with me in acknowledge the sacrifices made by wives, husbands, partners, children and other family members of elected parliamentarians.

I recognise the service of former LNP opposition leaders, the honourable Tim Nicholls MP, the member for Clayfield, and the Hon. Lawrence Springborg, the former member for Southern Downs, during the 55th Queensland parliament. I congratulate the honourable Deb Frecklington MP, the member for Nanango, on her ascendancy to the position of LNP leader.

I am very proud to be a servant of my local area, a place that I call home and a place that has many distinct and unique communities. Moggill is also the electorate that I grew up in. When I think of my childhood, I recall season after season playing for the Kenmore Cricket Club and the then Kenmore soccer club, now the University of Queensland Football Club, the UQFC, as well as hours riding BMX bikes around the streets of Kenmore, including Aberfeldy Street, Mabb Street, Orkney Street and Rothesay Street, as well as Aldergrove Street in Chapel Hill, to name just a few.

As is still the case today, I recall being a part of many local community events and celebrations with family, friends and neighbours, including the Castley, McPhee, Wareham, Bodman, McDonald, Bristow, Ryan and Jukes families. In relation to one of the aforementioned families, I acknowledge local

Chapel Hill resident Mr Bill Bristow AM, the founder and CEO of Angel Flight. Bill has made an enormous contribution to Queensland and Australia with the establishment of his national charity and community service organisation, which assists those who are geographically isolated and in need of assistance to get to and from health appointments. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to both Bill and his wife, Wendy, with respect to their charity work. I also acknowledge their granddaughter, Amy Bristow, who has recently been inducted as a school captain at Brookfield State School for 2018.

During my previous term as the state member for Moggill, I was able to deliver significant funding for local community and sporting organisations, as well as provide for some important local road safety improvements. I very much enjoyed the opportunity to assist many constituents with an extensive range of issues and I look forward to continuing to do this again over the next three years. However, as was the case during my previous elected term, I will continue to argue for enhanced funded improvements to Moggill Road to ease traffic congestion, a sustainable solution to fix the Kenmore roundabout, as well as the delivery of an integrated road and public transport plan for the western suburbs of Brisbane, including the electorate of Moggill. This must be comprehensively funded as a priority.

Despite the Palaszczuk Labor government failing to address those issues during its last term and Labor's ongoing opposition to an additional high school, as well as its opposition to a proper investment in Kenmore State High School's infrastructure master plan, as the state member for Moggill I will continue to argue strongly for such infrastructure investment. I will continue to be a champion for our area on those issues.

Queensland, including the electorate of Moggill, needs a state government that has proper strategies, solutions and plans to ease cost-of-living pressures, as well as policies that will assist with local job creation by supporting small business and, in doing so, will achieve real sustainable economic development. It is not good enough that under Labor Queensland now has an unemployment rate of 6.1 per cent. Additional emergency services resourcing for local police, fire and ambulance stations in the electorate of Moggill must be planned for now, with transparent funding timelines able to be shared with local residents.

At the most recent state election held on 25 November 2017, both I and the Liberal National Party offered a commitment to progress and complete a set of integrated road and public transport solutions in collaboration with other levels of government in order to alleviate traffic congestion. This was contingent upon the LNP winning government. Both the Liberal National Party and I were committed to the re-establishment of the Queensland independent schools planning commission in order to get the delivery of additional educational infrastructure right for the electorate of Moggill.

The Liberal National Party also announced policies to freeze family car registration, reduce electricity prices and deliver energy security and energy reliability for residents of the Moggill electorate. We also outlined our plans to deliver a better healthcare system and ensure more balanced environmental and key industry outcomes. Community safety was a paramount consideration of ours and will continue to be so. Unfortunately, with the Palaszczuk state Labor government having been re-elected, those election commitments cannot be delivered by the LNP during this term of government.

However, all is not lost as at the 2017 state election the local Labor candidate for Moggill, on behalf of the Queensland Labor party and the Palaszczuk Labor government, gave a commitment that the Labor Party would fund infrastructure solutions to ease traffic congestion on Moggill Road if the two party preferred margin was five per cent. Given that this is the case, any failure by the Labor Party and the Palaszczuk state Labor government not to deliver a strong financial investment of infrastructure funding in the upcoming state budget or subsequent budgets of this parliamentary term will lead to Labor being judged harshly by local residents, with many local constituents already believing that Labor's slogans and words for our local area are false, misleading and/or duplicitous.

Only time will tell, but I will certainly maintain an open door and consultative approach with this Labor government and other elected representatives in this place in order to get infrastructure solutions not only for the electorate of Moggill but also for right across the western suburbs of Brisbane.

At this point I acknowledge and pay tribute to the former member for Indooroopilly, Scott Emerson, and the former member for Mount Ommaney, Tarnya Smith. Both were unwavering in their commitment and service to their local communities and to the Liberal National Party over many years.

During the last term of parliament, it was an honour to serve as the shadow minister for the environment and heritage protection and the shadow minister for national parks and the Great Barrier Reef. Being able to achieve an endorsed LNP parliamentary position and then being able to provide bipartisan support for legislation enacting the container deposit scheme, also known as the container

refund scheme, as well as a ban on single-use plastic bags are things that I am enormously proud of given the environmental benefits, reduced visual pollution, support for community groups and, in the case of the CDS, the additional jobs the scheme will create in Queensland.

Recently at Bellbowrie Shopping Plaza, along with the Moggill Girl Guides I attended the local launch of Boomerang Bags. Well done to Fran Alt, Natasha Alt, Alison Bond and all the staff of the Bellbowrie Brumby's bakery and Greengrocers Pantry for their leadership in partnering with our local Girl Guides to reduce the harms of plastic bags. In collaboration with the Moggill SES, Fran Alt also makes an enormous contribution to our local community by donating unsold bakery produce to vulnerable families. My congratulations go to Fran's granddaughter, Jorge, who has recently been appointed to Kenmore State High School's student representative council.

In Queensland the war on waste must continue with ongoing efforts to reduce landfill, to reduce food waste and to implement a comprehensive plastic waste reduction strategy that will reduce environmental and health harms, particularly those involving microplastics. I wish my colleague the member for Broadwater, David Crisafulli MP, all the best with such public policy considerations, as well as with holding the Labor government to account in his new role as LNP shadow minister for the environment, science and the Great Barrier Reef and shadow minister for tourism.

In this parliamentary term I am delighted to have been given the additional roles of shadow minister for communities, shadow minister for disability services and seniors, shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships and shadow minister for the arts. Having read a number of documents already, including *Partnering for the future: advancing Queensland's community services industry 2017-25* and *Partnering for the future: action plan 2017-18*, clearly there is a range of significant community sector evolution and innovation occurring in relation to service provision, financial and funding arrangements and workforce development, as well as the capacity for technology to augment and enable better outcomes for all.

Resilient individuals, families and communities can achieve social wellbeing and enhance the economic productivity of Queensland. Fostering partnerships between government, not-for-profit service providers, tertiary organisations and the private sector can ensure effective service delivery, as well as enable best practice to be achieved via ongoing evidence based translational research.

To date there has also been a tremendous amount of collaborative work between our state jurisdiction of Queensland and the Commonwealth with respect to the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the effective operation of the National Disability Insurance Agency. The complexity of this transformational change cannot be underestimated, and already I have been briefed on the significant efforts of collaboration and coordination being undertaken in order to ensure a smooth transition for all participants.

Supporting those with a disability in our community to be connected and participate, whilst also developing the capacity of communities to become more inclusive of those with a disability, is vitally important from a public policy perspective. The NDIS is an enabling process that will empower recipients of disability services. As such, the NDIS will assist with important person-centric health, social, employment and economic benefits for many Queenslanders and Australians. Individual participant plans require the input of good knowledgeable planners, with the transparent communication of intended plan outcomes and both provider and participant experiences captured for quality assurance and quality improvement.

For effective outcomes, ongoing collaboration, coordination and communication with general practitioners and primary health networks will be critical given their key involvement with the NDIS access request forms and coordinating care roles. The state Labor government must take responsibility and ensure non-eligible NDIS participants and their related services are also adequately funded into the future.

In my electorate of Moggill, the McIntyre Centre Riding for the Disabled has had a long and proud history of serving those with a range of disabilities. In 2017 the McIntyre Centre merged with HELP Enterprises in order to ensure the McIntyre Centre's sustainability well into the future. The unique equine therapy programs provided by the McIntyre Centre combined with the capital resources, supported employment opportunities, housing, day programs and respite facilities of HELP will enable a broader range of services to be offered to those with a disability who are currently accessing the service. Such organisational change can be difficult, but with appropriate community engagement, ongoing goodwill and a shared sense of purpose, I am sure the service can go from strength to strength.

In August 2017 I attended the inaugural HELP Enterprises-McIntyre Centre Riding for Disabled Charity Race Day. It was terrific to see the member for Gympie, the honourable Tony Perrett MP, and his wife, Michelle, in attendance, as well as the now leader of the LNP opposition and member for Nanango, the honourable Deb Frecklington MP.

I would also like to make mention of the School of Hard Knocks. In Queensland both I and the Labor member for Nudgee, Leanne Linard MP, are honorary patrons of the School of Hard Knocks Queensland. A number of the participants accessing School of Hard Knocks programs suffer with significant disadvantage including homelessness, mental health disorders, substance dependency or other health conditions.

The ongoing efforts of Jonathon Welch AM and his Queensland team, including operations manager Susan Gilmartin, the Absolutely Everybody Brisbane Choir Program leader Melissa Gill, the Word on the Street creative program leader David Stavanger, the Rhythm of Life music theatre program leader Jacqui Cuny, and Street Beat percussion program leader Darryl Bowers to foster the participation of many with disadvantage in the mainstream social, economic and cultural life of our state and nation is certainly to be applauded and acknowledged. This is not just because of the social and recreational aspects of the School of Hard Knocks' programs, but also because of the independently validated health, educational, economic and employment outcomes of individual participants.

In relation to my shadow portfolio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, there is still so much to be done, particularly with respect to practical reconciliation. During the recent state election, the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland stated—

Health outcomes in regional, rural and remote Queensland can be improved through doing things differently, not necessarily by throwing dollars at problems. Indigenous communities especially deserve equitable access to quality primary care that can be achieved with better co-ordination, better communication and asking communities what they want and what they need to make things happen.

As RDAQ President, Dr Konrad Kangru, said—

Local communities are local experts. It's not rocket science for Queensland Health to engage deeply instead of consulting superficially.

I will certainly use my medical organisational and professional experience to guide me.

On the 10-year anniversary of the National Apology to the Stolen Generation recently, our current Prime Minister, the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, gave an update on Closing the Gap targets. Nationally three of the seven Closing the Gap targets are on track while four are not. The target to halve the gap in child mortality by 2018 is on track. Over the period 1998 to 2016 the Indigenous child mortality rate has declined by 35 per cent and there has been a narrowing of the gap by 32 per cent. Improvements in key drivers of child and maternal health over the past few years suggest there are further gains to be made.

The target to ensure 95 per cent of all Indigenous four-year-olds are enrolled in early childhood education by 2025 is on track. In 2016 around 14,700 Indigenous children were enrolled in early childhood programs. The target to halve the gap in year 12 attainment by 2020 is on track. Nationally, the proportion of Indigenous 20- to 24-year-olds who had achieved year 12 or equivalent increased from 47.4 per cent in 2006 to 65.3 per cent in 2016.

However, the target to close the gap in school attendance by 2018 is not on track. Also the target to halve the gap in reading and numeracy by 2018 is not on track. The target to halve the gap in employment by 2018 is not on track, with Indigenous employment rates falling slightly over the past decade. Finally, the target to close the gap in life expectancy by 2031 is not on track. Between the periods 2005 to 2007 and 2010 to 2012 there was a small reduction in the gap of 0.8 years for males and 0.1 years for females. Over the longer term, Indigenous mortality rates have declined by 14 per cent since 1998.

I also take this opportunity to call on the Palaszczuk Labor government to continue funding for the Indigenous Diabetes Eyes and Screening, IDEAS, van project. Since 2013 this van has travelled more than 200,000 kilometres and helped restore the eyesight of thousands of Indigenous Queenslanders. The contribution that this service is making with respect to closing the gap is being put at risk by a heartless decision by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

I now want to address the ice epidemic which is affecting many and varied communities, including Indigenous communities right across Queensland. The physical, psychological and social harms of crystalline methamphetamine use is destroying individuals and families as well as the social and economic fabric of many communities.

As the state member for Moggill and as a specialist physician, I acknowledge that solutions to this public health emergency are not the exclusive domain of one side of politics and that no one single political party will have all the answers. However, the Liberal National Party did offer some positive strategies and plans for implementation at the November 2017 state election and we have recommitted to those in recent months. I will acknowledge the Palaszczuk Labor government's work to date in this area, but so much more needs to be done during the term of the 56th Queensland parliament.

There is also the other largely hidden public health epidemic related to escalating prescription opioid use in Queensland and across Australia. Whilst prescription opioid analgesic medications can have an important role in patient care in relation to either acute pain or malignancy, there is a growing prevalence of addiction or substance use disorders with regard to patients suffering with chronic non-malignant pain.

In 2016 the Australian Bureau of Statistics' causes of death data recorded the highest number of drug induced deaths in our country since the late 1990s. There were 1,801 drug induced deaths in 2016, with those deaths most commonly associated with benzodiazepines and prescription opioids such as oxycodone. More than one million opioid prescriptions are already being dispensed in Australia for osteoarthritis patients and, according to researchers, this is projected to triple to three million scripts a year by 2030.

Ongoing efforts by governments, including our state government, to address prescription opioid misuse and addiction must focus on community education, supporting health professionals—including doctors, pharmacists and allied health providers—by providing enhanced access for patients to multidisciplinary pain services as well as the implementation of a real-time prescription monitoring system in Queensland. I do acknowledge the federal coalition health minister, the Hon. Greg Hunt MP, and his announcement that a national real-time prescription monitoring system will be implemented by the end of 2018.

I also note the TGA's decision to reschedule low-dose codeine containing medications and the implementation of this which occurred on 1 February this year. What is also needed is the allocation of consistent additional funding to public Queensland Health alcohol, tobacco and other drug services to assist with the assessment and treatment of patients who have developed a dependency on prescription medicines.

Perhaps given the extensive range and breadth of community issues that now pertain to alcohol, tobacco, prescription medicines, illicit drugs as well as illicit synthetic compounds, the Palaszczuk Labor government could consider the formation of a Queensland parliamentary select committee to further assess these community issues, with a view to recommendations for an expanded whole-of-government strategy led by the Premier, via the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, which would involve multiple departments, the Queensland Mental Health Commission, relevant sector agencies, law enforcement as well as community service providers and associated organisations.

As I conclude, I would like to acknowledge and thank many people for their assistance during the state election campaign, including: Liberal National Party metro west regional chair, Leigh Warren, and her husband, Chris; my LNP state electorate council chair, Andrew Tunny, and his wife, Lisa; Moggill SEC executive members; LNP Kenmore branch chair, Greg Adermann; Fraser and Joyce Stephen; LNP Bellbowrie branch chair, Simon Ingram, and his wife, Janet; and all booth captains, booth workers, local LNP members, volunteers and scrutineers.

When I gave my first speech three years ago, I acknowledged the enormous contribution my mother, Virginia Carr Rowan, had made to my upbringing, not just as a loving mother but as a true educator and facilitator of educational development and empowerment. I know my mother would have been incredibly proud of the ongoing achievements of my eldest son, Nicholas, as well as the various successful endeavours of Charley, Angus and Lucie. I dedicate this speech on International Women's Day 2018 to my late mother given her unwavering commitment to education, to the power of ideas and to the critical importance of civics, citizenship and participatory democracy.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the honourable member for Mount Ommaney, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions. I call the member for Mount Ommaney.



**Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.09 pm): Thank you, Mr Speaker. May I congratulate you on your election to the role of Speaker. I am honoured to count you as a friend and I know that you will bring the same integrity and dedication that you have displayed in all of your parliamentary roles to the role of Speaker. I would like to start today by first acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we gather and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging.

As a candidate, the first question I was often asked on the campaign trail was: 'Why are you involved in politics?' I love this question—it is an opportunity for me to pause and reflect on why I am here today. For me, my interest in community service began young when I joined Interact as a year 8 student at Cannon Hill Anglican College. I quickly developed a strong interest in the charity organisation World Vision and I decided at the age of 14 that I wanted to succeed Tim Costello as their CEO. Almost 20 years later he is still there, so it is a good thing I gave up on that!

I would devour all of the World Vision newsletters, particularly the column from Tim and, after a year, a theme emerged. Each column was deeply concerned with the lack of overseas government aid. The federal treasurer at the time was none other than Tim's brother, Peter Costello, so I thought if Tim cannot get any funding from his own brother I do not like my chances at all. After a few years, I decided that government was the place to be if I wanted to make the changes in the world that I wanted to see. From that point on, I was drawn to a life in public service.

The second question was: 'Why Labor?' I was raised in a house full of women, dad excepted, and by feminist parents, who are here today. The birth of my youngest sister, Isabella, when I was 12 had a profound impact on me. My father was working long hours as a chef and, like many parents, my mum had to work. Being a little older, I could see firsthand how hard it was for my mum to manage a household and go back to work with a baby and two high school-age children to manage. The juggle and the struggle of balancing work and family was really difficult, and I commend her for her skill in managing that balance. As a young woman, I felt this was incredibly sad and I wanted to ensure that when I had a daughter, who is in the gallery today, she grew up in a society that respected the contribution that women have to make and that made it as easy as possible for both parents to have a meaningful job and contribute to raising their family. It certainly seemed to me at that young age that little thought was given to including women in the workforce in any significant way.

By the age of 12 I was well known at school for my feminist views. At times I wondered why I felt so strongly about this. It turns out that I actually come from a long line of women committed to improving diversity in politics. Members of the House may be aware that the first country to grant women the right to vote in any form was New Zealand in 1893. I was very proud to learn that my great-great-grandmother Jane Pugh was one of the original suffragettes who petitioned the New Zealand government for the right to vote. By the time I discovered this I was already well enmeshed in the Labor movement, and I asked my nan why she had not told me this very exciting family history prior, as it confirmed that politics was literally in my genes. She responded in her usual dry way that my political interest was already very annoying to the family and that she was afraid this would push me right over the edge to unbearable. Well, Nan, you were right.

When I look around the chamber today, International Women's Day, I am incredibly, immeasurably proud to join a Labor caucus with 48 per cent women—and what a diverse group it is too. I believe the diversity of our caucus is what gives us our strength and, in years to come, I hope to add to the cultural diversity of the caucus too. With Minister Enoch and the member for Cook in the chamber, we are off to a great start.

In Mount Ommaney during this campaign we doorknocked 8,500 homes and called 10,000 more. I did not do this alone. I had an amazing team of volunteers by my side, aged from their early teens to their late 70s. Harvey Dale, at 77, was my oldest doorknocker and, when during the election campaign he was forced to rest due to a skin cancer diagnosis and chemo treatment, he came to make phone calls for me instead. Augie and Marlene, a husband and wife team from Oxley also in their middle years like Harvey, sat outside the Oxley train station every Saturday for six months for two elections in a row. Yet another volunteer—a nurse who was often coming off night shift—doorknocked in a moon boot! One of my most enthusiastic volunteers was Lucy B, one of the many migrants who have come to call Mount Ommaney home. Lucy was initially reluctant to doorknock, but she had an irrepressible happiness and spirit that kept many of the volunteers buoyed during what was a long and hot campaign—and she did end up doorknocking.

So many of my volunteers pushed themselves outside their comfort zone to do things they had never done before—from doorknocking, to making phone calls or talking about issues like the importance of quality state education or marriage equality. Throughout it all I was blown away by the desire that my volunteers showed to help the community. I could not have been more proud of each of them.



I want to especially thank my wonderful, wonderful friend Rachel Hoppe, who is watching from the office today. This indefatigable woman took on the role of campaign manager, despite having no prior experience on a political campaign, and proved that women can do anything. Her mother, Beth, and partner, Adam, were soon roped into the campaign, proving the old adage that behind every good woman is a good partner, and sometimes an awesome mum too.

Behind every candidate, as we know, is an army. My branchies are like family to me and my family are like branchies. My aunts Barb, Jude and Anne are all in the chamber today. They bolstered my Labor values from a young age and pre-poll just would not have been the same without them. I want to thank the wonderful team at ALP head office—Evan, John, Lucy, Jon, Mitch and Sharon—for their time and wisdom. I also want to thank my friends in the union movement, particularly the NUW, the Together union, the QTU and United Voice, for their support and guidance.

I want to thank my parliamentary support crew—former minister Warren Pitt and his wonderful wife, Linda. I worked for Warren as a bright-eyed young staffer 10-odd years ago and was treated as family by the entire Pitt clan including yourself, Mr Speaker. I thank your wonderful family for their support over the last 10 years.

Julie Attwood, a former member for Mount Ommaney, and her late husband, Ron, were wonderful assets during the first campaign. Indeed, her famed work ethic was still on display during our 2015 election campaign when she doorknocked with me every week. Ron's sad passing in 2015 was a devastating blow to Julie, but her commitment to her community saw her once again come out of retirement to help me. I will be forever grateful for her support and friendship.

Warren and Julie are two wonderful people who showed that the best MPs should be hardworking advocates for their local area and never give up asking for more for their community.

In this current parliament I am lucky to have many friends and mentors and to have met some wonderful new members from all political persuasions. I would like to thank Di, Grace, Kate and Curtis and my federal members, Milton Dick and Graham Perrett, for their support. I also want to thank in advance the two Marks—Minister Bailey and Minister Ryan—for their assistance and help with the many questions I have had so far. I feel that my office is never off the phone to the Minister for Main Roads in particular, as main roads are the No. 1 issue in my electorate.

No matter where you live in the Mount Ommaney electorate the roads need improving. I have experienced firsthand the panic that rises in your chest as you realise you are unlikely to make the 6 pm pickup from after school hours care. It is a horrible feeling and one that far too many parents in the community have described to me as they rush from work to home. I will do everything in my power to address this issue for my constituents. I went to the election promising the long overdue upgrade of the Sumners Road overpass, the improvement of the Darra train station park-and-ride, and the preparation of a business case to upgrade the Jindalee bridge stretch of the Centenary Motorway. I intend to deliver all of those things and will continue to be the advocate that my community deserves.

I am sure many proud members will stand today and say that their electorate is the best. This is only because they have never lived in Mount Ommaney. I am in the truly fortunate position of having far too many community groups to list individually in one speech—I only get 20 minutes! I intend to spend the next three years letting the House know about all of the wonderful events in our local community. Our network of community groups is second to none. In a time when volunteers are harder and harder to come by, our community groups and schools work together to ensure the best outcome for everyone.

Middle Park State School and Jamboree Heights State School alternate their school fete years to get the best possible turnout and maximise revenue. It is the same with Oxley and Corinda. The Rotary Club of Sumner Park heard that the local rowing club needed to be painted so they got the local kids from Corinda State High to paint the club and gave the kids a cert IV qualification. Our local Jamboree Residents Association has teamed up with the Darra Progress Association to work together with business and the community and get the best possible outcome for our Sumner Road overpass upgrade. Our community groups excel at not just working hard but also working smart to get the most possible bang for buck from their efforts.

In my short time as the member for Mount Ommaney so far I have received wonderful opportunities to get a glimpse into the lives of my constituents. Recently I visited the Wolston Correctional Centre and viewed firsthand the hard work of our Corrections team there, working tirelessly and often without thanks to protect our community and hopefully to rehabilitate those who live there. It is the kind of job where the best day is when nothing happens but no-one notices until something goes wrong.

I have met with the Inclusive Education team, a group of dedicated, loving parents advocating for their kids. As a mum, I also got to drop off my preppy a few weeks ago to the same wonderful teacher his sister had three years ago. Every parent will know the feeling of happiness and sheer relief you get when you realise you are handing your child over to a dedicated educator.

I have read the life story of Tommy Kwok, a local engineer born in communist China who worked tirelessly for years studying and working to finally be allowed to stay in Australia and call Mount Ommaney home. He went on to get a PhD at QUT, along with his five children. I was halfway through the book when I mentioned it to my partner who pointed out that Tommy was the father of a friend of his. Only in Mount Ommaney are there so few degrees of separation. When Tommy visited me to share his book *Iron Rice Bowl* he said, 'I believe Australia is the place where anyone can make it because of education.' Indeed, this was the theme I picked up constantly in my doorknocking—the importance of education.

I spoke to a Cantonese-speaking resident in Westlake in a rather palatial home, the kind of place where many Labor candidates would think they are wasting their time. The gent answered the door and I asked what issues were important to him. He answered with real concern, 'I have a young family and I want the best education for my kids. I'm worried that I can't afford private school and I'm letting my kids down.' I know every single one of our local state schools are top notch. I have visited each of them, I have met the P&Cs, the teachers and the principals. I felt thrilled to be able to tell him about the great results his local state school was getting and the wonderful teachers and leadership team it had in place. For many families there is no choice between state and private education, and these kids deserve access to the best possible state education.

As I mentioned, many members of our community speak English as a second language. A few months ago I was invited to view *Vietnamerica*, a documentary about the Vietnam War and its terrible aftermath, causing millions of Vietnamese people to flee. Many settled right here in Mount Ommaney, and their stories are harrowing and heartbreaking in equal measure. Two of these refugees were the parents of my partner, Tu, whose parents first attended the Wacol settlement camp before purchasing a home in the electorate where he grew up, got a wonderful education and finally went to university and became a doctor. How wonderful it is that you can be the child of refugees and become a doctor within the span of a single generation. It shows that we as a government must never, ever lose sight of the importance of accessible quality education for all, for education has the power to transform lives, and indeed it has.

When I started doorknocking I already knew that Mount Ommaney was one of the most multicultural electorates in the state. As my team and I went from house to house and met countless community members, I was struck by the many values and fundamental concerns that bind us as a community and as a society. Indeed, this campaign has shown me that, although we have superficial differences, no matter where you were born you want your child to go to the best school, you want to be able to get home without worrying you will not make it in time for 6 pm pick-up, and you want to know that your neighbourhood is friendly and safe.

In a world where fewer and fewer of us know our neighbours, ours frequently organise barbecues just to meet people they have never met before in the community. Last year when my parents moved to the electorate I posted on our community Facebook page that my mum and dad were moving and please be nice. The outpouring of kindness for these two was enormous and immediate, and I thank my wonderful community for that.

I also want to thank my family—my mum and dad, Paula and David, who are in the gallery today. Running for parliament is a family affair and I am so lucky that my parents uprooted their entire lives to support me in my quest to win Mount Ommaney. Last year they sold their home of 30 years to buy a house right behind my daughter's school in Middle Park. It was a huge change and a monumental decision for them, and for that I am truly grateful but I am thrilled that they love living in the area as much as I do. The only downside is that they were constituents of Di Farmer, who my father tells me is a truly amazing local member and they have told me they expect me to fill her very intimidating shoes.

The truth is I could have been running in Timbuktu and they still likely would have moved house for me. I will be forever grateful that they stepped into the breach at a time in my life when I really needed them, as a newly single parent. My mother instilled in me a belief that you should always be true to your values. One of my earliest memories is sitting on my mother's hip while she spoke to her environmental lobby group and the television news crews about the need to reduce plastics and waste and protect our environment. I am thrilled, therefore, to be part of a Labor government introducing the plastic bag ban and the land clearing bill.

I did not really get to know my father until we started working together. He is a man of few words and hospitality being what it was he was rarely home when I was little, working long hours to fulfil his dream of opening a fine dining restaurant to support his family. It was not until we started working together at Restaurant Two that I got to see him in his element doing what he loved and including me in that part of his universe. It was a pleasure and a privilege, and some of the happiest days of my life were spent in that restaurant helping couples to plan their wedding. It was an honour to be there with him and help him when he decided to close for good in late 2016. It was a bittersweet time for our family—a tough decision but absolutely the right one.

It was at this time that I became a single parent also. I cannot pretend that going through day-to-day life, let alone an election campaign, as a single parent is easy. There were many nights when the idea of working all day, making campaign calls at night and then going home to wrestle the kids into bed seemed overwhelming and never-ending, but my team showed me that although I was a single parent I was not alone.


I want to thank my beautiful children, Heath and Allegra. Many parents naturally experience guilt when sacrificing time with their children to campaign. For us, it was a family affair with the kids attending countless local events and often getting roped into volunteering too.

My daughter, Allegra, was my greatest cheerleader, speaking proudly to anyone who would listen about how mummy was part of Anastacia Palaszczuk's Labor team. In our quiet moments at home when I was tucking her into bed she would tell me how proud she was. She is a tremendous young lady and it is wonderful that through the campaign she has had the opportunity to meet so many inspirational women including Minister Farmer, Minister Jones and of course the Premier.

Heath's interest in the election was far more superficial. At the age of six, his world view is very simple so I explained that, like the State of Origin he loves so much, there is a red team and a blue team. After that he understood how important the result was, but he wanted to be sure that I was on the red team.

All parents will know that your children can be your greatest joy and your greatest challenge, but more than that they are my inspiration. I want to make my children and my community proud of the work I do in this place to make their lives better. I cannot overstate how deeply humbled and grateful I am to have the opportunity to represent Mount Ommaney in this House. Mount Ommaney is where I have chosen to make my home, raise my family and be part of the community. I promise to always fight for the residents of Mount Ommaney, to advocate for them and to always put them first.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the honourable member for Noosa, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (5.32 pm): Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to elders past, present and future. I would also like to acknowledge and pay my respects to those who have kept this country and its people safe in modern times and those who dedicate their lives to others and making for a better future.

Secondly, please stop for a moment and close your eyes as I would like to share a view. Are your eyes closed? Now, feel the sun's heat on your face, cooled by a breeze that has the scent of salty ocean, sweet tea-tree blossom and tangy eucalypt. Hear the stark cries of a black cockatoo high overhead, backed by cicadas in chorus. Now, open your eyes and see. We are standing on the top of Mount Tinbeerwah where you can see most of the Noosa electorate: to the east, the Noosa River, coastal villages and picturesque beaches, for which my home is so well known; to the west, volcanic cones set in a magical emerald landscape dotted with rural towns, boutique farms and historic cottages; to the north, the Great Sandy National Park and the mythical rainbow sands beyond the lakes where the bull sharks breed; and to the south, the growing urbanisation of the Sunshine Coast and, further still, out of sight, this parliament where we sit today.

Noosa is a unique place, attracting over two million visitors annually, including many of you in this chamber today. Its natural environment, as you know, is renowned for many reasons, including housing over 300 varieties of bird species. The Kabi Kabi or Gubbi Gubbi peoples, who took care of this part of the country for thousands of years, are a very special people. The Noosa people of this modern era are diverse, colourful and welcoming, comprising a broad spectrum of demographics, sectors and needs. They share a special bond through Noosa's historical struggles to protect its greatest asset, which is the natural environment, and, more recently, a struggle to regain their own community identity and regain their own governance. They also share very modern struggles. For 25 years, I have lived in this incredible place. It is my forever home.

Close your eyes again. Let us leave Noosa for a moment and come back to this chamber and to who I am and why I stand here today. Open your eyes. My forebears sailed to Australia on the *Selkirkshire* into Rockhampton in the 1800s. I was born into a long lineage of hard workers—farmers, self-taught creatives and small business owners. They sustained themselves in times of great hardship. They lost daughters to floods and sons and husbands to wars. They survived through being resourceful, enterprising and sharing what little they had—always looking to create a better future. Some were pioneers in part of our North Queensland history. During the 1880s, my great-grandfather, Enos, worked on the Cape York telegraph line, marrying Emma, whose family had settled at Fairview Station where, in a paddock, rests my great-great-grandmother, Jane. How I wish I could have known any of them, as my acquaintance has only been recent through historical research undertaken by others. This is also a part of great hardship—the sad fragmentation of families.

My mother, whom at 89 could not attend today, was industrious and entrepreneurial in business and elsewhere with limited education, and she did so mostly as a sole parent. The networks and financial support we take for granted now were not available then and, as a family, we were well acquainted with shed and caravan living. Generational hardship comes with some stark realities, including the necessity to leave school at year 10 to pay my way. Lack of options and opportunity for further education created the necessity for diversification of skills and a lot of resilience.

By 19, I was managing an historic inn at Windsor, New South Wales, and purchased my first home, paying interest rates of over 20 per cent. At 23, I gave birth to my first child whilst living on a one-million-acre cattle property bordering Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory. Next door was Elsey Station of *We of the Never Never* fame. Author Jeannie Gunn, unbeknown to me until recently, was good friends with my grandmother, Jessie, when they were young women. Bush life is remote, it is harsh and you grow as a person through experiencing firsthand the key elements of sustainability and survival. You become intimate with the real definition of community. It is here I would like to stop—in the bush for a moment.

Close your eyes and feel the searing heat that burns your throat, the dust that clogs your pores, the acrid smell of smoke, the sounds of cattle loading onto trucks, the sense of exhaustion and desperation for rain. Now, open your eyes and think about what community really means to you and to your communities. In the bush, it was and still is about 'we' instead of 'me'. It is about responsibility to self and to others. The sharing of space, of food and of dreams required tolerance. Being resourceful—not wasting anything, including the efforts of people and of time—created sustainability. All is repurposed, reconfigured and retained. There are no labels. All contribute in roles that make for a better community, regardless of age or abilities. There was no need for child care or aged care, parental or sick leave. Everyone was needed, wanted, and had their space and place, and there was great understanding of differing cultures, perspectives and perceptions. This was a defining time in who I was to become, through the knowledge shared with me by women and men of Indigenous and European descent. I learnt about the meaning of 'us' and the importance of contribution that I believe built the strong foundations of Queensland and Australia.

Let us fast forward from the bush. By 1992 the challenges of droughts, floods and schooling brought us to Noosa. Soon after arrival, I became a sole parent and the hardships moved to another reality—juggling children, work and an enduring commitment to community. For these last 25 years, I have worked with individuals, small business and not-for-profit organisations that have struggled to survive. I have watched as unemployment, homelessness and a lack of affordable housing continued to be broadcast as statistics instead of emotional reality. I have listened to the frustration of communities dealing with escalating drug addiction, poor health outcomes, violence and emotional isolation. Politics was never on my radar; however, finding solutions to these issues was. I needed to understand why, despite the prosperity of our state and Australia, our greatest concerns remained unresolved.

In 2004 the drums were beating in Queensland that Noosa might lose its local government. By 2008 Noosa was forcibly amalgamated. It was a shotgun wedding and it was short-lived. In March 2013 the people of Noosa voted overwhelmingly to get back their council. In November that same year I was elected as a councillor and spent two years developing a better understanding of the role of local government in our social and economic realms. In 2016 I contested the mayoralty and was pipped at the post. Since then I have taken the knowledge gained at local government level to work on identifying and connecting the elements needed to deliver positive social, economic and environmental outcomes. Some of these have been through innovative business models and creative social programs. Others have been in the simplicity of developing interdependent partnerships.

Contrary to popular belief, Noosa is not populated with affluent citizens but is a mirror image of most medium sized growing communities. My community has the same socioeconomic problems that are shared by many electorates throughout the state and Australia. Compared to Queensland state averages, Noosa's economy is growing at a slower rate and unemployment is consistently higher. Household income is 15 per cent below the state average while mortgage and rental stress are half as high again. As well, we have a higher number of single parent households compared to the rest of the Sunshine Coast and our population is, on average, much older than in the rest of Queensland and is ageing more rapidly as it is a highly desired retirement destination. Underpinning this is our one-track economy—tourism—with no major employer and little or no buffer built into it for when the Australian dollar soars and our economy recedes. For the 25 years I have lived there, Noosa has strived to diversify its economy. Forward movement has been limited due to a number of challenges including telecommunications.

I believe Noosa's decision to elect an Independent was a result of a community that has suffered, and continues to suffer, the difficulty of a slow-growing local economy and its ramifications, and the frustration of being ignored by those in positions of power who could assist. The message at election time was clear: our communities want greater fairness and access to state resources for developing long-term solutions for real sustainability. They need policies and legislation that support their endeavours. They seek action instead of reaction. They are calling for leaders that demonstrate what our forebears sought and fought for and to be given the opportunity to address their greatest concerns and realise their aspirations. They no longer want to be told, 'That's just how it is.' They want to hear how it can be and what they need to do to get them there.

During the campaign I made a commitment to the people of Noosa that I will fight tenaciously for their interests and that I will be accountable directly to them. That means working towards a political culture that promotes teamwork, respect and empathy to deliver the needed outcomes for Noosa and for the whole of Queensland. I will do whatever it takes to achieve that culture.

There are profound changes occurring in our Australian communities which I have experienced firsthand—changes which we need to better understand in order to address. This requires us to stop for a moment and really listen. I am sure honourable members would agree that our communities are wearying of the bickering, bullying and grubby tactics too often demonstrated in politics across Australia that consume headlines and taxpayer dollars.

It is time to set a better example to our communities, especially to our youngest Australians, that bullying and aggression are not tools of negotiation. If we are a progressive, inclusive, innovative and fair society as we say we are, it is now time to say no to poor behaviour and time wasting in the political realm. We are paid to do a job and we need to spend our time productively.

Our communities are also tired of roadblocks, red tape and a system that seems designed to stifle and block initiative instead of encourage. Let us nurture the possibilities instead of being fearful of change and retreating to the safety of the known. Let us be as innovative and efficient in our processes and culture as we ask of our businesses, our communities and our not-for-profit organisations in order for them to achieve sustainability. We need to lead by example.

Most communities understand there are plenty of things a local MP cannot do alone. They also understand that with a concerted effort from them and their community, and with the support from members of parliament and government, they can make real headway to achieve their goals. This effort has to be encouraged and it has to be organised through visible, energetic and positive leadership by all of us. It requires a new culture in politics, a new way of getting things done.

It requires a return to true community and its elements and bravery by all of us to step outside the box. It requires us to respect our communities and their integrity by giving straight answers to their questions even when that truth may not be what they wish to hear. In order for this new culture of leadership in politics to succeed, we must rise above the corrosive force of silos. We should now be beyond this. Political silos are elitist and separatist and they represent conflict, wasted effort and stagnation. We no longer have time on our side nor endless resources to spend energy in the negative.

When the people of Noosa came together to regain their own local government, they showed they could rise above what separated them to focus on what connected them. It showed that a collective voice is both powerful and motivating, increasing collective responsibility and contribution. My focus is to help drive forward a united and interconnected community, and a state that looks beyond just one issue or protest or political ideology; that seeks knowledge, promotes creative thought and works to demonstrate what can be done versus what cannot; that looks beyond which government is in power and comes together in this parliament to create the outcomes sought by people from across Queensland.

In order to achieve this broader vision, we each also need clarity at a local level to have specific and concrete material objectives for our electorates. For Noosa in this parliament it is to ensure the adequacy of health and aged care and access to this care. The new university hospital 60 minutes away at Kawana is a wonderful asset, but we also need our Noosa Hospital to be a well-equipped facility that has a guarantee of Public Service funding into the foreseeable future to accommodate our ageing population and 2.5 million visitors each year. Accurate allocation of resources requires an audit of the current health needs and capacity of the local healthcare system to cater for them and that future demands can be accommodated. Being a national and international tourism drawcard, Noosa needs the infrastructure to accommodate this.

Beckmans Road, Six Mile Creek and the Cooroy overpass are locations of our historic traffic jams, gridlocks, dangerous intersections and one-lane bridges that flood with even moderate rain, leaving no alternative route, often for days at a time. We need effective solutions, especially with the population to the immediate south and north escalating, increasing the volume of 'daytrippers' to the respite Noosa provides.

All levels of government prioritise education and employment opportunities. There is no greater opportunity than unused facilities that could be repurposed as enterprise and training hubs. I refer here to the former TAFE campus at Tewantin that was closed five years ago. We seek a commitment from government to support Noosa's efforts to buffer against future economic downturns and ensure that school leavers are not lost to our community. This site is a valuable part of this strategy.

The Noosa of today has evolved through decades of astute local environmental policies supported by a community that understands the balance that must be maintained between nature and human use and that its social and economic welfare is reliant on its environmental wellbeing. We have serious challenges confronting our river. Waste disposal, erosion, silting, derelict boats, habitat protection and the enforcement of regulations relating to these continue to be of great concern. Solutions to ensure the environmental integrity of the river need to be developed by the Noosa community and within the complex bureaucracy that presently administers our rivers.

The final matter I wish to touch on is the statewide issue of housing affordability and electricity pricing which are, as elsewhere in Queensland and Australia, major problems for low and single income households who are doing it tough.


Affordable housing is essential for the physical and mental wellbeing of all. There are many smart solutions that do not rely on tax or ratepayer dollars, and the private and community housing sectors have a number of options. I urge the government to recognise various models that have been demonstrated successfully and remove unnecessary regulatory burdens and definitions on community housing providers. No person should be homeless or living under severe duress to put a roof over their and their children's heads in a country of plenty.

Our transition to renewable sources of power needs to be realistic, transparent and affordable, especially for those who are struggling. The complexity of the transition needs to be shared in a manner that our communities can understand and help achieve in order to support. This includes the provision of affordable electric or solar powered cars. There are job and economic opportunities in developing products for low to middle income households and it is time to invest in this space. To resolve many of these issues we need a bipartisan approach.

I stood for election to offer a genuine, community-facing and cohesive way of doing politics. The people of Noosa elected me to this parliament because they believe this is the way forward. I am a conciliator, a mediator, a negotiator—not a warrior. However, I am not so conciliatory that I will see Noosa and other communities across Queensland taken for granted and disrespected by governments. In representing the people of the Noosa electorate strongly and faithfully I will expend whatever energy is needed to protect and enhance, to engage and collaborate and to negotiate outcomes that will build a more cohesive, prosperous and empowered Noosa and Queensland. That is my commitment.

Close your eyes one last time. Smell the rich history embedded in the furniture within this chamber and in the pages of the archives. Hear the voices echoing from the past and those projected back from the future. Can you hear what they are saying? Can you see how our communities and state would look and feel if our greatest issues were resolved? Can you imagine how you would feel if you are the catalyst for the necessary change needed to achieve that? Now open your eyes. As the only independent member of parliament in Queensland I am asking you, my fellow MPs, to join in leading the way in a new style of doing politics.

Let us promote respectful behaviour and be good role models to our communities, especially our youngest Queenslanders. Let us concentrate on what we can do versus pointing out what someone else has not or cannot do. Let us use our energy, networks, knowledge and resources constructively. Let us respect the people of our communities enough to tell them the truth: they can handle it. Let us look beyond the next election in our decision-making and be authentic, decent and genuine in our intent. Let us build trust and respect through being brave and not following convention because it is easier. Let us unite in partnership and a joint commitment to make the 56th Parliament one to be truly remembered. Let us be the change that our people past, present and future want to see. Thank you.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.53 pm): Let me not close my eyes but just adjust to my deteriorating ones. Thank you, Mr Speaker, firstly for your daily acknowledgment of the traditional owners of the land on which this parliament stands: the Jagera and Turrbal people. I also wish to congratulate you on your re-election as the member for Mulgrave and on your elevation to the high office of the Speakership. I am confident you will carry out this high office fairly and effectively with the good courtesy for which you are renowned.

In that vein I also wish to congratulate all the new members, including the member for Noosa, whose first speech we have just heard, and others this afternoon. I particularly want to welcome my new neighbour Bart Mellish in Aspley, as well as returning members—particularly the members of my closest neighbouring electorates of Nudgee and Redcliffe.

I also acknowledge that there are several firsts in this place. Consequently, this chamber is now more representative of the diversity of our state. I congratulate my friend the member for Cook, the first Torres Strait Islander to sit in this place, and I congratulate the member for Mirani, the first Queensland of South Sea islander descent to sit in this place.

It is great to be returning to this place as a member of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I would like to thank the people of Sandgate for returning me as their representative with an increased margin. I also thank the local branch members and supporters who helped spread the Labor message to every corner of the Sandgate electorate. Whether that was through doorknocking, letterboxing, street stalling, phone calling or having a sign in their yard, together we knocked on thousands of doors and made thousands of phone calls.

I particularly want to acknowledge one campaign volunteer, Fran Ross, who is now waging another campaign: a campaign against breast cancer. Thanks also must go to my electorate staff, Avalon MacKellar and Bronson Thomas, who have worked long hours to support me in my role as local member. I would also like to thank Genevieve Newton for her longstanding support in various roles over the years.

I would like to thank my fellow members of our local Labor team: Wayne Swan, the federal member for Lilley, and Councillor Jared Cassidy, councillor for the Deagon ward. Wayne has recently announced that he will not recontest the next federal election, earning more well-deserved time with his family. His personal advice, mentorship and support has always been invaluable, but his service as a north side advocate, as a national leader and a giant of the Labor movement in Queensland in particular is inestimable.

I would also like to thank the Queensland union movement for their ongoing support, particularly the Australian Workers' Union; the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association; the Transport Workers Union and the Plumbers Union. I pay tribute to the work that they do in advancing the interests of working people right across the state, particularly in the face of hysterical and relentless attacks from the Turnbull government in Canberra.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank my wife Megan and our three children Jack, Tom and May. They have always been a steadfast support to me and, as members will understand, perhaps feel the ups and downs of public life even more than those of us with very thick skins.

In my first speech as the member for Sandgate I spoke about the area's unique history as a seaside retreat for Brisbane, and many people still make the journey out to the suburbs of Brighton, Sandgate, Deagon and Shorncliffe to soak up the relaxed seaside village atmosphere. More recently, urban growth has meant that many people have made their homes in emerging areas in parts of Bracken Ridge, Taigum, Bald Hills and Fitzgibbon. These areas boast strong community spirit and are home to vibrant multicultural communities.

In my first term as their MP, during the campaign and since the election I have talked to residents at their doors, on the phone, in the street and at local gathering places. They value decent front-line services, investment in community groups and infrastructure development. They know that only Labor

governments have delivered for the area in this regard and will continue to in the future. They will not forget the damage inflicted on them when so many of those opposite were senior members of the Newman government. As such, the LNP's disinterest in, and in fact disdain for, the Sandgate electorate was made so clear in the last election when they waited until the eleventh hour to field a candidate. Conversely, the Premier, other government ministers and I took the opportunity to make a suite of commitments that will have broad benefits for Sandgate. I look forward to delivering on these commitments in this parliament.

These commitments include: undertaking a feasibility study for the Beams Road rail line overpass; planning for the Linkfield Road/Gympie Arterial interchange upgrade; delivering a new \$5.5 million home for basketball on the north side in nearby Zillmere, something that I know many members appreciate I have been an advocate of for many years; a \$180 million extension to Skilling Queenslanders for Work, something that has delivered great benefits for people right across the Sandgate electorate; 70 new nurse navigators and 18 new midwives in the Metro North Hospital and Health Service area; \$5.8 million for the new Bracken Ridge and Districts Fire and Rescue Station; and further restoring front-line services at the Brighton health campus, reinvigorating it in the Eventide tradition that was so badly damaged under the Newman government.

I said earlier that it was a great honour to return as the member for Sandgate, but it is also a great privilege to return to the cabinet of this state. Already I have immersed myself into my portfolios of local government, racing and multicultural affairs. I acknowledge the great work performed in those portfolios by the previous ministers, the honourable members for South Brisbane, Ferny Grove and McConnell.

As a member of the Palaszczuk government that listens to our valued stakeholders, I have already met with mayors from Brisbane, Bundaberg, Townsville, Cairns and on Palm Island just to name a few. I look forward to building on the solid foundations that I have already laid in my relationship with the Local Government Association of Queensland, led by the inimitable Greg Hallam and of course their president, Councillor Mark Jamieson.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hinchcliffe, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Police Response Times



**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.00 pm): Like the LNP, I believe in the worth and dignity of every individual but also in the individual as the underpinning of a society in which people of different beliefs and cultures live in peace and harmony with each other, contributing to the common good, respecting others and taking seriously their obligations as citizens of Australia. Sadly, with increasing individualism, indeed selfishness, the peace and harmony of our society is being challenged. We see it on a global and international scale, but disappointingly it is in the neighbourhood that it is often most evident.

I was recently contacted by a constituent, Mr Robert 'Tony' Walker, of Moorina. Too often, Tony and his family have the peace of their neighbourhood shattered by others unwilling to accept their role in maintaining the local peace and harmony. Mr Walker is a friend of the police. He has served for decades as a volunteer in police. He was intrinsic in the development of the Kippa-Ring PCYC in the 1970s. He knows the hard work of our front-line police officers. He does not want in any way his experiences to be seen as a criticism of their community service. Indeed, he wants to personally thank Acting Sergeant Jason Dawe. However, on three separate occasions when he has contacted Policelink to report rowdy rave parties in his neighbourhood, he has been less than inspired, indeed saddened, by the response.

In one instance, police finally attended at 1 am and reported that all seemed quiet. Well of course it was—the party had ended at 11.30 pm, some hours after Mr Walker had reported it. On the next occasion, the party started at 8 am, was reported and the police did not turn up until 10 pm. On the final occasion on Australia Day this year, the party again started at 8 am. Mr Walker reported it at 9 am and every hour on the hour until police attended at 8.30 pm that evening. Mr Walker understands that there can be higher priorities for our local officers, but nearly 12 hours to action a request?

Perhaps more disappointing for Mr Walker, though, is the treatment he received from the person who took his Policelink call. Initially she asked if Mr Walker would not go and tell them to turn it down himself and then suggested he and his family go for a drive. Mr Walker explained he was suffering from




gout and was unable to drive, to which the reply was, 'Well, call an ambulance.' But worse than this is the response he got after writing to his friend, former local MP and police minister Mark Ryan. The response from the minister's chief of staff which I table in Mr Walker's own words was condescending.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 26 February 2018, from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Hon. Mark Ryan, to Mr Robert and Mrs Patricia Walker regarding the Queensland Police Service's procedure for investigating noise complaints [307].

Mr Walker and I appreciate there are limitations within the legislation as it pertains to noise abatement, but he and I implore the minister to try and do more to ensure Policelink operators demonstrate basic people skills, that police respond as quickly as possible and that they be equipped with meaningful laws that will make a difference. There is no doubt the neighbours themselves have a responsibility—indeed the primary responsibility—but in a society that is forgetting how to live in peace and harmony sometimes people like Mr Walker simply need a helping hand.


### Redcliffe Electorate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.03 pm): It is a pleasure to rise and talk about my local electorate. In the brief time I have I will cover some recent events. I particularly thank the education minister but I must make special mention of the former education minister, Hon. Kate Jones, for supporting my advocacy for a replacement hall at Redcliffe State High School. Under the previous LNP government, they lost their hall and, despite the promises made to them, no funding commitment was ever made to replace it. I am very proud that a week or so ago I got to open that hall. It was not just a hall; it was a new admin block, new basketball courts, new sports shed and arts precinct. The school could not be happier. I acknowledge the PCYC, Hutchinson builders, the architects and everyone involved at the school in planning it out to ensure the school has the best facilities not just now but well into the future.

I was also thrilled that on 23 and 24 February, Redcliffe held the Rugby League 9s Commonwealth Championships in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games. This is one of those enhanced 2018 events to help all our communities benefit from the Commonwealth Games. There were 11 nations, 17 teams and, for the first time, women's and physical disability teams as well. I congratulate the Aussies who took out all three categories as winners, but every player and team were winners. It was a fantastic event. We had a fair bit of rain that weekend, but it was a terrific event. I thank everyone involved—of course the Rugby League International Federation, Goldoc, Redcliffe Leagues Club, Redcliffe Dolphins, Redcliffe Village Motors and Moreton Bay Regional Council. This was great for our local economy. The teams were there all week and it was fantastic. It boosted our international reputation as a great place to visit.

Lastly—and this will not be the only time I speak about this—I recently had the opportunity to announce that the business case for the Scarborough barge, the Moreton Island barge, shows that it is feasible to go ahead and start up a vehicle barge service from Redcliffe peninsula to Moreton Island. We committed \$4 million in the election. We will build a rock wall and a road to support it. We will seek expressions of interest by 1 July this year. I really hope that there are operators out there eager to put in an expression of interest to operate this service. It will be great for the local economy. It will be a huge boost for tourism. I know that all the members on the north side welcome this. It is a fantastic announcement.

### Moggill Electorate, Seniors Morning Tea

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.08 pm): I rise tonight to inform the House of my annual seniors morning tea that I last held during Seniors Week on Friday, 25 August 2017. At the time, this event was held at the Kenmore Uniting Church. I commenced this annual local function during my first year as the state member for Moggill and it is becoming more successful each and every year with the event in 2017 attracting over 150 attendees.

I arranged this annual morning tea to thank seniors in the Moggill electorate for the contribution they have made and continue to make, not only to their families but also to our local community. Together with the morning tea comprising fresh scones, sandwiches, pastries, muffins and small cakes, I also arranged entertainment for the morning.

Last year we were delighted to have the Our Lady of the Rosary junior and senior choir perform, with many guests tapping away as they enjoyed the beautiful voices of the choir members. Ms Melinda Emery, the client services manager of Home Instead Senior Care, also addressed guests about the

changes occurring in the aged care sector and the reforms that the Australian government has now introduced with respect to how it subsidises home care which, in turn, will enable more seniors to remain in their own homes.

Ms Judy Magub from the Kenmore and District Historical Society also gave a presentation with a slide show on the history of the suburbs of Kenmore, Kenmore Hills, Chapel Hill, Fig Tree Pocket and Pullenvale. This was of great interest to all present on the day. Last but certainly not least was a performance by the Kenmore State High School instrumental group that formed an important part of our entertainment both in 2016 and 2017. The proficiency that the students displayed with their instruments is a credit to them, their musical tutors, teachers and parents.

I also was delighted to share the morning tea with Aunty Jean Phillips, an Indigenous advocate, and our local CWA women, who both had tables of their handiwork on display available for purchase. I am also very fortunate in my electorate of Moggill to have the Kenmore branch of the National Seniors Association which represents local residents and members 50 years plus. They meet monthly at the Kenmore Library at the Kenmore Village Shopping Centre. On 1 August 2017, I was honoured to attend their AGM that saw John Kahlert re-elected as president, Brian Mitchell as vice-president, Janet Allen re-elected to the secretary role and Gudrun Schuck as treasurer. Certainly Seniors Week gives Queenslanders of all ages an opportunity to come together and celebrate the invaluable contribution of older residents.

I was delighted that I was able to hold the seniors morning tea for 2017 during such an important week. I am already looking forward to my next seniors morning tea in 2018, particularly given that I am now the LNP's shadow minister for seniors. Finally, in my remaining time I want to make special mention of local resident Frank Beattie. He is an iconic local resident who served our nation with distinction in Vietnam. I want to let him know that I and many other people have him in our thoughts and prayers as he bravely battles prostate cancer.

### **Salton, Senior Sergeant T**



**Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (6.09 pm): I rise to pay tribute to Senior Sergeant Troy Salton, officer in charge at Lowood Police Station, who was killed in an accident at his home at Pine Mountain in Ipswich on 23 February. He was off duty and investigating a leak on the roof of his family home when he slipped and died of his injuries. Troy had been a member of the Queensland Police Service for 26 years and seven months.

Troy Donald Salton was born in Canberra on 13 December 1970 to Lynelle and Donald Salton. His brother, Bradley, was born a few years later. The family moved to Newcastle in 1978 where Troy enjoyed the outdoors, organised sports and surfing. After the Salton family moved to Brisbane in 1988, Troy joined the Queensland Police Service. He loved being a police officer and was dedicated to his profession.

Troy was always focused on the safety and protection of children and young people. In 1998 this drew him to the Juvenile Aid Bureau where he rose to the rank of senior sergeant in 2009. The police awards Troy had been granted included the Queensland Police Service Medal; the National Medal; the National Police Service Medal; clasps for 15, 20 and 25 years service; the 2010-11 Queensland Flood and Cyclone Citation; the Queensland Police Service 150 Years Citation; the G20 Citation; and, most recently, in 2017 the first clasp of the National Medal. As well, Troy recently filled in as acting inspector at Ipswich police district headquarters.

It was at Carina Salvation Army that Troy was to meet the love of his life, Yvonne Tunstall. They married on 11 June 1994 and, during a transfer to Emerald in 1997, their son, Dominic, was born. Their daughter, Montana, was born after Troy was transferred to Ipswich in 1998. I was delighted to host Montana at last night's Women's Week reception held here at Parliament House. She is a credit to her parents.


As he was a true family man, Yvonne, Dominic and Montana were always the centre of Troy's universe. Troy was a great supporter of his children's sporting achievements. Troy rarely missed a game, often playing manager, coach, water boy or whatever was required. He was actively involved in the Northsiders Cricket Club at North Ipswich as well as South East Queensland Cricket. Troy was coach to many aspiring cricketers at the club and at regional level.

I was left numb when the Mayor of Ipswich, Andrew Antonelli, contacted me with the news about Troy's death. I was still numb when I attended his funeral at Cityhope Church at Flinders View in Ipswich on 2 March.

As a state member, I worked closely with Troy since he took over as officer in charge of Lowood Police Station in August 2016. Troy understood that community policing meant connecting with the community, so we worked together to organise the inaugural Lowood Community Safety Forum held in March 2017. I could not help noticing that soon after Troy and I first met the police car that does the nightly rounds at Lowood began driving past my house. Troy was watching over me. I am sure he still is.

*(Time expired)*

### Kelly, Mrs D

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.13 pm): I rise to take this opportunity to pay my respects and honour to Mrs Dellys Kelly, late of Toowoomba, who sadly passed away on Thursday, 1 March at the Toowoomba Hospice.

Dellys was an extraordinary lady in many ways. She was Toowoomba's education visionary and a political powerhouse who never once took a backward step in achieving whatever she set out to do. In 1958 as a young mother Dellys decided that Toowoomba needed a university. She took it upon herself to drive to parliament in Canberra and demanded to meet with the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies, whom she convinced of the need for a regional university in Toowoomba. Dellys secured the Prime Minister's approval for the land and funding with the provision that she would raise £30,000 towards this project. Eleven weeks later, the foundations of what is now the University of Southern Queensland were laid.


Dellys has been recognised as an early founder of USQ and in 2009 she was made a university fellow for her long and distinguished association. Dellys also fundraised for the College Art Union, the Japanese Gardens, 4DDB FM radio station and the Mount Kent Observatory. Dellys's legacy continues to benefit students both nationally and internationally. Dellys's passion for further education continued through her life through her mentoring of high school students in encouraging them to follow their educational dreams.

Dellys successfully ran a hotel business in many locations over many decades, the highlight being when she hosted Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip at a hotel in the Blue Mountains during the first royal visit to Australia. Dellys would talk to only a few people about this, but she had fond memories of chatting with Her Majesty over dinner.

Dellys has been a loyal monarchist and a member of Australians for Constitutional Monarchy for decades. As a political powerhouse, Dellys was a life member and committed over half a century of faithful service to the Liberal Party and then following on from that the LNP. She coordinated election campaigns on behalf of the former member for Groom, Ian Macfarlane. She was a longstanding chair of the Groom women's branch of the Liberal Party and a tireless fundraiser for her local state and federal divisions of the LNP. She was the perfect example of a grassroots supporter for a political party, organising fundraising dinners, Christmas parties, the branch and selling raffle tickets and persuading fellow businesspeople to cough up dough.

Our thoughts and prayers will always be with Dellys's family, but most particularly at this sad time, and her funeral will be held tomorrow at St Patrick's in Toowoomba. Dellys, we know you are looking down on us and we will keep fighting for all of the causes you so much believed in.

### Sandgate Electorate, International Women's Day

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.16 pm): Rising this evening on International Women's Day, it is a great opportunity to reflect upon the importance of this day and the importance that women play in our community and in our lives.

International Women's Day is about coming together in celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women, with this year's theme being press for progress in gender parity. With the World Economic Forum's 2017 global gender gap findings telling us that gender parity is over 200 years away, now more than ever our community needs to press forward with gender parity.

I am pleased that I can say that the community in which I live has embraced this day and Queensland Women's Week, with community groups across the Sandgate electorate holding various events in celebration of International Women's Day.


Yesterday, I had the pleasure of hosting a couple of tables at the International Women's Day breakfast organised by the Zonta International club of Sandgate alongside a very inspirational speaker and, I might say, a very good and long-term friend of mine, Trish Jackson.

A Thalidomide survivor, Trish has made many amazing achievements, yet she still talks very passionately on a day-to-day basis about the bullying she experiences every day when she steps outside of her own home—an experience which she tells me is amplified by being a woman. At a very young age Trish, and indeed her family and her mother, who is a very powerful inspiration to her, were told that she could not, but she is very proud to say that she is and she does and she can.

Trish has risen to the top in what she does in her life which serves to inspire women across Queensland that, no matter the obstacle, women can and do achieve great things. It was wonderful to have a range of women join me at that event, including the St John Fisher College captain, Maya Rees, and her mother, Charlotte, and a whole range of other women whom it has been great to work with in our community.

While I am on my feet speaking about women who are important in our lives, I want to reflect on four women in my life who have influenced me greatly: my maternal grandmother, Alice Reddy, who instilled in me the values of fairness and equity at a young age; my mother, Janice, who demonstrated pragmatic and practical action; my wife, Megan, who continues to inspire me each and every day; and my daughter, May, who in her first year of high school will begin the path of learning and developing lasting friendships as she grows into a young woman. Together we can make sure that International Women's Day is something that we do not have to talk about into the long term because it is part of every day.

### Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.19 pm): I rise to speak about the Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens, which is a very special community group in the electorate of Southport. Twenty years ago a few keen Gold Coast residents formed the friends group and began the fight for a botanic gardens in their city. With a vision of one central location dedicated to local flora, the Gold Coast friends is certainly a vital part of the establishment and ongoing support of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens.

The first plantings began in 2003 and, today, the gardens feature a walk of more than four kilometres. The Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens continue to plan, plant and propagate. They also coordinate community events, fundraise and educate visitors and locals about this very special patch of the world right in the heart of the Gold Coast at Benowa. As the friends say, for visitors and locals, a visit to the gardens offers them a chance to wander through the mangroves to mountains precinct, to admire some of the world's most remarkable trees in the gumtree corridor, and to learn about some of the region's most precious and endangered plants. A visit to the gardens also gives people an opportunity to discover bush foods, to take a walk through the story of our country and to encounter plants that sustained the region's Indigenous Yugambeh people for thousands of years.

Last Friday, at my visit to the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens I had the pleasure of attending the launch of *A Bushwalker's Acknowledgement of Walking on Yugambeh Country*, written by Laura Ryan, who is one of the Friends of the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens. I would like to table a signed copy of the book for the Parliamentary Library.

*Tabled paper:* Book, undated, titled 'A bushwalker's acknowledgement of walking on Yugambeh Country' [308].

Laura wrote—


The purpose of the book, through its photos, is to give people an insight into the beauty which surrounds the Gold Coast and to inspire them to go, walk, and enjoy it.

The book features the Gold Coast Regional Botanic Gardens and is an outstanding guide to the best of the Gold Coast's natural assets. It is a poignant reminder that the people of the Gold Coast are truly privileged to live on the Gold Coast and I am truly privileged to represent such a beautiful part of the world. I would like to read the acknowledgement in the forward of the book—

I acknowledge the generations Yugambeh language (Wangerriburra, Birinburra, Gugingin, Migunberri, Mununjali, Bullongin, Minjungbal and Kombumerri) ...

There are a few groups of people there who are new to me. It has been a great privilege to mix with these people. I want to acknowledge the traditional owners past and present. The acknowledgement goes on to say that all of these groups have contributed to the economic vibrancy of this beautiful country and many continue to live in their traditional lands, continue to care for the environment and hold special memories of the tradition, culture and hopes for Aboriginal people.

### Giles, Ms M

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (6.22 pm): I rise to acknowledge Michelle Giles, a well-known and highly respected schoolteacher from my electorate of Gladstone who last year was the Queensland Teachers' Union recipient of the prestigious Emma Miller Award. As today is International Women's Day, it is particularly meaningful to acknowledge Michelle and have her join us in the gallery. Michelle is here with her husband, Kevin, and her daughter, Suzanne. The coveted Emma Miller Award is recognition of the highest order by the Queensland Council of Unions celebrating the commitment and achievements of rank and file union women in Queensland.

Michelle was born in Mount Morgan in 1957. Her father was a miner and her mother worked in the office of Mount Morgan Mine. Michelle proudly speaks of having inherited Labor values and having working-class DNA from her parents. When Michelle was 10 years old, her family moved to Gladstone and she attended Gladstone West State School and Gladstone State High School. Michelle completed her teaching qualifications at Mount Gravatt Teachers' College and during those tertiary years she joined the student union.

After graduating in 1978, Michelle began her teaching career at Clinton State School in Gladstone, where she remained for four years. In 1983, a departmental transfer took her to Palm Beach State School, where she became the QTU workplace delegate and began her representative skills in the industrial activism area. That same year she married Kevin Giles, who also is a teacher and a proud union activist. When Michelle accepted her Emma Miller Award recently, she was described as—

... an active member of the QTU since she joined in 1983. She has been involved in the Union's Campaign Action Group and been an active participant in EBs, State elections, Federal elections, Gonski campaigns and teacher accommodation changes.

Michelle is well respected in all facets of the QTU. She is key to QTU activism in Gladstone—

and so is her husband—


She has mentored the engagement of new activists and stood aside to create opportunities for other women and less experienced activists while continuing to mentor and guide them.

She is a fierce protector of Union members and workers rights.

At the time Michelle received her award, her union involvement included being a workplace representative, the Port Curtis branch president, a state council representative for the Port Curtis QTU branch and a member of the accommodation committee. The recipients of the Emma Miller Award are activists who work every day with the ultimate aim of improving their own lives, the lives of their families, the lives of workers everywhere, and their communities.

As do all Emma Miller Award recipients, I know that Michelle will wear her hatpin with immense pride. She will be well respected in our community, as she has always been. Well done, comrade, on your achievements.

### Southern Downs Electorate, Volunteers

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.25 pm): I rise to speak in our parliament about the wonderful things being done by volunteer groups in my electorate of Southern Downs. Of course, there are far too many to mention, but, just to illustrate my point, I would like to pay tribute to a few.

In Goondiwindi, in the west of my electorate, there is a very special group of ladies from Shed Girls and Days for Girls, led by Lea Eglington, who come together to manufacture and distribute female sanitary products for girls and women in poor parts of the world. They are very proud to make a real difference to the lives of women and girls who lack the resources and equality of our western society. My wife, Belinda, introduced me to these wonderful ladies. I commend them for the great work that they do, especially since today is International Women's Day.

Another shining example of volunteering and selfless community spirit is the Stanthorpe Community Op Shop where Deb de Hamer has a small band of volunteers who work very hard to provide a hand up to people in need who live in or are passing through the Granite Belt. They provide food, clothing and daily essentials to people and families in need and they are always there to lend a


kind ear to somebody who needs to talk. In a town such as Stanthorpe, where it can be very cold in winter and hard to find a house, the Stanthorpe Community Op Shop provides a very important community service. The people of the Stanthorpe Community Op Shop can be very proud of what they do.

Throughout my electorate service groups contribute to the success and cohesiveness of their communities. Groups such as Lions, Rotary, and men's sheds do so much. On International Women's Day, it would be remiss not to acknowledge the Border Rivers division of the Queensland Country Women's Association. I am proud to be a friend of the CWA, which means that I pay an annual fee, I attend meetings, but I do not speak and I help to move the furniture at the end of the meeting. I am very happy and proud to do that.

These service organisations meet to enjoy the company of their fellow members, to work together on worthwhile projects and to support all manner of worthy causes in our community. I would like to mention a few people from these groups who exemplify the commitment of volunteers in my electorate of Southern Downs.

The president of the Broadwater Branch of the QCWA is Sue Boyce. I say hello to the ladies of that branch who gave me a plate of goodies on my way to Goondiwindi at their 70th anniversary lunch. The president of the Rotary Club of Warwick Sunrise is David Kemp. Thanks very much for having me there for breakfast with your members. Kev Armstrong is the president of the Stanthorpe Men's Shed. I thank him for having me and treating me as just another bloke, because I go there for therapy, not to be the local member. I am extremely proud to be the member of an electorate that has such fine community groups. I will always do my best to support and help them.

### **Tarragindi Bowls Club**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.28 pm): The Tarragindi Bowls Club site is located on land zoned for sport and recreation zoned land and it is surrounded by the low-density zone of Tarragindi. A development proposal has now been approved by City Hall in Brisbane for a five-storey development in the low-density zone: 90-odd units.

For two years the local Tarragindi residents have been fighting this development application and I have been supporting them all the way, because setting the precedent of allowing a five-storey building to be built in a low-density zone is a disgrace. It is ignoring the city plan and it is ignoring the legitimate expectations of Tarragindi residents who moved there because it is zoned low density. There are plenty of low-medium density zoned areas nearby at Annerley and Moorooka. It is not an issue of that form of housing not being available. Tarragindi is a low-density zone.

City Hall, with its big LNP majority, has betrayed the residents of Tarragindi. I have attended many public meetings where the local councillor, Councillor Krista Adams, has not listened to local residents, has not supported them, and now has approved a five-storey precedent in the low density zone of Tarragindi. It is a disgrace. The Lord Mayor has written a letter with Councillor Krista Adams trying to justify their decision and to shift blame onto the state government, which is ridiculous.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order!

**Mr BAILEY:** The LNP interject because again they are not listening. The problem is that they are not listening. This is a precedent that will mean that it will be very difficult to stop other people who may seek to get five storeys next to this zone. I understand there is a legal appeal against the decision from one of the local residents that I will do everything I can to support.

Let us be very clear: Councillor Krista Adams, who is a senior member of the LNP civic cabinet with a lot of clout, is not doing her job representing her local constituents. When I was the local councillor for Tarragindi and a mere backbencher I made sure development outcomes were consistent with the City Plan and ensured that they were refused if they were not. She is betraying her local residents by not supporting them. She is simply not doing her job and neither is the Lord Mayor.

I will support my Tarragindi residents to the hilt because they deserve the City Plan to be enforced in their area. This approval is a disgraceful outcome by an arrogant, large-majority LNP City Hall that is not listening to Tarragindi residents.

The House adjourned at 6.31 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